Vol. II, No. 4 Published by the San Jose Historical Museum Association December 1982

GIFT SHOP RE-OPENS IN NEW LOCATION

Under the direction of Carol Carlson, Nancy Keelow, Jane McGovern, and Earline Shields, and with the able assistance of Orville Vick, the Museum Association Gift Shop has re-opened in the bright and beautiful Changing Exhibit Room, off the lobby of the Pacific Hotel. Hundreds of books of local historic interest, stationery designed by Ralph Rambo and featuring buildings of old San Jose, gift wrap, wooden toys, prints, and hand-crafted items are among the wares attractively displayed in this new setting.

The new Gift Shop will be staffed on a daily basis by volunteers, and it will be open for business during all normal operating hours of the Museum. The new location and extended hours of operation should prove to make the Gift Shop a convenient place for visitors to purchase souvenirs and gift items. Members of the Museum Association receive a 10% discount on all purchases upon showing their membership card, and all proceeds from the Gift Shop go directly back to the Association to support the Historical Museum and its programs.

We encourage you to visit the Gift Shop soon, meet the ladies in charge, and consider some of the items on display for your Christmas giving. Gift Certificates are available for purchase and there is a delightful selection of old-fashioned Christmas gift wrap and postcards. The Shop will be open specially the evening of our Holiday Party (December 9th) and during the Afternoon Teas on December 7th and December 12th, for your convenience.

Volunteers are still actively being recruited to staff the Gift Shop, both on weekends and weekdays. If this is an area of service that appeals to you, we would love to have your support! Please call the Museum at 287-2290 or stop by the Gift Shop to volunteer.

Winter History Nights

Four evening lectures on topics of historic interest will be offered to Museum Association members and guests during the months of January and February. Attendance at each lecture is limited to 75 people and reservations for any or all lectures should be made by phoning the Museum (287-2290).

Admission to the lectures is free for all Association Members and a $2.00 donation from non-Members is requested at the door each evening. Coffee, tea, and cookies will be served. Lectures will be held in the Meeting Room of the Pacific Hotel, beginning at 7:30 P.M.

Thursday, January 13 Bob Doerr: "The Life and Death of Hitler"
Mr. Doerr traveled in Germany prior to WWII and, as a member of the U.S. Army Counter-Intelligence Unit, was among the first group of Americans to enter Hitler's bunker after the fall of Berlin. In 1965 he was commissioned by the City of Munich to research and publish a history of that city's anti-Nazi underground. Interesting memorabilia.

Thursday, January 27 Judge Mark Thomas, Jr.: "History of the Justice and Police Courts in Santa Clara County—emphasizing humorous and colorful aspects of Court life."
Judge Mark Thomas, Jr. is currently Presiding Judge of the Santa Clara County Municipal Court. A native of San Jose, he is a graduate of Stanford University and the University of Santa Clara Law School. In 1971, Judge Thomas was President of the Santa Clara County Bar Association. His articles are published regularly in In Brief, official magazine of the County Bar Association.

Thursday, February 3 Gerald McKevitt, S.J.: "A Mini-History of Mission Santa Clara"
Fr. McKevitt is Archivist and Associate Professor of History at the University of Santa Clara and author of The University of Santa Clara: A History, 1851-1977. His lecture will include a slide presentation on the Mission, highlighting architectural changes the Mission Church has undergone over the years.

Mrs. Jamison is a member of the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission and Mr. Weden is Project Manager of the Almaden Quicksilver County Park Master Plan Project. Their presentation will include slides and the showing of the movie “Quicksilver”, a 1960 production of KNTV Channel 11. They will also present an overview of the Almaden Quicksilver Park Master Plan Advisory Committee’s recommendations regarding the park.
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I am very pleased to announce two events taking place this time of the year. The first is our 189th Annual Meeting and the second is the San Jose Historical Museum’s annual fundraising event, the Annual Meeting and Gala. Both events are crucial to the Museum’s continued success and I hope you will be able to attend.

Eric Brocher
FROM THE EDITOR

Lovely fall weather provided the backdrop for our Walking Tour of Downtown San Jose and New Almaden on October 16th. Forty Association members and guests enjoyed the day, delightfully led by Frances Fox. From all of us, thank you for your support.

When the holiday activities are over, plan to join us for one or more of the Winter History Nights. The topics are varied, so I hope there is a presentation that appeals to each of you. Consider bringing a friend or two along, as a way of introducing them to the Museum.

Finally, if you have suggestions for trips, lectures, or articles for the Association News, please contact me at the Museum, 287-2290.

Kathy Muller
San Jose Historical Museum
Association News

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

Association Board of Directors

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Kathy Muller  Executive Editor

The San Jose Historical Museum Association News is published to the San Jose Historical Museum Association four times each year. Membership in the San Jose Historical Museum Association includes subscription to the News.

San Jose Historical Museum Association
625 Phelan Avenue
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 287-2290

DIOPTIC'S REPORT

Association Forms Special Boards

The San Jose Historical Museum Association is making necessary changes to meet the demands of the present and future. This year, the Museum Association will have two new boards— an Advisory Board and a Development Committee—to aid in insuring a good future for the museum.

The Advisory Board has been established to assist the Museum in its present and future needs. The Board will be composed of two members, both of whom have a strong interest in the Museum. The Development Committee will be composed of two members, both of whom have a strong interest in the Museum.

Heritage Tours Come to the Museum

Heritage Tours opened for business last month and the San Jose Historical Museum is on its local one-day tour itinerary that also includes the Winchester Mystery House, the San Jose Masonic Temple, and the Penneyard Shopping Center. The tours are offered every other day, and reservations are required. For information, call the Penneyard Shopping Center at 287-2290.

New Museum Cafe

The Museum has opened a new cafe, the Museum Cafe, which is open daily from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The cafe serves light meals, coffee, and drinks. The cafe is located in the basement of the Museum.

MUSEUM SERVICE COUNCIL

Cooler weather brings us to our winter schedule with volunteers giving tours for weekend visitors instead of staffing each of the buildings.

We are exploring the possibilities of scheduling more events at the Museum. This could be an exciting program for volunteers to demonstrate their particular skill for the public and enhance the interpretation of our past.

DOCKET REPORT

The Docents, besides giving school and gene public tours, have been busy publicizing some of the Museum's programs and events. The Docents and other Museum staff members were invited to the Museum's annual meeting, and the Museum has been featured on local television and in the local newspapers.

Mary Ann Healthy

STAIR PEAKING COMPANY

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CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

"Christmas in the Park," the City of San Jose's official Christmas display, will open on Saturday, December 11th, at 11:00 AM, at the Park. The display will feature over 200,000 lights, including many new themes and designs. The display is free to the public and will be on display through December 31st.

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REITZEL PAINTING ON VIEW

Recently acquired...The Museum invites you or a visit to see this lovely California spring landscape which features a red-roofed barn, oak area and distant rolling hills under a wide blue sky studded with soft white clouds.

Dr. Marques E. Reitzel (1896-1963) painted this 8″x24″ oil in 1936. Bright blues and greens, reds and yellows were applied to the canvas in a style often in works by artists who painted in the 1930's. Dr. Reitzel became the head of the art department at San Jose State College (now San Jose State University) in 1938. Under his capable direction, the department became widely recognized for its excellence of instruction and in art center for the West Coast. He won numerous awards in exhibitions locally and nationwide and was particularly noted for his fine oils, watercolors and etchings. His works today are part of many public and private collections in California and other states.

After his retirement from the college in 1956, he continued to teach and paint in this area and in San Mateo County. This painting is currently displayed in the first floor area on the second floor of the Historic Hotel. We invite you to view it on your next visit to the Museum.

Helen Kuesel

COLLECTION NEWS

A Retired Police Captain's badge is one of the items recently donated to the Museum. Rudy Ijurvich, who has been a generous benefactor of the Museum in the past, found the badge in San Francisco. The badge is reputed to have belonged to Edward A. Stough. He was appointed to the San Jose Police Department on March 20, 1914 and retired in 1947. We are delighted that Mr. Ijurvich has so kindly donated the badge to us.

In October, Mrs. B. Santa donated several items of note. The first is a Vetter's Franklin stove. The stove is particularly noteworthy as it is in working condition. This is valuable to us as there was not a stove in such good condition in the collection.

Also in Mrs. Santa's donation is a collection of barber wire samples. This is the wire that fenced the West, and her donation includes twelve different styles of barber wire. Although only a few varieties of barber wire are in use today, historically there were as many as there were manufacturers.

Take a break in your holiday shopping to look at the historic display at the Oakridge Mall. The blue and white suit from our Lund collection, as seen in the last issue of the Association News, is a part of the exhibit. Its excellent condition is representative of many of the items in the collection.

Duplication of the Victorian School Kit has been completed. We hope, if possible, you would like to donate, contact us at the Museum (287-290). Donations to the San Jose Historical Museum are tax-deductible.

Nancy Valby
Records Control

BACK TO VITAL ROOTS

It was a great pleasure to address the docents of the San Jose Historical Museum on the subject of medicinal herbs and their renewed contribution to health care. I call "the herb renaissance". Thanks to my old friend with John Dotter whose office is at the Museum and the invitation from Martha Tracy, I was given the opportunity to propose a program in herbal education as part of the Museum's offerings.

Before my talk began, I walked over to the herb garden at the Museum and picked some of the classic examples of herbs growing there — thyme, my favorite, oregano, sage, mint, bee balm, rosemary, lavender, etc., each exuding its distinctive scent, already an indication of its healing powers.

I proposed that an herbal program be provided by the Museum, in conjunction with the herb garden, and that the empty room in the old historic doctor's office be used as an herbal apothecary with old-fashioned products for sale to the public, along with books about herbal practice, in the sense of "kitchen medicine". The docents, whom we would train, would assist in the program.

I began my talk with the old phrase from "Scarbrough Fair" — parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme. You know them all as culinary herbs — spices — who, they are also classical medicinals. Parsley is a diuretic, facilitating the flow of urine, sage makes you smart, due to the brain stimulating chemical it contains — thymone, therefore, trust the names of herbs to do just what they say. Rosemary is basically good for the hair, but is also good for strengthening memory (it is an emblem of fidelity for lovers), as a tonic, a stimulant, and a cure for headaches. Thyme, ah, thyme. The lovely little root! Thyme is a germicidal and decongestant. It kills germs. It is basic to mouthwash, foot germicidal, cough medicine, and my greatest luxury — a thyme bath, made from the essential oil. It is the herb of choice in French cuisine and the finest honey comes from Greece where it grows wild on the mountains. Thyme means courage and the word for the herb is the same for the pland - the thymus — the central organ of our immune system. So once you know that almost all spices are also medicinal herbs you can begin to build your repertoire. Garlic, a natural antibiotic and good for lowering blood pressure, on and on, the list of herbs and their beneficial properties is practically past finding out — there are literally millions of them. Therefore, to move from herbs good in cooking to their medicinal properties is a safe move.

Unfortunately, herbs, for the most part, have been relegated to the dust-bin of history. The word, as far as professional health care practitioners in this country are concerned, is archaic and obsolete. I call it the most fiendish word in the English language. We don't even pronounce the 'h'. It is a scandal of industrial plant ignorance that the botanical basis of health care in medicinal herbs has been entirely eliminated — supplanted — by synthetic drugs.

There is no school — college, university, medical, nursing, pharmacy, nutrition — school, that teaches a single course on medicinal herbs in this country, to my knowledge. It is a subject matter that has disappeared from higher education and the education of health professionals. We are unique in the world for this fact. Every other nation has an intact tradition of herbal health care. From time immemorial, the poorer the nation, the less developed, the more intact. In fact, it is the only hope for health care for the world's poor.

For this reason, the World Health Organization, upon their successful completion of the campaign to rid the world of smallpox, the greatest health miracle in the history of the human race, announced, in 1978, that their goal for the year 2000 is the promotion of tradition herbal medicine and the art and craft of the native healer.

Ironically, the United States is the chief target, as the most backward nation in the world in terms of the utilization and affirmation of the botanical basis of health care. So we are on the threshold of an herb renaissance as more and more people are turning to the healing properties of nature's gifts — herbs — in order to incorporate them into their health care.

It is a splendid opportunity to be the first agency in the San Jose area to reaffirm this historic subject matter and to provide simple products — tonics, tinctures, ointments, gargles, essential oils, etc., in a marvelous historic setting — an herbal apothecary.

Please contact me at the Platonic Academy or speak to the staff at the Museum about your interest in helping this come to pass. Then, we'll plan an agency all over the grounds of the Museum and make it a place of rediscovering and recovering our vital roots.

Dr. Paul A. Lee
Dr. Paul Lee, an herbalist and Harvard-educated philosopher, is Director of the Platonic Academy of Herbal Studies Santa Cruz. The Academy is the first college in the United States for training professional herbalists.

[Image of a painting by Dr. Marques E. Reitzel. Photo courtesy of Chuck Shields.]

1936 painting by Dr. Marques E. Reitzel. Photo courtesy of Chuck Shields.
San Jose Parks and Recreation

HISTORICAL KELLEY PARK

Kelley Park was a good choice for the San Jose Historical Museum because it's a location with lots of history.

The land belonged to one of San Jose's pioneer early-day lawyers and civic leaders, and his neighbors were also influential in the early development of San Jose.

The land called Kelley Park was part of the large estate of Judge Lawrence Archer, acquired in 1861 and called Lone Oak.

His daughter, Louise Kelley, inherited the property and when city officials acquired the land for the park in 1951 they chose to name it for the daughter rather than the father.

Originally, Archer land covered the area bounded by what is now McLaughlin Avenue on the east, Keyes Street on the north, Senter Road on the west and a line some distance south of Phelan Avenue on the south.

The judge's neighbors came to include Calvin Martin, James Ashworth, J.H. Flickinger and William Quinn. Later Archer subdivided land east of Coyote Creek, but kept the piece that bordered Senter Road and angled down to the creek past what is now the Japanese Tea Garden and the San Jose Historical Museum complex.

Kentuckian James Ashworth bought his 350-acre farm from C.T. Ryland, San Jose banker and attorney, in 1854, paying $1,200 for the land, which lay east of Coyote Creek and north of what is now Story Road.

This road back in the 1870s bore the Archer name, and the creek crossing (there was no bridge) was known as Ashworth's crossing.

Ashworth's son, John, married a neighbor, the sister of John Tully, and continued to operate the farm.

In 1891, 160 acres of Ashworth land was sold to the Remillard Brick Co. for $35,000 and in later years the big old mansion became the summer home for the Remillard family.

The house and some of the old trees remain, but the brick works is gone and much of the old estate is now an industrial park.

Judge Archer's neighbor across Senter Road from the driveway into Happy Hollow and Leininger Center was a Scot named Calvin Martin who came to California with the gold rush in 1849. He went into the livery business in San Jose and prospered, buying the land south of the city and building a business block down town. But all this was lost through mortgages a few years after his death in 1881, and the new owner was James Phelan, San Francisco financier. In 1888, the street bordering the south edge of the museum grounds was named for him.

The dairy business and butter at $1.25 a pound gave the Irish lad, William Quinn, enough money to buy 500 acres of pueblo land on both sides of the Coyote Creek in 1858, three years before Judge Archer bought Lone Oak to the north.

Quinn became a leader in the county agricultural organization and the Pioneer Society. J.H. Flickinger, who later went into the canny business in Berryessa, ran cattle on his 155 acres on the east side of Coyote Creek north of Quinn's land. He was associated with cattle king Henry Miller (who also had some small parcels of land in the area) after coming to California with the gold rush, and when he switched to canning in the early 1880s, he transferred his JHF cattle brand to the cane of fruit marketed all over the United States.

Judge Archer was twice mayor of San Jose, served as county judge and in the State Legislature. He was the pioneer lawyer of St. Joseph, Mo., and had served as district attorney before joining a wagon train to come to California in 1852.

He built two business buildings in downtown San Jose. One, the Archer Building at 32 S. Second St., was torn down only a few years ago to make way for a parking lot.

He built a two-story home at Lone Oak and planted 40 acres of fruit. The heavens leading into the estate were lined with trees, including pepperc, eucalyptus and cypress, and the grounds around the house were elaborately landscaped.

Judge Archer died Feb. 17, 1910, the day after the house constructed to replace the old mansion (destroyed by fire) was completed.

His daughter, Mrs. Frank J. Kelley, came to live at Lone Oak and remained until her death in 1952, a few months after she sold the remaining 63 acres of the estate to the city. By then the estate had come to be called Ar Kel Villa, combining the Archer-Kelley names.

The original Archer home, destroyed by fire in 1909. Photo courtesy of the San Jose Mercury News.

HISTORICAL NEWS ITEM

Evening News, Jan. 16, 1896, p. 1 col. 1
Dr. Benjamin F. Cory crossed the plains with the regulation ox team and arrived in Portland, Oregon, then a city of half-dozen houses. Not fancying the outlook, he took passage on the brig "Herny" for San Francisco in November 1847. Two physicians were already established there.
Learning of the Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe, he took passage on a small sailboat and landed at Alviso. A Mexican was induced to carry books and baggage on his ox-cart to San Jose.

There being no physician here prior to this, Dr. Cory settled down and engaged in the practice of medicine and continued to the time of his death. In 1848-49 Dr. Cory made two trips to the mines, remaining a few months each time. He was elected a member of the first State Legislature which convened in San Jose to organize the machinery of the State Government. In 1850 he was elected a member of the Common Council, holding that position from 1851 to 1855. He was a member of the City Board of Education for four years. In 1872 he was appointed a Trustee of the State Normal School for ten years.

Dr. Cory was born in Oxford, Ohio November 17, 1829 and attended common school until 15 years of age. He graduated from Miami University in 1842 with a Master of Arts degree. He studied medicine under his father, Dr. James M. Cory, of Oxford, Ohio and graduated from the Medical College of Ohio at Cincinnati.

He practiced medicine for two years, then emigrated west, married Sarah A. Brady and reared eight children.

He was a member of Howard Royal Arch Chapt. no. 14 and Blue Lodge no. 10 F. and A.M. Dr. Cory was the oldest physician by location on the Pacific Coast. He paid over $50,000 in interest alone on the debts of others.

(Research by Leolo Hawes)
CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS IN OLD SAN JOSE

Since the Spanish settlement of San Jose over 200 years ago, Christmas has been celebrated, although traditions have changed considerably over the years. Fortunately for historians, records remain of what these earlier celebrations were like.

In 1847, for example, Don Jose Ramon Pico, whose uncle Pio Pico was twice Governor of California and whose father served as a justice of the courts, recorded his recollections. "We made presents, though there was no Santa Claus then," he wrote. "To the Indians, we gave young beeves to kill for fresh meat (this city), 10,000 capulets and also red blankets and handkerchiefs. To the Padres at the Mission (Santa Clara) we gave such things as country-raised carne seca (dried meat), sausages, hams and sacks of beans to supply their kitchen." When the Americans settled here, Christmas trees were usually first cut from the Santa Cruz Mountains. Homemade decorations consisted of popcorn strings, ribbons, colored paper and candles. Instead of turkey, the special holiday meal was likely to consist of venison, guiltly bear or wild goose.

More than 100 years ago, people complained about the high cost of food. The Daily Morning Times pointed out, "The butchers were the only ones who failed to carry out the obligations of the past in decorating their teams. Why?" The high price of beef appeared to be the only explanation.

Keeping in mind the promise of The Pioneer that "We only allow the most reliable dealers the use of our space, and we can cheerfully recommend them to our readers," it's interesting to discover what one such advertisement claimed. The O.A.
Charles Kellogg, the famed vaudevillian “Nature Singer,” was probably better known worldwide than in his own 30-year place of residence, Morgan Hill. Gifted with a unique throat construction, Kellogg could sing authentic bird songs and he was an early and ardent naturalist, a friend of the legendary John Muir, and interested in the symbiosis of air, fire, and water. He was one of the nation’s first conservationists who traveled in a self-constructed redwood Travel Log in order to alert the public to saving California's redwood trees. And he became the darling of the American scientific community between 1900-1930 with his “sensitive flame” experiments conducted by voice vibrations. In addition, Kellogg was an adventurer who traveled far and wide.

- Kellogg and his wife, Sadi, came to Morgan Hill after World War I and bought 40 acres next to the Gertrude Achilles estate at the end of Tennant Avenue. Their first dwelling was a spartan affair located near a natural spring on the hillside, but later a large Mediterranean-style home built was for them at Tennant and Carey Avenue. With a swimming pool in the front remains in good condition today and continues to be privately occupied.

The Early Years

Kellogg was born in Plumas County near the lumbering town of Quincy. His mother died when he was an infant and his father, a local rancher/storekeeper, and raised him with the priming care of a child to Indian servants. Thus, Charles was left to his own devices and he developed an aptitude and delight at mimicking the sounds of birds and animals in the countryside and in the forest. But it was six years old when Charles Kellogg was sent to live with relatives in Syracuse, New York, to attend school. When he was a teenager he rebelled at this life and went to work. It was during this time that his unique bird songs were heard by a physicist and he was encouraged to begin performing on the Chatauqua circuit. He could sing bird songs flawlessly in the appropriate range and with bird-like quality and intensity. He began appearing in 1890 and was an immediate success. He later switched to the vaudeville stage.

Scientific Experiments

Scientists all over the country were curious about this unique phenomenon and Kellogg was sought out for experiments. Thus, he became acquainted with the emerging scientific community and, particularly, with musical scholars. Richard Zecker, a scientist/musician and a student of the renowned physicist Helmholtz, discovered that Kellogg’s “bird voice” registered above 1400 vibrations per second and continued on to the inaudible, while his “human voice” was perfectly normal. There were later to be found that his throat had 32 rings, the same as that of a bird. In the 1930’s Kellogg was twice a guest at the General Electric laboratories, and his knowledge of “woods tracks” (translating in to natural vibrations) led him to develop a “sensitive flame” act. He would extinguish a flame burning under pressure from a gas tank with his voice vibrations only. If he caused the flame to dance, then to turn blue, and then to extinguish with a roar — a feat impossible for other humans to reproduce. In 1926 during the early years of radio broadcasting, Kellogg succeeded with a unique experiment. He extinguished the gas flame located 40 miles away by sending his “cricket call” over KGO radio from Oakland to Stanford. Later he repeated the feat at U.C. Berkeley.

WANTED: Suggestions for the 1984 membership Premium publication. Call Kathy Muller at 267-2290.

Charles and Sadie Kellogg on the porch of their Morgan Hill home overlooking the valley. Photo courtesy of Beth Wyman.

The Travel Log

Perhaps Kellogg’s most memorable accomplishment, however, was the creation of his Travel Log. In an effort to “bring the greatness and beauty of the forests to all the world” and thus prevent “lumbering... and the terrible devastation going on...”, Kellogg searched for a way to fashion a log cabin out of a redwood tree. He had seen a World War I military truck, a Nash Quad, he thought capable of mounting such a load. A meeting with Mr. Nash, the president of the automobile company, who shared Kellogg’s vision, was instrumental in securing the truck, and he retreated to Bull Creek Flat in Humboldt County to find his tree. He recruited two other forest enthusiasts for the job; Donald MacDonald, the manager of the Pacific Lumber Company, and Ron Robinson, an experienced woodman. They took a 22-foot cut from a fallen tree that was, perhaps, sixty years old. Their plan was to hollow out the shell, thereby reducing the 36-ton weight to 11 tons. Another ton or two would be lashed out with water and the final product was, in fact, an eight ton load for the Nash. The actual hollowing out process was done by Kellogg alone. The inside cabinet work and doors were done with specially chosen pieces of redwood burl. Kellogg waxed the entire redwood body, inside and out, with 12 pounds of beeswax. This preserved and enhanced the beauty of the redwood.

For four years the Travel Log was used in theaters and with the World War I Liberty Loan drive. Kellogg refused engagements that could not accommodate showing his vehicle. As a result of his work the Save The Redwoods League was founded and Bull Creek Flat was preserved. The original log part of the Travel Log remains in the Morgan Hill area in possession of old family friends. Perhaps this unique artifact will someday be a part of the Morgan Hill Museum where it can receive due appreciation.

Conclusion

Clearly Charles Kellogg was ahead of his time with his environmental concern. However, his success with his natural gift of bird song was more reflective of his time when most people lived closer to nature than we do today. His audiences appreciated his talent because they had first hand knowledge of birds and could personally evaluate his performance.

In 1927 when Kellogg was 40 years old he wrote his own book of memoirs. The book was printed and published in Morgan Hill and a copy is available at the Morgan Hill Library. Much earlier, in 1903 when he was still performing, Kellogg recorded his repertoire in two phonographic releases titled “Songs of Our Native Birds” and “Sounds of the Forest.” In the same year he also recorded a fascinating piece of art, an operatic duet with the well-known opera singer, Alma Gluck. They sang “The Nightingale Song” together with Kellogg’s singing providing an obligato to the opera’s lyrics. A tape of these works is available at the Morgan Hill Library.

Kellogg died in 1949 in Morgan Hill. His funeral was supervised by the Johnson Funeral Home in Morgan Hill and he was laid to rest in Oak Hill cemetery. Although he was truly an international celebrity, few in Morgan Hill remember him. Some longtime residents recall that he gave “free concerts” at the old high school on Monterey but his wife’s contributions appear to have been more lasting. She was an active charter member of the Morgan Hill Christian Science Society which continues today. Both were gifted artists and together they shared a deep concern for the world and its resources.

Beth Wyman

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

Members of the Peninsula Junior Banjo Band entertaining for the 160 Association members and guests who attended Picnic in the Park on September 18. Photo courtesy of Jim Tanner and E Clampus Vitus.
Vinous Vignettes
THE FRENCH INFLUENCE

The importance of the early French pioneers to Santa Clara Valley's history is well known, as are the names of a few who became associated with our early vineyards. But it should not be overlooked is the essential significance of the Gallic influence on the very earliest development of local winegrowing and the pervading and lasting nature of this influence.

California vineyards were known to the French long before the Gold Rush. French sea explorers had early visited the seemingly sleepy mission communities and had written books about what they had seen. California was considered to be rich land under the control of a lazy society that would never be able to bring forth the great riches locked in her fertile valleys. But an industrious people like the French—what could they not do in an environment like this?

The American conquest opened California to outsiders in 1846, and when the word of the great gold strike reached France in the fall of 1848 it came to a country experiencing an ugly recession. Many enterprising men were ready to pick up and head for California. By 1850 probably the most important single group, outside New Englanders, to join the ranks of the Argonauts was the French. And save for San Francisco, where they came in the greatest numbers was to the Valley of Santa Clara and to the new state capital, San Jose.

Although the city was the cornerstone of California's great wealth, the true source of a large growth and prosperity lay in the soil. A large number of the local French understood this and became involved in all manner of agricultural pursuits. Notably, a few of them planted vines to the valley by such as Pierre Sainsavin, who had been in California for several years and had married the daughter of Antonio Sula, a local wealthy landowner who had become a world-famous trader and banker in Bordeaux at Monterey years before. Many were attracted to the possibilities of viticulture, which Sainsavin broadcast to all who would listen. And his father-in-law was happy to sell such no-nonsense grapes at attractive prices.

By the mid-1850s a sizeable French community of nurserymen had developed in the San Jose area, most of them interested in viticulture and winegrowing. Chief among those was Antoine Dupeyroux, the first to grow a good French wine grape varieties to Northern California. Others included such Louis Pellar, Louis Prevost and J.B. Bontemps.

What perhaps was the most important was the work done by two Frenchmen who began farming south of town at the mouth of the Almaden Valley. Etienne Bernard Thee acquired a large southern portion of the Narvaez Ranch along Guadalupe Creek and in the planting season of 1851/52 set out several thousand Mission vines. His son-in-law, Charles Lefranc, took control of the property in 1857 and set the roots for the area's commercial winegrowing. By the 1860s Lefranc's place had become the center of the Valley's wine industry, surrounded by many other vineyardists, some of whose names should be unknown to readers today — Harwood, Branham, Stockton.

Meanwhile, at the turn of the century, Lefranc, who had moved into the Evergreen district east of San Jose in 1862 and began a winegrowing operation that would be the center of this important vineyard district during the boom in the 1870s. Later when Peller's daughter Henriette married Pierre Mirassou, another French name was added to the Valley's viticultural history.

The wine boom struck chiefly in the Cupertino area west of San Jose during the 1880s. By the fastest of the "boomers" for winegrowing was J.B. Portal, a Frenchman whose Burgundy Vineyard off Stevens Creek Road became a model for others. Although the wine boom began in the 1880s was diluted, it was still extremely important, so much so that in 1885 when the Viticultural Commission held its district convention in San Jose, several of the technical sessions were actually conducted at the Portalage.

Locals had a good laugh here in 1884 when Portal brought suit against another French winemaker, Jules Chamon St. Hubert. Portal claimed that his adversary had slandered his wine and demanded $20,000 for the slight. One after another, members of the local French-speaking community took the stand to testify how good Portal's wine. There were Lefranc, Peller, ever old Pierre Sainsavin, who was still making Champagne in San Jose. Portal won his suit and was given his $20,000 in costs. Some years later Portal ran off to France with a pretty cousin and never returned, leaving the management of Burgundy Vineyard in the hands of his wife, Mrs. Portal.

The largest independent winery in the Valley in these years was the Casa Delmas in Mountain View, the property of Antoine's son, Delphine, who was born in France. Some say that if you saw the recent movie Bagtime, you saw Pat O'Brien playing Delphine as he defended the murderer Harry Thaw.

Charles Lefranc's land bumped suddenly in 1887 when it was acquired by a team of runaways—horses at the winery. Almaden Vineyards now came under the control of his son, Henry Lefranc, who struck up a partnership with his brand new brother-in-law, Paul Masson. Paul went to Europe in 1884 and purchased Champagne making equipment. The trip also served as his honeymoon with his new wife, Louise Lefranc Masson. When he came home he was managing Château Metalieu in the north and in 1892 the Lefranc/Masson partnership announced its new Champagne. It was a beauty but by the end of the year the partnership had dissolved. Masson was his own boss, making his own Almaden wines to make his Champagne.

Eventually, in 1896 he bought land above Saratoga, which became the site of his great wine operation after the turn of the century. When Harry Thaw killed his wife and her husband were killed in a terrible automobile-truck accident in 1909, Masson took over management of Almaden for the next twenty years, although the property itself never really belonged to him.

By the turn of the century other new French names were taking their place in the winemaking community. Near Almaden we hear of Athenour, Estrade and Bouret, all of whom would survive Prohibition but not suburbanization. And above Saratoga a whole colony of French wine-growers had set roots in the Congress Springs District, adding such names as Pourray, Rispal, Cazin and Girard to the list of Franco-American winemakers in the county.

Repeal the Mirassou name became particularly prominent on the Valley winegrowing scene. On land purchased by patriarch Francois in the 1850s from the Donner brothers, Pierre Peller, had built his winery in the 1890s. After World War II Peter's brother Hermane, with his sons, began a winery operation near Harwood and Bloomer Hill Roads on the site of the Los Gatos Vineyard. The company had rivaled that of Charles Lefranc in the 1860s.

Actually the Italian winemakers had become the dominant ethnic element, by far, in local winegrowing during the Prohibition era in the southern portion of the county. But Almaden was finally revitalized after Repeal and the Gallic names of the winery's leaders blended well with that historic spot's French heritage. Louis Seguier was the new owner and Oliver Gosset was the winemaker.

Today the names Masson, Lefranc and Mirassou stand out in our memory. A few of the other names Delmas and Peller are commemorated by the streets named for them. But when we think back on our history of winemaking in the Santa Clara Valley it was best to recall that a vast community of French men and women, and their children, helped make this valley what it is today, and that it is one of the major wine districts in our Golden State.

Charles L. Sullivan
MUSEUM INFORMATION

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

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

ADMISSION
Adults ................................................. $1.00
Children (2-14 years) ......................... $0.50
Groups (12 or more) ............................. $0.40 per adult
.................................................. $0.40 per senior

Seniors

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

INTERESTED IN BEING A DOCENT?

Each year the San Jose Historical Museum Docent Council provides various educational services to over 10,000 children and adults here in San Jose and beyond. The creative talents, interest and commitment of 75 men and women is evidenced by their hundred of service hours to the Museum.

The Docent Council is beginning its annual recruitment drive for its new spring class. Throughout the 15-week training session, which begins on March 7, 1983, Docent trainees are offered lectures on local history, tour techniques, communication skills and in-gellery training. They are prepared to give tours of the Museum complex on Kelley Park, the Peralta Adobe and to provide in-school presentations of our hands-on Victorian School-Kit.

Providing tours is the primary function of the Docent Council, but it's only the beginning, for beyond this necessary service, the members create new education programs for children and adults. In the past two years, the Victorian School-Kit has been developed, an original filmstrip and a Century Ago... was produced and at present, an architectural tour of our grounds and herb garden are being created. Through membership in the Docent Council, individuals receive continuing enrichment in the form of lectures, professional workshops, conferences and field trips.

To learn more about serving the Museum, the community and yourself, please call either the 354-8084, 354-8084 or 354-8084. We look forward to hearing from you!

Selected Docent Training Lecture Schedule
March 14, 1983 at 9:30 a.m.
"The Ohlone Indians" by Chuck Smith, Cabrillo College
March 21, 1983 at 9:30 a.m.
"Historical Downtown San Jose" by Frances Fox
April 4, 1983 at 9:30 a.m.
"The Spanish-Mexican Era" by Phil Grassby, DeAnza College
April 11, 1983 at 9:30 a.m.
"The Peralta Adobe — Its History and Restoration" by Roberta Jamison
April 18, 1983 at 6:00 a.m.
"Migration to California and Early Valley Agriculture and Industry" by Robert Fricke, West Valley College
April 25, 1983 at 11:00 a.m.
"Victorian Daily Life" by Inez Brooks-Myers, Assistant Curator of History, Oakland Museum
May 9, 1983 at 9:30 a.m.
"The History of Herbs and their Medicinal Uses" by Dr. Paul Lee, University of California, Santa Cruz

All lectures will be held in the Pacific Hotel Meeting Room. Please check with the Museum Office for any last minute schedule changes or additions.

Dates to Remember
December 7, 1982
Afternoon Tea with Patricia Loomis
3:30-5:30 P.M.
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room
December 9, 1982
Holiday Party
8:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.
Pacific Hotel
December 11, 1982
Opening Night: Christmas in the Park
7:00 P.M.
Plaza Park (Market & San Carlos Streets)

January 13, 1983
Bob Doer: "The Life and Death of Hitler"
7:30 P.M.
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room

February 27, 1983
Judge Mark Thomas, Jr.: "History of the Police and Fire Courts in Santa Clara County"
7:30 P.M.

February 28, 1983
7:30 P.M.

February 28, 1983
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room

February 27, 1983
Roberta Jamison & Don Weden: "Mexican Miners: Past, Present, and Future"
7:30 P.M.
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room

TIME MACHINE PLANNED

Plans are underway to turn the Museum into a "time machine" one day in May 1983. In "populating the grounds with costumed characters of yesteryear we hope to have a Museum “Living History” Day.

“Living” history is an interpretive system that uses period clothing and objects (usually reproduction groups). Participants assume particular character roles and then reenact a typical, but created, day. Characters may include doctors, lawyers, washerwomen, farmers, grandparents, children, clerks, vendors, tailors, teachers, politicians, policemen or anyone who might have been in town.

Participants attend three or four training meetings, research their “personality”, and portray their own costume. In addition, many behind the scenes people will be needed to implement the program of Living History events. If you are interested in participating in such a program in any capacity, please contact the Museum at 287-2290.

Museum Association Boards for 1983

We are pleased to announce that our newly-elected officers for the 1983 Museum Association Board are:

Eric Brocher ..................... President
Carol Carlson ..................... Vice-President
Clay Arbuckle ..................... City Historian
Diane Paradise ..................... Secretary
Sheri Pohle ....................... Treasurer
Judge Mark Thomas, Jr. ............ Parliamentarian
Earline Shields .................... Membership
Patty Inman ....................... Special Events
Mary Ann Herby ............... Docent/Volunteer Staffing
John McGovern ................. Gift Shop
Bob DeRoe ......................... Publicity
Terry Graff ....................... Member at Large
Virginia Hammerness ........ Member at Large
Linda Larson ................. Member at Large
Marty Lion ...................... Member at Large

In addition, the following people have generously agreed to serve on our Advisory and Development Committees:

MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD
Dwight Bentzel
John Clark
Jerry DeYoung
Jack Douglas
Theron Fox
Dixon Howland
Robert Jordan
John D. Leukhardt
Leonard McKay
John Nece
Duncan Oneal
Robert Pars
Eric Pflueger
Al Smith
George Starbird
Olive Swensen
Austen Warburton

MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Jim Arbuckle
Marvin Bamberg
Eric Brocher
Chuck Buckley
Leonard McKay
Mary Stenseth

We are most grateful to all of those people for graciously giving of their time and talents to help and guide the Historical Museum.

ANY VOLUNTEERS?

SPEAKERS BUREAU

The newly-formed Museum Association Speakers Bureau is seeking volunteers who would like to speak on the Museum and its programs to service clubs and other interested community groups. It requests many requests for information and for speakers throughout the year, and we are anxious to "spread the word” about the Historical Museum. A speaker’s kit, complete with slide presentation, has been prepared, and now we need more enthusiastic supporters who enjoy public speaking and could share a few hours of their time to promote our programs. If you are interested, please phone the Museum, 287-2290, to leave your name or to receive more information.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Name: ..............................................

Matting Address: _________________________________

( ) 1983 Renewal 
( ) New Member

Individual Authorizing Contribution: ____________

TOTAL ANNUAL PLEDGE: $__________

AMOUNT PAID NOW: $__________

BALANCE: $__________

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Pioneer Circle ($5,000)
Patron Circle ($2,500)
Mission Circle ($1,000)
Patron Circle ($500)
Tower Circle ($400)
Centennial Circle ($100)
Half-Century Circle ($50)
Quarter-Century Circle ($25)

Please indicate method of payment: ( ) Check or money order enclosed. ( ) Master Card. ( ) Visa
Expiration Date: ____________

( ) Please list all digits from your charge card

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

$__________

$__________

The above premium may be used to support the Museum in any way you wish.

$__________

$__________

$__________

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

Check payable to: San Jose Historical Museum Association, 635 Phelan Ave., San Jose, CA 95112