Museum Month
Smithsonian to come to San Jose

The Museums of San Jose, the city's seven premier art, history, science, and children's museums, will celebrate the contributions of museums to the fabric of life in San Jose with special discounts and programming during the month of April.

San Jose Historical Museum Association members will enjoy membership privileges at all participating museums during April, including free admission and membership discounts at each of the museum stores. Any memberships purchased at any of the museums during April provide a bonus two-months extra membership.

To launch Museum Month, the public and museum members are invited to a kick-off event featuring the Smithsonian Institution's Assistant Secretary, Mark Pachta. Mr. Pachta's responsibilities at The Smithsonian include planning for the Smithsonian's 150th anniversary and chairing the Institution's Electronic Media Board. He will speak on Thursday, March 28, at 7:00 PM at a free lecture at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center, Room J. The country's national museum is celebrating its 150 years with a traveling exhibit, America's Smithsonian, which will end its tour of the country in San Jose in mid-1997.

The seven museums participating in Museum Month include: the American Museum of Quilts & Textiles, the Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, the Egyptian Museum & Planetarium, the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site, The San Jose Historical Museum, and more.

Springtime at Filoli — House and Garden Tour
Lunch at Allied Arts Guild

WHEN: Thursday, April 25, 1996
WHO: Association members and their guests
HOW: Royal Coach bus leaving and returning to the Japanese Friendship Garden Parking Lot
TIME: 8:30 - 4:00
COST: $40.00 Association members (includes lunch)
$45.00 non-members (includes lunch)

The Association has not done a bus trip to Filoli in eleven years and we thought it was time to revisit this wonderful National Trust property. Please join us for a tour of the house and the beautiful gardens. We will be visiting Filoli at one of the loveliest times of the year, early spring, when azaleas, rhododendrons and other spring flowers are in bloom.

Our trip will include a docent-led tour of the modified Georgian-style mansion designed by Willis Polk (architect of the First Church of Christ Scientist on St. James Park) for Mr. and Mrs. William B. Bourne II in 1916. The house is an outstanding and important example of country house architecture in the United States, and is one of the few in California that remains intact in its original setting. We will also tour the 16 acres of formal gardens which were designed by Bruce Porter and Isabella Worn to take maximum advantage of the natural surroundings and vistas.

After our tour of Filoli, we will reboard the bus and travel to Menlo Park where we will enjoy lunch at Allied Arts Guild. There will be time to browse through the artisans shops located at the Guild.

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

Filoli - Thursday, April 25, 1996

Name:
Address:
Phone: ___________________________ # of reservations ___________________________

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This Issue Of The Association News
In Honor of A.P. Giannini and the contributions of the Italian-American community in the Santa Clara Valley

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
1650 SENTER ROAD
SAN JOSE, CA 95112-2090

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mr. Willys I Peck
14278 Saratoga Ave
Saratoga CA 95070-5930
Making a Case for Collection Needs

Since the heart of any museum is its collections, one of the most promising developments for the San Jose Historical Museum in recent months has been the increased discussion of the needs of the City's historical collections.

The City of San Jose has been collecting items of local historic importance since 1950, when the State House Museum was erected in Plaza Park to celebrate California's centennial. These artifacts formed the basis of what would become the collections of the San Jose Historical Museum.

Over the years, many thousands of items have been donated to the City of San Jose to be added to these collections. They represent the personal and business lives of many families who have made the Santa Clara Valley their home. It is our responsibility as a community to ensure that the items accepted in trust are properly cared for and available for the education and enjoyment of generations to come.

In recent weeks, the importance of the City's historic artifacts has become a vital issue. The needs of the collections have been cited in almost every focus group reporting to the Stabilization Board, and in meetings of the Stabilization Board itself. At the urging of the Landmarks Commission and the Museum Association, City council members discussed the collections at one recent City Council meeting and will agendize the issue again soon. Staff administering the contract for the former Beechun site has been directed to include the Museum's professional staff, Landmarks Commissioners, Museum Association and Volunteer representatives in discussions of how to best accommodate the concerns at that important site.

In its role as an advocate for the San Jose Historical Museum, and as a voice for Museum supporters and the community, the Association has lobbied forcefully in support of the collections for many years. The leadership of the Historic Landmarks Commission in further citing the City's responsibility for its collections has been invaluable in the effort to draw more attention to the issue and in urging that remedial steps be taken.

Working together, community members have greatly increased the visibility of collection needs and helped to ensure that the preservation and use of the collections will be addressed in the current planning for the Museum's future. This is an effort in which we can all take a certain measure of pride.

Kathleen Muller, SJMEA Executive Director

It has been an interesting and exciting two months since our last newsletter! In January, I wrote about the hopes and concerns for the new year. At this time I can say to you that some hopes have become a reality and concerns are being discussed. Most importantly, people have begun to talk about many of the issues that have divided us over the last two years.

The Stabilization Board has continued to meet on a regular basis. In January, the City hired Marilyn Snider to work with the Stabilization Board to draft a Mission Statement and Strategic Plan. The goal will be to have these documents to the City Council by May 7, 1996.

As a part of Marilyn Snider's work with the Stabilization Board, she has formed the Volunteer Focus Groups with literally hundreds of people. I believe we have all learned a new word, "consensus." As defined by Marilyn, "the fundamental principle of consensus-building is to focus the participants on the issues and the group should have in common rather than the positions that they have drawn apart. It has been wonderful to see the collaboration that has taken place on a variety of fronts the last two months.

For the last two months I have been discussing the Beechun facility, located across Senter Road from the Museum, being a potential site for archive, collection, and exhibition expansion space. I am pleased to report that the joint effort of the volunteer group, the City Historic Landmarks Commission, the Development Council, the Fire Department Muster Team, the Association and many others, were able to speak up and be included in the City's upcoming discussion of how they will specifically develop the site. The City has hired a consultant who will begin to work with a team of City staff and concerned members of the community to determine the best site for site and building usage. This is an important step in addressing and solving the Museum communitiy's concern over the care and storage of the collection and archives.

As President of the Association I will continue to work with our Board, our membership, and our staff to reach out to all members of the historical museum community. It is important to understand that people are involved in all aspects of the Museum and that there is much more about this wonderful place. We might not always agree on issues but I believe that is healthy for any institution. It is critically important that there is discussion and "consensus." This month I would like to acknowledge Past Presidents Terry Graff and John Luckhardt for their early leadership of the Association. Terry was President for 1973-75 and John 1977-77. John Luckhardt is still actively involved as a Board Member and chair of our members committee.

Steven M. Cox, President

Document Report

We are all familiar with the myths of the Old West as presented in the movies: the strong, silent cowboy who braved the hostile elements, fought off marauding bands, faced down the town outlaws in a shoot out, or challenged the power of the villainous land baron. Behind him stood his equally strong and silent wife or lady friend whose only role in life seemed to be that of offering comfort or moral support. Historians have created our understanding of the Old West, particularly in the portrayal of women. Recent scholars have shown that rather than being a passive partner in the settling and taming of the West, the pioneer woman was a hardy, active, and indefatigable collaborator in theWESTward expansion.

To acquaint volunteers with this new historical perspective and in conjunction with Women's History Month in March, the Cultural Awareness Committee has decided to celebrate the contributions of women to the history of the West. The committee has also chosen this focus to coordinate with the debut of our new educational program, "Local Women of Distinction, 1860-1930." This program recently received a $3500 community action grant from the National American Association of University Women.

On the morning of March 25, the committee has scheduled an exciting program for the volunteers. Cathy Luchetti, who has written several books on the West, will give a lecture on the important role women played in the West.
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talk will be followed by a presentation by the American Museum of Quilts and Textiles. Volunteers have been asked to bring quilts they have at home and wish to share with their associates.

Within the same week, on Thursday, March 28, the Creative Programming Committee will preview its new educational program to fourth grade teachers at the San Jose Convention Center. This debut will include a fashion show highlighting outstanding women in Santa Clara Valley and will be presented by our own group, Portraits of the Past.

These two days promise to be educational as well as participatory for volunteers and teachers. The theme and the activities for this week tie in with the mission of the Museum which is to offer educational and volunteer services and to interpret and promote the broad spectrum of the history of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley.

— RICHARD SACHEN, DOCENT BOARD PRESIDENT

STABILIZATION BOARD PROGRESS REPORT

February has been an extremely busy month at the San Jose Historical Museum, and I would like to take this opportunity to detail some of the happenings related to the Association.

I am extremely pleased to announce that the City of San Jose and the Association successfully reached agreement regarding a second $50,000 operational grant agreement on February 15, 1996. It is the hope of the City Administration that this will enable the Association to maintain an ongoing commitment to the educational enrichment of our community by its support of the Historical Museum.

The City Administration has commenced negotiations with the Association regarding a two-year facility management extension of the Peralta-Fallon Site. Peralta-Fallon contract negotiations will be conducted by Deputy City Manager Darrell Dearborn in order to preserve my professional neutrality as the Interim Executive Director of the Historical Museum. The City Administration believes that the Peralta-Fallon Site should remain under the management of the Association until such time as the Stabilization Board assumes control of a unified non-profit museum.

The San Jose Historical Museum Stabilization Board has begun the process to transition the Historical Museum into a new non-profit organization by holding a series of professionally facilitated sessions in order to develop a mission statement and strategic plan. As a City Museum, and as a collector and keeper of the public heritage, the Historical Museum serves the entire community of San Jose, regardless of whether individuals are active users of the Museum or not. In planning this process, the Stabilization Board recognizes that the voices of the broader community must be heard, so that the Historical Museum can better provide the kinds of services that are needed in our community.

In order to receive the input of the community, the Stabilization Board has organized a series of focus groups and community meetings. The following focus groups were held to survey public opinion: Teachers/Educators, Academicians/ Historians, Museum Staff, Volunteers/Docents, Affiliated Groups, Association, and Community/Corporate Leadership. The input generated at these sessions was recorded and given to Stabilization Board members prior to their first day-long retreat. The Stabilization Board reviewed the conclusions from these focus groups, and used them as the basis for their discussions.

The first day-long Stabilization Board session was held on Saturday, February 24, with the purpose of developing a draft mission statement, including vision and goals for the Historical Museum based on input gathered at eight facilitated community focus groups.

The second Stabilization Board session is scheduled to be held on Friday, March 22. This session will be dedicated to revising the draft mission statement, after soliciting additional community input and conducting further evaluations in two additional focus groups. The last Stabilization Board session will be held on Thursday, April 11 in order to finalize a fully costed strategic plan for presentation to City Council in June 1996.

The Association focus group was held on February 15, 1996. I am pleased to report that this successful session was well attended, and the conclusions and input was well received by the Stabilization Board at its retreat.

Individuals not invited to attend one of these facilitated focus groups are invited to participate at a general community meeting to be held on Saturday, March 16, 1996 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

Should you be able to attend this community meeting, the Stabilization Board would still value your opinion on the following questions:

1. What do you like about the San Jose Historical Museum?
2. What don’t you like about the San Jose Historical Museum?
3. What should be the purpose of the Historical Museum, and for whom?
4. Developing a Vision: In five (5) years the San Jose Historical Museum will be .. ?
5. Identify four (4) or five (5) potential three year goals.
6. Please note any general comments or concerns.

Please mail your responses to the following address:

Mark Gearhardt
City of San Jose Manager's Office
San Jose City Hall, Room 436
801 N. First Street
San Jose, CA 95110

The Stabilization Board is looking forward to active participation on the part of the community as we seek to create a non-profit institution grounded in strong community leadership and involvement.

The next business meeting of the Stabilization Board is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 6, 1996 at 7:00 PM at the San Jose Historical Museum Firehouse Meeting Room. The public is invited to attend.

— DEAN HELMS, AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

MUSEUM STAFF
Mignon Gibson Director
Wanda Foss Senior Steno
Jeanne Kondo Clerk/Typist
Leslie Manasuga Archivist
Victoria Beck Curator of Education
Beverly Blockie Volunteer Support (PT)
Fawna Ferguson Volunteer Support (PT)
Jim Gogan Volunteer Support (PT)
Carol Provenzano Volunteer Support (PT)
Mary Anne Schreier Volunteer Support (PT)
Al Spivak Volunteer Support (PT)
Beverly Traenkle Volunteer Support (PT)
Monte Duran Events
Sarah Higheiu Nunes Curator
Nancy Valley Curator
Fred Bennett Trolley Barn Manager

ASSOCIATION STAFF
Kathleen Mulher Executive Director
Barbara Johnson Development Director
Robert Pedretti Peralta-Fallon Site Director
Carol Ouellette Bookkeeper
Jodi Henderson Membership Coordinator
Tina Evans Shop Manager
Susan Miller Shops Supervisor
Judy Peck Shop Supervisor
Pat Looman Volunteer- Fallon Shop Supervisor
Julie Peterson Vintage Reflections Manager

Lincoln Avenue Books has acquired the library of Austin Warburton’s estate. The material will be introduced into stock as expediently as possible.

Lincoln Ave Books
2194 Lincoln Ave
San Jose, CA 95125

Threshold to Confidence
School of Social Grace
Classes in etiquette for Young Ladies and Adults
Mrs. William Barrett
(408) 257-8677

STABILIZATION BOARD PROGRESS REPORT
SPECIAL MUSEUM MONTH PROGRAMS OFFERED AT ALL MUSEUM SITES

Special programs have been planned at each of the seven museums participating in Museum Month in April. As a member of the San Jose Historical Museum Association, you are invited and encouraged to sample what's being offered at the other museums in the city, free of charge. The following programs may be of interest:

- **The American Museum of Quilts & Textiles**, at its new location at 60 South Market Street in downtown San Jose, will feature an exhibit *Nancy Crow: Improvisational Quilts* which opened at the Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C.

- **At the Children's Discovery Museum** during April will be the Humpley Bug Art month-long project at the Children's Studio Center. **Bubbling**, a new exhibit where visitors explore the principles and properties of the fascinating world of bubbles, continues in April.

- **At the Egyptian Museum & Planetarium** in Rosicrucian Park there will be a special month-long display on recent archeological findings in Egypt. Also, families will enjoy scheduled presentations by *Dr. Diggis* at 2:00 PM each Saturday. On April 19, there will be an evening performance of musical selections from the opera *Aida* at 7:00 PM. On Sunday, April 21, the museum introduces *Mummy Musings* an exhibit on research on the museum's own mummies. A stone-carving lecture and demonstration is set for Saturday, April 27 at 11:00 AM.

- **The Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site** plans a "Living History Weekend," Saturday and Sunday, April 20-21 with costumed guides, spinners, musicians and dancers of the Pueblo period and Victorian age, as well as special docent tours. *Pueblo Adobe Days* are scheduled for April 27-28 with hands-on activities such as adobe brick-making, candle dipping, and baking of tortillas and making corn husk figures, as well as "period dressing" for children. The Peralta Adobe & Fallon House provides the visitor with a glimpse of early San Jose and its historic role in the founding of California.

- **The San Jose Historical Museum** celebrates Museum Month with a special exhibit designed by elementary students celebrating the city's ethnic diversity. Visitors to the Museum during April will also enjoy a Victorian experience and be given a free souvenir. On Sunday, April 14, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM the museum is hosting a vintage Volkswagen show with over 400 of history's most unique cars. Admission will be charged for this special event.

- **The San Jose Museum of Art** has scheduled an evening concert featuring Pan Rasmajy, a six-member steel drum band, on April 3 starting at 5:00 PM and its popular Family Sunday, a free day of hands-on art and activities programs related to contemporary and modern art, on April 7 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. **Afternoon Hands-On Art** with different painting and drawing activities for children is scheduled for Tuesday through Friday, April 9-12 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. A talk on *Objects Minus Subjects: American Art 1960-1965* with Kenneth Baker, art critic from the San Francisco Chronicle, will be held Thursday night, April 11 at 7:00 PM at the Fairmont Hotel.

- **At the Tech Museum of Innovation**, a lecture on *Exploring the Universe with the Hubble* featuring Ray Villard from Johns Hopkins University's Space Telescope Science Institute is scheduled for April 3 at 7:00 PM (doors open at 6:00 PM) and the museum's *Bits & Pieces: Inside the Computer* continues to explain the complex inner workings of computers. Weekend activities will include Computer Take Apart weekends, DNA spooling demonstrations, and activities in the museum's Media Lab.

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

From December 20, 1995 to February 27, 1996, the Endowment Fund of the San Jose Historical Museum received the following donations.

**In Memoriam:** James R. Bacgalupi, Edwin Mitchell

In Honor of: Clients of Miege, Minecwease & Associates

Gifts to the San Jose Historical Museum Association to honor someone on a special occasion, or as a memorial, may be sent to the San Jose Historical Museum Association Endowment Fund, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95122-2599. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the person being honored or the family of the deceased.

VINTAGE REFLECTIONS CLASS SCHEDULE

**Months of March and April**

March 2 Parasols
March 9 Smoking pipes
March 16 Corsets: Session 1
March 23 Corsets: Session 2
April 6 Corsets: Session 3
April 13 Silk Ribbon Embroidery
April 20 Petticoats: For 1860s, 1870s, 1880s, & 1890s (including Corded Petticoats)

Please be aware that these dates are subject to change. There will be a fee for all classes and all classes require advanced sign-up. For information on fees, supplies, and class times and locations, please contact Julie Peterson at Vintage Reflections (408) 593-8156.

Look for the Vintage Reflections article in future editions of the *Association News* for more information on classes.
HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE LECTURES
Second Season

ancy Newlin's talk on architect George Page in November at the Hayes Mansion brought to a close the first semiannual series of lectures on local historical architecture. The Heritage Council of Santa Clara County, with the co-sponsorship of a number of local organizations, presented the lectures as a benefit for the development of an architectural slide archive at the San Jose Historical Museum. Patrons were treated to five special sites, and attendance approached one hundred per evening by the final lecture at the Hayes Mansion.

The Spring Series will begin on Wednesday, March 20, and continue bi-weekly on alternate Tuesdays through May 14. All lectures will begin at 7:30 PM. The lineup includes:

Wednesday, March 20:
Gray Brechin, The Pan Pacific Exposition (at the Hotel Jose, more recently known as Allen's Furniture on South Second Street, San Jose)

Tuesday, April 2:
George Papinou, Prande Wolf Architect (at San Jose Women's Club, 75 & 11th Street, San Jose)

Tuesday, April 16:
Pat Snav,Hillam Weeks Architect (at the IIOOF in Gilroy)

Tuesday, April 50:
Paul Duchescher, The Arts and Crafts Rangeland (We and Our Neighbors Clubhouse at Union and Los Gatos Almaden Road, San Jose)

Tuesday, May 14:
Arie Middlebrook, Historic Gardens of Santa Clara Valley (Kelley Park Amphitheater, San Jose)

Tickets are $10 for each lecture or $45 for the series, and can be purchased from the Heritage Council at P.O. Box 26767, San Jose, CA 95159. Or call 256-2274 for more information. Some lectures have limited seating and will sell out, so pre-purchase of tickets is recommended.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

1996 is off to an exciting start! On February 6, the Garden Club was presented with a lovely plaque and certificate from San Jose Beautiful in recognition of the Garden Club's efforts to enhance the Museum grounds last year. The Museum Garden Club placed second in the Neighborhood Improvement category. Congratulations are in order for all members of the Garden Club.

Boy Scout Troop 453, led by Dennis Ting, volunteered their services to the Museum on Sunday, February 11. The Scouts weeded the grounds surrounding Ng Shing Gung, the Trolley Barn, Fruit Barn, and area adjacent to the Firehouse. The Scouts did an outstanding job, and we thank each and every one of them for their service.

Yamagami's Nursery generously donated 100 narcissus bulbs to the Museum Garden Club last month. The bulbs were planted at the Bandstand and promise to put on quite a show this spring. We certainly appreciated the interest and support Yamagami's has extended to the Garden Club last year as well as this year.

Garden maintenance days in January and February were quite productive. Maintenance days are scheduled for Monday, March 18, and Monday, April 15, 9:00 AM to Noon. The next Garden Club business meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the Hotel meeting room.

Mary Force has agreed to co-chair the Garden Club with Laurel Perusa. This will enable the Garden Club to develop their projects more quickly and to broaden the scope of their projects. Mary has been an outstanding asset to the Garden Club since joining in July 1995; she will bring much to the group in her new position.

If you have an interest in becoming involved in the garden projects, please contact Laurel Perusa, 354-7153.

Sponsor Our Newsletter

San Jose Historical Museum Association is seeking sponsorship for its six bi-monthly issues of the Association News. Through sponsorships and advertising, we are able to provide the Association News to our members and to visitors at our Museums. Organizations or companies interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter or purchasing advertising space should contact the Association offices at 277-3780.

PERALTA & FALLON
ABODE & HOUSE

As part of the Museums of San Jose's celebration of Museum Month in April, the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site will be presenting some special programming.

Sunday, April 14: 2:00 PM
Lecture by Joan Chamberlain of the American Museum of Quilts and Textiles on recent historic quilts on display at the Fallon House. $6.00 admission includes tour.

Saturday & Sunday, April 20-21: Living History Weekend
Costumed interpreters, spinners, musicians, cooking demonstrations, garden and Peralta Adobe and Fallon House tours.

Saturday & Sunday, April 27-28: Adobe Days
Children will have the opportunity to experience life in the Pueblo of San Jose by making adobe bricks, dipping candles, making a corn husk figure, gridding corn, and lassoing a "steer".

The final section of the Introductory Exhibit in the Fallon House cellar was completed in time for Founder's Day. The exhibit tells the story of the Italian immigrants, who in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, came to live in the area surrounding the Peralta Adobe and the Fallon House. The exhibit contains photographs and artifacts from the days when the Fallon House was the Italian Hotel & Restaurant and the Peralta Adobe housed Bocchio's plumbing supplies. Photographs of both structures prior to restoration help the visitor to understand the enormous efforts that have been made to preserve this historic site.

Mark your calendar to stop by for one or more of these special features at the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site. Please note that the Site will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 7, so that our staff and volunteers may enjoy the holiday with their families.

* ROBERT PEDRETTI, SITE DIRECTOR

News & Notes

Olympic Torch Relay to Pass through San Jose

Forty-six Community Heroes and eight Olympians from Santa Clara County and surrounding areas have been awarded the honor of carrying the Olympic flame in the upcoming 1996 Olympic Torch Relay. Coordinated locally by United Way of Santa Clara County, the Torch Relay will arrive in San Jose the night of May 2. A community celebration will be held that evening in Cesar Chavez Park with special activities planned for families.

1996 Santa Clara County Historical Essay Contest

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are again sponsoring their annual essay contest which is open to students and the general public. They are requesting 3,000-10,000 word essays on any person, place or event concerning Santa Clara County from its beginning to the recent past. The first prize is $500.00 in cash. The deadline for submissions is Monday, April 29, 1996. For a copy of the contest rules, contact Helen MacCarthy at 578-1485.
THE SAN FRANCISCO YEARS, 1849–1860

BY J ACK DOUGLAS

It was fortunate for me that the treaty to end the War with Mexico came when it did, for had it not, I most assuredly would have been made to stand trial for the execution of two of the enemy during the battle of Todos Santos. Two junior officers of the regular army would have been instrumental in charging me for violating the articles of war. One was Lieutenant William T. Sherman, Adjutant General under the military governor, and Lieutenant Henry Hallick who was an observer of the action during the conflict in lower California.

In the years following, I would have numerous encounters with these men which would prejudice them against me during the War of Rebellion fifteen years later. Hallick, as General-in-Chief, refused my promotion to Major General, and Sherman, as Commander in the West, denied me a command in his army. They had obviously avoided the courts martial over the shooting incident to keep from embar- rassing Lieutenant Colonel Burton (only a Captain in the regular army) who was supposedly in charge during the battle of Todos Santos.

Gold Rush Fever

All concerns about the Mexican War in California were quickly forgotten when gold was discovered at Coloma on the American River. Most of the men of Stevenson's regiment gave up any plans they might have had of farming or tak- ing up trades in the new land and headed for the hills to seek their fortunes. Verba Buena, soon to be renamed San Francisco, leapt in size from a village of 500 to hundreds to tens of thousands almost overnight. Shortly there would be at least 500 sailing ships abandoned in the harbor, their crews all off to the mines.

The Nagle's ship (second from right) in San Francisco 1847.

The Nagle's were not the sort to grivel in the grivel with the common herd. Keeping a cool head, I assayed the situation and determined that the real profits would be made in providing services to the relative few who did strike it rich. I went into partnership with Richard Sinton, a young accountant who had come to San Francisco in 1844 as a paymaster on the U.S.S. Ohio, and we established the first bank, Nagle and Sinton, in the City. Prior to this, local mer- chants had been keeping their customer's gold in strong boxes in their establishments.

After the first year Sinton left to become City Treasurer and the bank became H.M. Nagle and Co. Banking during those turbulent years was a complicated and risky business. The town was flooded with currency from half the nations of the world and, although California was now a territory of the United States, U.S. greenbacks were looked upon with suspicion. Gold was the primary medium of exchange, either as dust or locally minted coins. Anton Harrisbury, the Hungarian who stole the title of the region's first viticulturist from me, ran the mint until he was forced to resign on charges of embezzlement.

Fortunes were made and lost on a daily basis during these tumultuous times. Values, based upon scarcity of goods, could change the minute a ship arrived from the East loaded with sought after cargoes. Meanwhile immigrants were pouring in over the mountain passes. The plight of many of them who were stranded along the way was so great that I was asked to form a committee to raise money for their relief. This we accomplished with relative ease, for in those days men were easy with their new wealth. In September of 1850 a minor depression caused a run on my bank and I was forced to close the doors of Nagle and Co. My personal assets were so great by then that I paid off every one of my customers.

Land Speculation

With their eyes blinded by the sight of gold, most of the new arrivals ignored the real wealth under their feet. Men from my regiment who were guaranteed lands when they came to California sold off their titles to the land for pocket money. A few such as myself and Captain Pidson, Quartermaster of Stevenson's Regiment, saw the advantages of buying up the local real estate while it was relatively cheap. Profits were also to be made from lots under San Francisco Bay. I did very well on these lots, as the hills were leveled to fill in the Bay front.

Agricultural Holdings

By 1852 I felt secure enough to begin look- ing for agricultural holdings so that they could return to the East. Since the time I led my troops into the South Bay to settle the dispute over squatters on the Mission lands, I had in the back of my mind the idea that this area could become the richest agricultu- ral area in the territory. The climate was warm, the water plentiful and the Mission grapes made a tolerable wine. I purchased 500 acres northeast of the village of San Jose from Pierre Sainsevain, a Frenchman who had acquired it through his marriage to the daughter of Antonio Sunol, the owner of Rancho de los Coches. Sainsevain, who had wine making interests in Los Angeles as well, encouraged me to import vitace- ous rootstock from France in order to produce the first quality wine in America. Soon I would add land west of the town limits and many acres of grazing land in the eastern foothills. My largest holding, totalling thousands of acres, were in San Joaquin County and parts of Sacramento County.

Committees of Vigilance

Lawlessness was rampant during those early years in San Francisco. The civil authorities were weak, and the general public was mostly concerned with getting rich so that they could return to the East. I was honored that General Riley, the new military governor, singled me out to be the Captain of the California Guard in spite of the Todos Santos incident. He obviously saw in me a man of action. I was also chosen to be a delegate at the Constitutional Convention in Monterey, but the danger of squatters, robbers and incendiaries made it imperative that I stay in the City. Fires, many set deliberately by layabouts like the Hounds, wiped out large sections of the town with alarming regularity. I was a leader in the construction of brick buildings, and during the great fire of April 4th 1851 my building was the only one to survive the blaze.

These crimes were getting so out of hand that a group of citizens led by William T. Coleman was formed to take the law into its own hands. Among the leaders were Sam Brannan, J.S. Woodworth, Henry H. Wheeler, and Henry M. Nagle. Some of the most dedicated troublemakers, known as the Sydney Ducks, were former convicts who had immigrated from Australia. In June we apprehended one of the Ducks and hanged him in Portsmouth Plaza. We later set up our own courts. In all we hanged four, whipped one, sentenced 28 to deportation, hanged fifteen to police for trials and let 41 go. This action had a great effect, for a great num- ber of villains left the city by whatever trans- portation they could find.

EXECUTION OF JAMES P. CASEY & CHARLES GOLI

The Committee of Vigilance was brought into action again in 1856 following the shooting of General William H. Richardson by the noted gambler and man about town Charles Cora. This and the recent killing of the popular editor James King of William by former convict James Casey ignited another call to arms. Cora and Casey were taken from unresisting sheriffs and tried and hanged in a grand parade which struck fear into the hearts of any miscreants that hadn’t already fled.

Sherman, McDougal and their “Law and Order Party” condemned our actions, and the Vigilantes were later looked at with scorn, but I’ll never regret having taken part in this successful campaign to restore law and order. The un- lucky Sherman, who I’d recently taken to court over rents he owed me on one of my build- ings, had further reason to hate Henry Nagle.

Nagle, Receiver of Adams & Co.

Probably the most significant business event of the 1850’s was the failure of Adams and Co., the West’s largest and most successful banking firm. Bank failures were common, of course, but this one involved thievary in high places. At least one bank official shipped out of California in the guise of a woman. The bank’s ledgers were later found floating in the Bay. After much wrangling the courts appointed me the receiver of Adams & Co. This recognition made it clear to all the Henry M. Nagle was a name that could be trusted in the financial community.

All Work and No Play...

One might gather from the narrative thus far that Harry Nagle was too involved in high finance to enjoy the good things in life. It is true that at first I missed the fine concerts, parties and balls of my home city of Philadelphia, but San Francisco had much more excitement up her sleeve. It seemed like the center of the world during the gold rush. Many renowned artists, actors and singers per-
formed in the City. The theatres and music halls were crowded every night.

For a number of years I was the owner of the famous American Theatre on Sansome Street (it sunk into the mud several inches on opening night). Elizabeth Biscaccianti "The American Thrush" made her debut there in 1832. She sang arias from current operas and brought the house down with her encore "Home Sweet Home." Grisly miners were weeping in the aisles. Tickets for Kate Hayes, "The Swan of Erin," were auctioned off at over $1,000. The exotic Lola Montez took the City by storm. Her set piece "Lola Montez in Bavaria" wasn't too exciting, but when she did her famous "Spider Dance" the crowd went wild. Lola had had our moments before she married that shifty newspaperman Patrick Hull and settled for a spell in Grass Valley.

The City had always had a variety of excellent restaurants. One of my favorites was the Ivy Green which was frequented by actors and other artists. I tried to avoid Haillock's Montgomery Block as I found the company of lawyers tedious. The Bank Exchange Saloon was more to my taste. I met the actor Junius Booth and his sons there in what became an extension of the actors' "green room."

The disputes between North and South became more heated as the decade moved to a close. The Democratic Party, of which I was a member, was split between Northerners and Southerners. Being a strong Unionist, I felt compelled to back the candidacy of Republican Leland Stanford for Governor in 1860. Little did I think that I would be fighting for that Union upon my return from a year's travel in Europe.

But that is another story.

Crossing the Plains, Andrew P. Hill, artist. SJHM collections.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL IN 1846

Early Santa Clara County Pioneers

This year is the 150th anniversary of the 1846 westward migration bringing some 200 wagons and 1,000 men, women and children over deserts and mountains to California. It is the sesquicentennial of the Donner Party's ordeal in the snow-deep Sierra, but it is also the anniversary of other emigrant trains which made it safely over the Truckee route to "the promised land" without eating anybody.

The same dangers traveled with all the emigrant wagons, but we remember the Donner Party because its problems were concentrated and played out over a short period of time in a frightening setting of thick forest battered by blizzards; brave people facing slow death from starvation, and the final horror of cannibalism.

It is well we remember this single party whose tragic story influenced later westward migration, prompting discovery of other routes that formed the many branches of the California trail. Poor management, lack of leadership and the bad decision to take an unknown route cost the party time it did not have when the snow enveloped the Sierra only days away from the emigrants' ultimate goal.

The Santa Clara Valley was the destination for many of those who made the long journey in 1846, and in this sesquicentennial year we should remember them especially for their contributions to our valley and to California.

James E Reed, William McCutchen, William Eddy are names associated with the Donner Party. Reed, whose family's names are on several San Jose streets, served in the war with Mexico and in San Jose's pueblo government. All three were among the nineteen San Joseans who put up the money to buy the two-story hotel that became California's first statehouse. McCutchen served as an early sheriff of Santa Clara County.

Eddy was one of the heroes of the Donner Party as a leader of the "Forton Hope," the little band of 15 who left the snow-bound camp in a last ditch effort to reach safety. Seven made it.

Making it safely over the Sierra weeks ahead of the Donner-Reed group were the Harlan-Young party, the 12 wagons of the Joseph Aram train, the Pyle and Gordon families, Andrew Grayson, Isaac Brannam, Charles White, Jacob, Hoppe, Adna Hecox, Peter Quivey and others who settled in the Santa Clara Valley.

Samuel Young, Edward Pyle, Benjamin E Gordon and Peter Quivey were farmers. Young's granddaughter, Maggie Caldwell, was the first child born to Anglo-American overland emigrants in Santa Clara County.

Grayson, who won fame as an ornithologist and artist, Aram and Quivey were all actively involved in the Mexican war. Aram, who was one of the valley's early nurserymen, was a delegate to the first Constitutional Convention in Monterey and a member of the first State Legislature. Brannam was an early member of San Jose's town council, and it was in his home at the southwest end of the plaza that the State Supreme Court met until space was prepared in the statehouse up the street. Brannam later famed gave his name to the road in south San Jose.

White, who served in the early pueblo government and gave his name to the road which cut through his Pala land grant, and Hoppe, early postmaster in San Jose and member of the Constitutional Convention, were killed in the 1853 explosion of the steamship Jenny Lind on San Francisco Bay.

Hecox, who later settled in Santa Cruz County, preached the first protestant sermon in Santa Clara County at the funeral service for a child of Joseph Aram in December, 1846.

Aram, Hoppe, White, Quivey and Brannam were also among the nineteen San Jose citizens who executed a note for $40,000 in gold coin to buy the building which became California's first State capitol.

Patricia Loomis
CITY DIRECTS ATTENTION TO COLLECTION NEEDS

Former Beechnut Site to be Developed

San Jose Historical Museum Association and the City's Historic Landmarks Commission together succeeded in bringing the needs of the City's historic collections to the attention of the City Council during recent discussions regarding planning for the former Beechnut site on Senter Road.

The City has entered into an agreement with Sugimora & Associates, architectural consultants, to plan the programming uses of the site, which is being developed as a Central Services facility for the City and to provide storage for Christmas in the Park and the San Jose Historical Museum. By direction of the City Council, members of the historic community and the Museum's professional staff will be included in discussions with the consultants concerning the City's needs for proper storage of historical collections, and how those needs might be addressed on the Beechnut site.

The City of San Jose purchased the former Beechnut food processing site in 1993 to accommodate the relocation of the Central Services Yard currently at Sixth and Taylor streets. Representatives of the San Jose Historical Museum Association worked at that time with the late Councillman George Shirakawa, Sr. to bring the Beechnut property to the attention of the City, and encourage its purchase, citing the belief that the Museum's needs might also be addressed at this site. The City's overwhelming need for proper facilities for its historical collections, the close proximity of the Beechnut site to the Historical Museum in Kelley Park, and the appropriateness of several existing buildings on the site to meet the collections needs, directed the Association's involvement on this issue then and now.

On Tuesday, February 20, the San Jose City Council, in voting to approve the architectural consultant contract, expressed its desire to address two vital City needs — consolidating the City's service activities and maintaining and exhibiting the City's historical collections.

During the next six months, the consultants will be meeting with representatives of the various interest groups, including representatives of the City's historic community, to understand first hand the concerns, needs, and interests of all parties prior to beginning the planning and schematic program work for the old Beechnut site.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

"An Investment in the Museum's Future"

Membership in the San Jose Historical Museum Association is an investment in the future of the the Museum...a future of growth, development and change. The Association continues to make every effort to sustain and build a strong membership base, from which to grow and develop. A solid membership base is essential to the success of any nonprofit organization.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will support the Museum in 1996 through Association membership. Thank you for your continued support and interest.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Mr./Mrs./Miss ____________________________ (Bus.) Phone ____________________________

Mailing Address ____________________________ Zip + 4 ____________________________ (Res.) Phone ____________________________

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

☐ $1,000 Mission Circle Gift of.

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☐ $100 Centuary Circle

☐ $50* Contributor Circle

☐ $45 Family/Grandparents Credit Card# 

☐ $35 Individual Signature

☐ $35 Senior Citizens (1 or 2)

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