JOIN US FOR
LIVING HISTORY DAY
Saturday, May 18th
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Association members, families, and guests won't want to miss being at the Museum on May 18th to enjoy Living History Day. Visitors to the Museum on this special day will journey a century into the past as the town comes alive with townpeople in appropriate period costumes assuming the roles of widow, lawman, music teacher, school teacher, actress and many more. You might be tempted by the attractive deal of a modern 11-room house for only $6000 offered by the local real estate agent or encouraged by the minister's wife to join choir practice on a Saturday night. Women will be invited to join members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union as they picket the beer and wine booths or join the suffragettes as they protest their inability to vote.

On-going demonstrations will include blacksmithing and horseshoeing, weaving, spinning, quilting, rug braiding, wood carving, china painting, lace making and horsemanship. You can even obtain a recipe for cookies printed on an 1870's printing press in the Museum's working print shop. Entertainment will be for all ages and will include country music, sabre drills, a children's chorus, Can-Can dancers, a "bank robbery" and much more. Anyone "feeling poorly" will want to buy a bottle of miracle medicine at Dr. Sage's Shangri-la Family Medicine Show. Children will be delighted by the high-wheel bicyclers and a puppet show as well as a chance to ride in a horse-drawn buggy and participate in a May Pole dance. Visitors will be encouraged to cheer for their favorite team in a softball game between the Cinnabar team from the New Almaden Quicksilver Park Association and the County Park Rangers.

You will be invited to relax in a rocking chair at the "Remember When" corner and reminisce games such as sack races and blind man's buff; toys made of natural materials including jump ropes, rag dolls, stilts, and Victorian period activities featuring clothes washing, rug beating, and making herb potpourri. Children will also be invited to help restore the vintage trolley and earn their "Junior Trolley Volunteer" ribbon.

(Continued on page 8)

San Jose Firefighter David Wood and San Jose Historical Museum volunteer Jan Suenku practice for Living History Day. Jan is riding a self-propelled Bath chair, first used by patients at the spa in Bath, England. Both vehicles are owned by David Wood. Photo by Ann Lindey.

Join us for a visit to
OLD SACRAMENTO AND
THE CROCKER ART MUSEUM

WHEN: Thursday, May 30, 1985
WHO: Museum Association Members & their Guests
HOW: Royal Coach Tours
Leaving from, and returning to, the Museum
TIMES: 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
COST: Members: $15.00
Non-Members: $18.60

Join us for a day in our state capital browsing through the shops and lunching in Old Sacramento and enjoying a special exhibit at the beautiful 100-year old Crocker Art Museum.

We plan to arrive in Sacramento by 10:45 A.M. and give you two hours to browse through Old Sacramento and lunch on your own.

At 1:00 P.M. we will join a docent at the Crocker Art Museum to see, in particular, an exhibit entitled "Masters of the California Landscape." The Landscape show is devoted exclusively to the works of California artists Thomas Hill, Norton Bush, William Keith and Charles Christian Nahl. We will also have a chance to see the Crocker's permanent exhibits and enjoy the mansion which was originally the home of Edwin B. Crocker, associate justice of the state supreme court.

Reservations for this trip are extremely 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, 625 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112, Attn: Kathy Muller. You will receive the registration form by return mail as a confirmation.

San Jose Firefighter David Wood and San Jose Historical Museum volunteer Jan Suenku practice for Living History Day. Jan is riding a self-propelled Bath chair, first used by patients at the spa in Bath, England. Both vehicles are owned by David Wood. Photo by Ann Lindey.

San Jose Historical Museum
625 Phelan Avenue
San Jose, California 95112
Back to Basics
Staff members of the San Jose Historical Museum and volunteers have demonstrated their skills and knowledge in order to help the Museum become the best of its kind. Staff regularly meets to discuss issues of importance and programs for the future. One recent training involved the basics of how a Museum is defined and the functions of a Museum as listed by the American Association of Museums (AAM). The following is the simple definition of a Museum:

Museum — a place or building in which works of art, scientific, and historic values are preserved and exhibited.

The five functions of a Museum are to collect, preserve, research, exhibit, interpret, and to serve. The definitions of these functions are what we as a staff are trying to accomplish.

Collect — to bring together a group for hobby or study. Collection — a group of objects that works to be seen, studied or kept together.

Preserve — to protect from injury or maintain in safety. To keep in perfect or unaltered condition.

Research — scholarly or scientific investigation or inquiry, to study thoroughly.

Exhibit — to show or display, to present for the public to view.

Interpret — to clarify the meaning of, to translate, to translate orally.

Promote — to distribute or disseminate programs or growth of, to further, to attempt, to sell, or popularize by advertising, or by securing financial support.

As the Museum grows, attention in all those areas will improve. Donations to the collections are still coming in and basic preservation is being performed. Exhibits include the original or replica structures that house them, with plans for a total of 74 buildings. The interpretive programs are alive and exciting through the combined efforts of the Docent Council and the Museum Service Council. Promotions are being done in many ways with the San Jose Historical Museum Association offering financial support.

The San Jose Historical Museum is a busy place with much going on behind the scenes and a lot of projects for the future. Ideas and help are always welcome!

Mignon Gibson
Museum Director

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

During my association with the Historical Museum it has been a real privilege to work with the leadership and dedication of Chairman John Bamberg, who has a real “Let’s get it done” attitude. You’ve previously read in these pages of the present and future projects of this committee, whose members include Jim Arbuckle, Eric Bracher, Chuck Buckley, Jean Jensen, Patricia Leoni, Leonard Mott, Jim Overstreet, Gil Sanchez, and Carl Stewart.

What I didn’t realize at first, and was surprised to learn later, was that the other half of the Bamberg, Bonnie, has also been very active in Museum affairs — indeed, she was our first Association President.

After World War II, community members voiced a need for an historical museum in San Jose. A replica of California’s first state house, erected to celebrate the centennial of California’s Statehood in 1950, moved to the County Fairgrounds where a group of people, headed by the supervision of City Historian Clyde Andrus, in 1952, at the urging of Theron Fox and the Landmarks Commission, the City of San Jose set aside 25 acres at the south end of Kelley Park for the reception of an historic site to be known as the San Jose Historical Museum.

Subsequent to an organizational meeting called by then Mayor and now Congressman Norman Mineta, a committee was formed including Bonnie Bamberg, Sylvia DeBenedetti, Ruth Donahue, Dorothy Fink, and Don and Marilyn Richardson. Everyone had their task in starting this new organization. Bonnie’s was to oversee the day-to-day operation of the Museum and the docents from Kisk School PTA and included Jean Jensen who now is on the Development Committee. In the early years, giving tours and studying, the docents also unpacked boxes that had been filled with the treasures of San Jose. Contents were categorized to learn better about their material: wood, paper, fabric, leather, metal. Every day at the Museum was filled with surprises.

While serving in a number of board positions, Bonnie was also a member of the San Jose Historical Society and president of the Commission for three years. After completion of her second term, she opened an interior design consulting firm and was a driving force behind a new, vibrant Museum. Together with members of the Development Committee, Museum Director Mark Thomas, and the Chamber of Commerce, Marv and Bonnie’s commitment was to make San Jose a destination place.

Marv in 1979 was honored with the First Citizens Award by the Rotary Club of San Jose for his work in revitalizing the city’s historic buildings. In 1982, Marv was honored with the San Jose History Museum’s Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1993, Marv was honored with the San Jose History Museum’s Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1994, he was named the number one volunteer in the nation by the American Association of Museums.

Our Board of Directors is continuing with its efforts to lobby the City Council prior to the time budget decisions are made in June. Nothing is more crucial to the Museum’s continued growth and development than the reduction of staff positions and cuts several years ago. Again, we urge you to take the time to write or phone the Mayor and your Councilmember and stress the importance of restoring basic funding to the San Jose Historical Museum.

Kathy Muller
Editor

[from the editor]

In reviewing the articles for this issue of the Association News and in my daily work with the staff of Directors, I am amazed at the level of activity which our Association maintains!

Living History Day, the biannual event which we co-coordinate with the City and which makes the Museum come to life, will occur on May 18th. This event is one which requires hours of planning and the dedicated involvement of dozens of volunteers.

One addition to the program this year which will certainly contribute to its success is the Costume Bank which was created largely through the efforts of volunteers Diana Wilt and Edna Schmidt. These ladies have created, collected, repaired and catalogued dozens of examples of reenactment clothing and props. The Costume Bank will be available for rent, at nominal fee, to participants in Living History Day. We thank Diana Wilt and Edna for having the courage to make use of this new service. Don’t miss Living History Day!

The number of individual and family memberships in the Museum Association has again topped all previous years! Thanks to the efforts of Membership Chairman Virginia Hammermus and the popularity of Ralph Rombo’s ‘fan’ and inkings, our base of support for the community continues to grow dramatically.

At the same time, the 1986 Corporate Membership drive with P. & P. Grasser, is now in full swing. Please note the growing list of corporate supporters on page 3 of this issue.

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Mary C. Taylor
Editor

ON THE COVER:

MEETING IN FIVE YEARS

Museum professionals from around the world will gather to discuss issues such as marketing, research, and public relations. The annual symposium will be held on May 16-18, 1988 at the Sheraton Park Hotel in Anaheim, California.

ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

for information (408) 287-2290

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

Quick, before it melts!

Get The Chocolate Lover’s Guide To Silicon Valley. All about local chocolate candies, ice cream, pastries, etc., with cartoons and recipes (from old-fashioned Chocolate Applesauce Cake to Chocolate Pasta). Do you chew your chocolate chips? We did back to 1922? Dipped, dried fruits grown here? Chocolate with chili peppers? It's all here. At book and candy stores, and at the museum gift shops. Or, send $4.95 to:

San Jose Face (CLG)
475 5th Street
San Jose, CA 95112

FROM THE EDITOR
MUSEUM SERVICE COUNCIL

Once again, a certificate of appreciation for outstanding service has been awarded to the Museum Service Council by the Junior League of San Jose and Volunteer Center of Santa Clara County at the 16th Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on April 24th.

We are proud of the service and commitment of our volunteers, appreciate the support of the Museum Association, and look forward to our own special Recognition Banquet on June 8th. We will celebrate our continuing growth with good food, good drink, and good fellowship.

The Museum buildings are now staffed on weekends for our visitors to enjoy as they choose. Docent led tours are available Tuesdays through Fridays.

We are anticipating another successful Living History Day on Saturday, May 18th.

Dulcie Janzen
Volunteer Coordinator

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INTRODUCING BETTY MYERS

Born in Los Angeles and raised in Southern California, our delightful Docent Council President Betty Myers moved to San Jose in 1974. In 1981, encouraged by her good friend Virginia Beck, Betty joined the Docent Training Class here at the Museum. She has been an active Docent since that time, and is currently completing a year as Docent Council President and Docent representative on the Association’s Board of Directors.

Betty graduated from Cal Poly, Pomona, with a B.S. in Language Arts. She is a teacher by profession, and currently keeps her hand in that field by substituting for teachers in all grades of the San Jose Unified and Oak Grove School Districts.

Betty and her husband, Jerry, a Manufacturer’s Representative in Silicon Valley, are the parents of two children, Ellen and Christopher.

Betty says that she “loves the fine caliber of people who give their time to the Museum” and “feels enriched just knowing them.” She is also enjoying the new experience of giving interpretive tours of the Japanese Friendship Garden in addition to her many other duties here at the Museum.

The Museum Association is very grateful to Betty for her service this year on the Board of Directors in addition to the other demands incumbent upon her as President of the Docent Council.

GIFT SHOPS TO BE CONSOLIDATED

It is with regret, and a special acknowledgement to the generous support and dedication of Mr. Stephen Lin, that the Museum announces the closing of the St. Claire Hilton branch Gift Shop. The effort to maintain the 28 hour a week operation extends our volunteer effort too far. With the construction in the downtown, parking has been difficult and the volunteers feel more comfortable donating their time at the Museum location.

A thank you to each and every volunteer who has made the operation successful and to Dulcie Janzen, Volunteer Coordinator, and Carol Carlson, Association Shops Manager, who kept the St. Claire location running smoothly.

Hopefully as the downtown settles after construction, the Historical Museum can find another location for a shop or exhibit space, bringing a part of the Historical Museum to the downtown area will continue to be one of our goals.

IN THE COLLECTION

In April the Museum received a very nice collection of Indian artifacts from Mrs. Virginia Meyer. Highlights of the collection include seven exquisitely hand-carved and carefully detailed Kachina dolls. Baskets from many western tribes are represented. Pottery pieces include many that are signed. Acoma, Santa Clara Pueblo and Jemez pottery are represented. Mrs. Meyer donated her fine library of books on Indians. Volumes on a wide range of subject have a valuable addition to our research facilities.

The Museum is very pleased to have Mrs. Meyer’s collection. We hope to arrange a special exhibit in the future.

Currently included in the exhibit at the Dashaway Stables is a collection of pony vehicles donated by Gabrielle Gross. The vehicles have all been restored and are in very nice condition. Particularly charming is the governess cart. Also included in the donation is a harness maker’s horse. Plans to harness the horse to a buggy. This will demonstrate, particularly for children, how the horse and buggy were connected. Some of you may have seen this collection displayed at Oakridge Mall during the Easter holidays.

The June issue of San Francisco Focus Magazine will carry an article on panoramas which will feature some images from our collections.

Nancy Valby
Registrar

SOUNDS OF THE PAST FROM OUTSIDE THE OLD COURTHOUSE

As you good readers may know, I am presently assigned to the old courthouse on North First Street. My courtroom is on the second floor overlooking St. James Park.

The giant ceilings, the lengthy turning staircase with its lofty arches, and the antique courtrooms are sights which fill me with an emotional feeling of continuity with the past. Other impressions have also touched me — the sounds from outside the building.

One set of sounds is that of the nighttime city. I hear nothing special during daylight hours, but after dark the noises are familiar to a surprising degree.

In 1946 when my father returned from World War II army service, there was a housing shortage and my grandmother and I lived temporarily on the second story of his North San Pedro Street building a few blocks from the courthouse. From that period when I was a senior in high school my subconscious recalls the distinct sound pattern of downtown San Jose at night. Today the sounds are still virtually the same. Is this possible? The character of the area has changed. Nevertheless each time I leave the courthouse after nightfall I am for an instant a high school boy walking along the shadowy sidewalks of San Jose almost forty years ago.

Another sound group that struck me was the thunderous pounding of the pile drivers this winter. They created a roar adding to the normal sounds of distant artillery. Suddenly it is 1953. I am once more a platoon leader in a Marine Corps bunker on the high ground in Korea. The park is no man’s land. Soon there will be incoming mortar fire.

Yet another cluster of sounds touched my senses one rainy Sunday morning in January. I was sitting at my desk researching submitted cases when melodious, high-pitched pealing of chimes began outside. I opened a window and peered over the park where a thick mist was filling in the greenery of the bushes. The chimes came from afar, to the right. It was from Trinity Church where I once served as an altar boy.

As the lovely tolling continued, a series of thoughts flowed through my mind. Over the years, these sounds are still there, by the window and listened to chiming from that church?

The courthouse was built in 1886 and the church in 1863 — rather typical building standards. Was I presumptuous in considering those dates to be so far apart? What would my English counterpart be thinking, while staring from his or her chambers window?

My thought process didn’t lead to a conclusion. The cool moist air brushed against my face. I stood there a long time.

Judge Mark E. Thomas Jr.

COURTHOUSE BUILDING. Photo courtesy of Judge Mark Thomas, Jr.

COSTUME BANK OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Developing slowly over the past two years through the persistent efforts of Diana Wix, and a group of volunteers particularly interested in period fashion, The Costume Bank is now a reality. It is located in the small room on the northwest corner of the Doctor’s Office.

We will now be able to provide costumes for Docents, Volunteers, and other Association members, on a rental basis for special events. A Photo Album is available in the Docent’s room for the use of anyone needing a costume. A selection may be made from this album, then a Costume Bank volunteer will assist in fitting and reserving the costume. There will be a nominal charge of $5 for any outfit rented by an Association Member. Non-Members will be charged $25 for any outfit. This will provide funds for cleaning and maintenance of the stock.

The garments in the Bank have all been donated by Volunteers with the clear understanding that they will be used by the Costume Bank in this manner. Some of the garments are actually items from the past, and some have been made in period fashion by Volunteers; but, all were intended for the use of the Costume Bank and are in no way to be confused with the Museum artifacts, which may not be worn.

This is a new project and changes in fees or methods may need to be made from time to time, we will keep you informed through the Newsletter. NOW! Let’s all have fun participating in the past. For more information call the Museum (287-2290) and ask for Diana Wix, Dulcie Janzen, Ann Lindsay, Edna Schmidt, or Mary Holland.

By the light of the tower

Fourth of July will be here soon
Plan to join us by the light of the moon.

We haven’t changed the fee.
So gather your family in the old Model T
Come to the Museum for all to see.
Flags flying, the tower lit, entertainment,
Games, volleyballs to hit.

We’re hoping you will decorate your
table with red, white and blue.
Bring a picnic basket with your
Favorite foods old and new.

Watch the mail each day
Invitation will arrive in May.

Lavender Ladies
(4th of July Committee)

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BOOK REVIEW
FEATURED BOOK FOR MAY - JUNE
Thompson & West's Historical Atlas of Santa Clara County

Did you ever wonder about the early owners of your property? Who were they? Where they came from?

The San Jose Historical Museum Gift Shop has a book that might provide the answers.

Not a new publication, it is the Historical Atlas of Santa Clara County published originally in 1876 by a couple of former Illinois boys, Thomas H. Thompson and Albert A. West. Thompson and West came to California during the 1860's and worked as a team for eight years, publishing fourteen California county atlases during their association. The Gift Shop is offering a reprint of the Santa Clara County Historical Atlas by Smith & McKay Printing Co. of San Jose.

Besides maps of the county that show property owners, there are plats of San Jose, Santa Clara, Gilroy, Los Gatos, Mountain View, Alviso, and a placemat of Mayfield, which is now part of south Palo Alto.

The front of the Atlas contains historical and statistical information... tobacco was a major crop in Santa Clara County, steamers ran between Alviso and San Francisco, San Jose had a population of about 17,000, "Santa Clara County supplies the State with strawberries," Alum Rock was called the City Park, the fairgrounds were at the bend in The Alameda, San Jose's northern city limits was Rosa [now called Hedding] Street, and post offices included such long-forgotten names as Burnett, Pioneer, San Felipe, Sherman and Tennant.

Essential to any history buff, the book has been "discovered" by newcomers and oldtimers alike as to what the county looked like in the early days, who lived on the farms that have since been swallowed up by the expanding cities, and what were the principal businesses.

The maps are interspersed with drawings of Congress Springs, a popular resort out of Saratoga, of the New Almaden mine, of "Poplar City," the subdivision laid out on the west side of The Alameda connecting San Jose and Santa Clara, and of business houses, farms, residences and schools.

At the back of the book are business directories for the various towns and cities which list residence, business, nativity, and when the person came to California and to Santa Clara County.

The original atlas was financed by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. A large (15" X 18") unwieldy volume, the reprint has been cut down to a size just right for a book shelf. It retails for $18.50 in gift shop, with an additional 10% discount given to Association members.

Patricia Loonis

SAVE THIS DATE — JUNE 23

The San Jose Historical Museum is currently negotiating with HOPE Rehabilitation Services to lease our grounds for HOPE’s Annual “Day on the Green” with the world-famous "Preservation Hall Jazz Band". Although terms are not yet finalized, HOPE plans to present this family picnic show Sunday, June 23 at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments and food booths will be available to a part of this fun-filled evening.

HOPE, the largest program of its kind in the country, provides job training, job placement, educational counseling and other programs to more than 1600 mentally retarded, developmentally disabled children, adults, and seniors in Santa Clara and San Benito counties.

For more information on HOPE’s "Day on the Green" with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band call the Historical Museum at 287-2290 or HOPE at 998-4873.

NOTICE

The General Electric Company has set up a new Foundation to institute a gift-matching program for organizations recognized as public charities by the IRS. Our San Jose Historical Museum Association may be eligible to participate in this program, but we need your help. If either you or your spouse is an employee of General Electric, and if you are a member of the Association, will you please let us know? This is a wonderful way to support our Museum. If you want to prepare an application for this program. Thank you very much. Please contact the Museum in writing or by calling 287-2290.

HOUSE TOUR AND WINETASTING AT ELLISTON VINEYARDS

WHEN: Tuesday, June 11, 1985
WHO: Association Members and their Guests
HOW: Royal Coach Tours
TIMES: 12:30 to 6:30 P.M.
COST: Members: $12.00
Non-Members: $15.00

Join us for a pleasant summer afternoon in Sarol where we tour “Elliston,” a 17-room mansion, and taste the wines of Elliston Vineyards.

The three-story mansion was built in 1890 by Capt. Henry Hiram Ellis, who came to California during the Gold Rush, made a fortune in shipping and served as police chief in San Francisco. The mansion was constructed from rock quarried in the Pillar of the Niles Canyon.

Over the years, Elliston has seen many uses and it was in a state of great disrepair when purchased in 1969 by Ray and Amy Avery, Museum Association members. They lovingly restored it and made it their home, furnishing the mansion in antiques to recreate the way it looked at the turn of the century.

In 1974 the Avertyes opened Elliston Winery on the grounds of the estate and bottled their first wines. These are the wines you will sample in the old carriage house which is used as a tasting room.

Reservations for this trip are extremely limited. Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum and sent along with the reservation form below and self-addressed, stamped envelope to: San Jose Historical Museum, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. Attn: Kathy Muller. You will receive the reservation form by return mail as a confirmation.

Elliston Winery 6/11/85

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
Phone Number: ____________________
Number of Reservations: __________
Reservations Confirmed ☐

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO RESTORE SAN JOSE TROLLEYS

Visible progress is being made on the restoration of the San Jose Trolley cars housed at the San Jose Trolley Barn on the Museum grounds. This has been possible because of the dedicated crew of trolley volunteers who over the last year have been working Thursday through Monday (9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.) on the trolleys.

Herb Schrader, Volunteer Coordinator, says "Ideally, we would like to have 20 to 30 volunteers each weekend. There is plenty of work for everyone and the working conditions are great." The number of volunteers fell off a little during the winter months because of the weather, but now Spring is here! Exceptions in the winter were when the Jaycees arrived on masse to contribute over 500 volunteer hours over a series of weekends.

There is a real camaraderie at the Trolley Barn and plenty of satisfying work to be done to bring these trolleys back to life. Call Herb at (408) 230-9130 for more information and to sign up.

SAN JOSE TROLLEY ART CONTEST

Santa Clara County school children are invited to participate in a Trolley Art Contest to boost local awareness of a remarkable project now underway. With substantial financial support from area businesses, old trolleys are being restored to run through downtown San Jose beginning in 1987. The trolleys will be more than nostalgic decoration - they will become a functional part of the area's working transit system.

Teacher information has been distributed to the schools and entries will be displayed at the Youth Expo Arts Show at the County Fairgrounds in late May. The Trolley Art Contest will give school kids - and their parents - a chance to spread the word about this effort to bring a flavor of San Jose's historic past to the fast-paced glitter and innovative setting of the Silicon Valley.
It was 1902 when the battleship Wisconsin, the flagship of the fleet of the United States, anchored in San Francisco Bay. There was a whirl of excitement at the College, and the students were eager to visit the famous ship. A plan was hit upon by the Cub Club (a society that still exists in the school), which was nothing more than a less bold scheme of chartering the steamer San Jose, then plying between Alviso and San Francisco. The captain of the Cub Club, with a few friends, went to the school and secured a round trip rate on the steamer to San Francisco. A Saturday was selected for the event, and a steamer clock in the morning of the appointed day one hundred and fifty passengers boarded the little steamer, which duly started on its voyage. The Faculty was well represented, both President Dailey and his aids, Lida Rousseau, accompanying the party, and the Misses Isolda McKenzie, Gertrude Rowell, Caroline Bradley and Mr. C. A. Bennett. Miss Helen Mignan and Miss Eleanor Grats were students then and were on the trip.

The day was full of thrills. Not more than half way down the Alviso waterway to the bay the tide, already at low ebb, became so low that the steamers grounded, and there was nothing to be done by the disconcerted crew but to await the rising tide, which lifted the boat from the mud, a fresh start being made with cheers. The lively scenes on board the steamer during the three hours it took to reach San Francisco—and the tide was coming in—only the imagination can picture. There were many different kinds of games, plenty of music, and a good deal of eating of lunches on the part of those who were not ashore, of becoming seasick on those who grew very sober before they reached San Francisco.

When the boat arrived in the harbor, diversities immediately appeared. The master of the ship informed Dr. Dailey and Dr. Bland that the boat could not tie to the Wisconsin, that lay at a few feet bottom, and what to do? There was a hasty consultation, after which Dr. Bland went to the freighter Charleston, the nearest sighted vessel. He went straight to the office of the Harbor Commissioners. Those who wished to go aboard, he said, could go aboard. The students from the State Normal School, and why shouldn’t the Harbor Commission lend its launches for the purpose of making the trip? There was grave and stupid doubt, however, as to whether the loan could be made. At that moment Miss Isolda McKenzie made an appearance and seconded the efforts of Mr. Brand. The two went straight for Harbor Commissioner John D. McKenzie’s office. It took but a short instant for the pieces to be put into their correct situation, and the entire fleet of launches was placed at the disposal of the party.

Afternoon the students thronged the battleship. They went wherever it was possible for a landlubber to go during visiting hours. The end of the day found an entirely happy and satisfied crowd that made its way triumphantly to the former San Jose for the return voyage to Alviso.

This was the first of a series of parties on South San Francisco Bay. It was not long after the above event that Dr. E. E. Dow, who was a member of the Board of Trustees of the College and who had a new gasoline launch on San Francisco Bay, proposed an outing on the Bay. The faculty accompanied the launch, a fleet of pleasure yachts then resting in the harbor at Alviso, and this time a larger crowd, again on a steamer trip, was made for Alviso and went aboard the yachts.

Dr. Dow’s yacht was built high out of the water and was not much of a trouble. He made the assertion that, when it got out of the bay, it was very liable to capsize. Therefore, they all got into it, and took the chance. On starting, he found everybody hesitant to go aboard with him. For a while things looked serious. In the seaplane, Dr. Dow was the head of the whole school, and for so many to draw back as though reluctant to go with him for a brief sail, was on our part, say we, a little unaccountable. In the end, however, the faculty, taking the Dean, Mrs. Rousseau, met the situation by marching on board. She was followed immediately by the other members of the faculty, with a cotiller of students, and the start down the channel was made.

On this occasion the distance covered was not so far. It being low tide, the oyster beds, among other things, were inspected. A landing was made at Dumbarton Wharf, and for more than two hours launches and games were in full swing. Then the tide started outward and the afternoon wind from the north met it, with the result that the bay was lashed into foam, and the waves dashed higher than Dr. Dow’s supposedly shaky launch. To add to the interesting experience, one of the members of the faculty stood on the last cable and refused to remove his boot until the zero hour of three should be reached. At one hour and a half to three the approach of the launch was announced in the roughness of the sea and the uneasiness of certain launches, confided to anything but an oceanic type.

The third boating expedition was a trip to Mare Island on the steamship Frisbie of San Francisco. That time, round trip half-fare tickets to San Francisco were bought by the hundred and fifty or more students who went along with members of the faculty. From San Francisco the weather was threatening. The passengers were uneventful, and the island safely reached. With a definite understanding that everybody was to be on hand for the return at three o’clock, the students swarmed about the arsenals and construction works. The point of greatest interest was the old United States sailing gunboat Independence. This ship ran back in American history even farther than 1812. It was used as headquarters of a naval training school.

Finally a delegation began to reach the Independence. Two of the young ladies went up and down the ship and then to the mess room. Here two galvanized cooks were preparing a dinner for their fellows, the main feature of which was apricot pie. The smiling young ladies with the up-to-date aprons on, and, of course, nothing was more natural than that those galant young men should say: "Girls, have some apricot pie." Consequently, liberal pieces were served. These first two had not finished their portions when three more girls arrived. The exclamation: "Oh, apricot pie!" and the aforsaid gallants cut and served more of the pie, which was indeed very appetizing. They, likewise, had no more than taken their last bite before a third and somewhat larger delegation of students came in and shouted: "Apricot pie!" with the result that the cooks, having placed themselves on record, must continue to serve pie. Little by little every last student and every last member of the faculty stepped up to the cooks’ table and, when the last one was served, not a pie crust was left for the sailors and the officers, who had been looking forward to an apricot pie treat at noon. When that time arrived and the boys themselves wore starboard and couldn’t get apricot, which had been loudly heralded in advance, those two gentlemanly cooks got such a calling down and such a drubbing for their weakness in attempting to satisfy the hunger of a ladies’ seminary as they called the College, that they proceeded to hisse themselves out into the open, while a squad of reporters from the San Francisco daily journals regaled their readers with the sad state of the apricot pie which the hungry sailors never ate.

That afternoon, for just a few minutes, members of the faculty commanded the Frisbie, and the question was put: "Who’s got the "go hang." The appointment had been definitely made for a few students to be around at three o’clock sharp. There were three minutes to the boat’s leaving his order to "let go," and it was agreed that the best man in the group of four looking for the captain was to go and say: "Mr. Bland, you are to have your steerage this afternoon.

This experience, because of educative value, was considered one of the high spots in the history of San Jose State Normal School. Never since have the students been so enthusiastic over San Francisco been utilized for such glorious outings. One wonders if the time will not soon come when the San Francisco harbor will again take its place as a center of student recreation.

Henry Meade Bland

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PURSUING A PIONEER CIRCUS

Rarely could the thrill of a circus be matched as it rolled through hometowns—tantalizing potential customers with the sensation that Noah's Ark had come to land and all their animal friends were disembarking.

Today, San Jose circus roosters of another day reveal in recalling such delightful invasions now but a memory. Bill Hagenback-Willie; Sells-Floto; Howes-Amburg; Al G. Barnes; Christie Brothers; Buffalo Bill and the Wild West; Cole Brothers; Miller Brothers' 101 Ranch; and the renowned Ringling Brothers who combined with Barnum and Bailey in 1907. By 1910, the curve was stirring era to the American big-top with the roar of the lion, the crack of the whip, braying roustabouts and their doxies, and the clanging of brass horns, with tigers, lions, performers, the flyer and acrobat, parade, and the strains of the immortal calliope.

Circus enthusiasts today, however, believe compliments have been long overdue for one other early day spectacle, the "Colonel" Joseph A. Rowe's Olympic Circus. Rowe wind-sailed into San Francisco on October 12, 1849 where he launched the first American circus in California on October 29th in a canvas amphitheater jammed with hundreds of gold miners. On November 1, 1849 the Alta California reported: "Rowe's Olympic Circus opened to a crowded audience and if we are to judge from the frequent and well-placed applause, the entertainment was a great success." The newspaper congratulated the enterprise with the statement that the entertainment was greeted, Mr. Rowe's circus entertainment reaches a high degree of excellence in the training of his horses. We congratulate our citizens on the establishment of a place of amusement in our midst.

Rowe was doing what he had come to do: to fetch gold dust from the miners. After such a successful entrance he headed for gold camps and then to Sacramento where Sam Brannon, merchant, financier and circus fan, built Rowe a show place and an ornate circus band wagon.

Rowe was not overly impressed with Brannon's gifts and was soon off for an extended tour to the Sandwich Islands, King Kamehameha, already a circus buff, demanded a community performance for his wives and subjects. Rowe, now an established man, sailed for San Francisco in early 1854.

AN OLYMPIC CIRCUS

This native of North Carolina, who ran off with a circus at the age of ten, was now determined to retire to a leisure life. That proved disappointing for in 1854 Rowe was back to muster a new circus which became known as Rowe's California Pioneer Circus. By 1855 Rowe was back to his familiar and productive stands at San Francisco, Sacramento and the mining realm of the Mother Lode, from Rough and Ready to Jamestown.

Today, we read the following articles with interest, for they were written by Albert Dressler of San Francisco in 1926:

John Center
San Jose, July 22, 1857
Mr. John Center
Dear Sir:
I write you according to promise all things are going satisfactorily.
Our business has been very satisfactory, netting us in July, $38,813. In the Bearwood, $31, and Santa Clara, $45, so you see we are not without a little money for our tours. I think the next three days will be much of me, for I shall not go down to the market on the 24th of July. I am interested to order 7 minis 12 miles from here to San Jose Mission and 24 miles to Hesper, where there has never been a circus.

Sincerely
H.W. Franklin
San Jose, Sep. 10, 1857
Mr. John Center (director)
Dear Sir:
I send you the last to a $130 horse and as this is can pay in all the men on us to this date. I made a calculation of the expenses of the show, which I have sent you, and there is our ex-tenant for 80 per cent, but there is the salary for ten -footers and performers which is paid in advance. In all there is a net surplus of $38,813 or about $2.50 per day per horse. We have our horses to leave the show for San Juan which is 40 miles and to Santa Clara, where we have a small show. We have about 20 horses to leave, and to which is our show for the Shocks Fair.

Your Affectionate Brother
David Carter (circus treasurer)

One of the most delightful features of circusdom was the astonishing street parades all leading to the pretentious tented institutions woven with stout threads of memories. At the circus lot you surrendered to the siege of the menagerie, the side show, freaks of the season, all intensified by the spiel of the barker. There was the exhibition of clown alley, pageantry, the pounding of hundreds of horsa all stirring up tales you needed weeks to retell.

Among early San Jose circus sites was the 1856 76-acre Agricultural Park at Race Street and The Esplanade, which had for years been the site of such historicons. Ralph Rambo in his phenomenal new book, "Pen and Inklings" (the 1885 California Centennial book), says, "In Agricultural Park we saw Buffalo Bill, a quarter feature of the show, on a large, woolly, fine-woolled, buckskin, costume, riding a beautiful white horse give an outstanding performance complete with "swoop." We also saw Red Indians and Indians. Gone are those wooden tubs filled with weak pink lemonade and a coating of sawdust.

Dick Barrett in his long popular Sunday historical columns for the San Jose Mercury has been frequently quoted by Mrs. Mabel Loomis Clancy who was born in San Jose in 1861. "My recollections of my early years in San Jose from 1891 to 1895, was the circus held on the north side of east Julian Street near the old brick yard."

Among our other rapturous circus lovers is Mrs. Elizabeth Bean Telfor who was eight years old in 1892 and lived in the family home on Magnolia Avenue just off The Alameda. "Oh, yes, it was a wonderful experience, it was really a wondrous experience," beams bubbly 91 year old Elizabeth.

Excitement brewed weeks before a circus was due. Bill-poster-men crossed the valley as they sought out burns, fences and sheds for ideal "splashes" for circus advertising. The huge captivating lithographs were declared the heart of the circus solely because they said tickets. "Towering Sky Reaching Giant Giraffes tall enough to eat moss from the Hanging Gardens of Babylon" was never doubted, nor was the "Tribe of Ubangi Savages with mouths and lips as those of ogres". Henry Gerdes, one of our genial directors with the Santa Clara County Fair Association, likes to tell of when circus bill-posters came to town to burn the barn who said our family ranch near Evergreen with such wonders. "We got free tickets to the circus and all I ever had to pay for was the peanuts," Henry grins.

Joseph A. Rowe was a firm believer in advertising. Bill-poster-men crisscrossed the valley in the San Francisco Great Register (voters registry) as an engraver. At the time he was extensively engaged in advertising for the show business world. During his active circus years he designed his own circus ads. The illustrations in this account are samples of his own work.

Circus Day always created such an impact in local school circles; here it was often declared an "educational holiday." Rain, fog or mist failed to prevent "doodle-dums when the circus was coming to town."

After T. Ringling in a circus amen said in 1899, "To be good, mankind must be happy. The circus is a mission of amusement. It softens the hardest hearts and makes smiles of frowny women. It has the power to make all men and women children again for at least a day."

Hank Calloway

HOT TIMES HAVE CHANGED IN CITY GOVERNMENT!

Looking back over old City Council minutes it would appear May and June were "housekeeping" months for San Jose. Minutes read that there were a great deal different than they are today. In 1905 the Councilmen adopted an ordinance prohibiting horseless carriages. In the following month they agreed to close all business houses between six and seven p.m. It was agreed to pay Manuel Pinto $2,000 for his lot to build San Clara Street to be extended.

In June, 1856, the Council received the deed from Frank Lighton for land to be used for Lighton Avenue (Street), and advertised for bids to hire an artisan well at Market and El Dorado (Pask) Streets.

On May 26, 1896, the Council designated the city lots at Third and Santa Clara Street, "as pound for stray animals. On June 7, 1890, an ordinance was passed to construct a bridge over the city ditch at Fourth and St. James Streets. The marshal was ordered to notify Mr. Sutton to stop his artisan well from overflowing its polluted ditch. On June 6, 1886, a Councilmen accepted the petition from Donald McKenzie to erect a water works. This was the beginning of the San Jose water works. In May 1866, the committee on schools decided to add six school lots priced from $300 to $450 each.

On May 9, 1873, the name of Garcia Alley was changed to Park Avenue, and on June 23, 1879, San Jose was named from Old Main Market. In June 1870, the council appropriated money for a school lot on Pleasant Avenue. On June 16, 1877, the San Jose Council recommended the building of an auditorium in Market Plaza, that Theodore Lenzen be the architect, and to buy Chinese labor be used, either directly or indirectly.

In May, 1883 the mayor got a telephone in his place of business, paid for by the city.

Patricia Loomis
A special feature of this Living History Day will be an area displaying posters entered in the "Valley of Heart's Delight, 1880-1900" poster contest sponsored by the San Jose Historical Museum Domee County Community Relations Committee. At 4:30 p.m. prizes will be awarded to the contest winners, including the grand prize of two round-trip tickets to Los Angeles courtesy of AIR CAL.

On Living History Day the buildings will be open for touring with costumed interpreters available. A wide selection of food and drink will be available on the grounds, plus O'Brien's and the Gift Shop will be open all day.

This is a wonderful occasion for introducing friends and family to the Museum. It will be alive with a warm and friendly "old-fashioned" atmosphere. Admission is $1.00/adults and $1.00/children and senior citizens. Free tickets for senior citizens are available for the asking at three City locations branches of the Brannam Lane office - 4724 Meridian Ave, the Almaden office - 1110 Blossom Hill Road, and the Blossom Valley office - 450 Blossom Hill Road. Due to the fundraising nature of this event, there will be free admission only for official participants.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 11, 1985 Living History Day Planning Meeting Pacific Hotel Meeting Room 10:00 AM

May 18, 1985 Living History Day Museum Grounds 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

May 20, 1983 Old Sacramento/Chcker Art Museum Trip Departure from Phelan Avenue Parking Lot 8:30 AM

June 11, 1983 Ellis Winery Trip Departure from Phelan Ave Parking Lot 12:30 PM

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