VISIT FILOLI
HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

WHEN: Thursday, April 26, 1984
WHO: Association Members & their Guests
HOW: Royal Coach Tours
TIMES: 12:00 Noon - 4:30 P.M.
Leaving from, and returning to, the Museum
(Park on Phelan Avenue)
COST: Members: $15.00
Non-Members: $18.00
Includes bus transportation and entrance fee

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 manor designed by Willie Pulk 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.

Tours are held at Filoli, rain or shine, so come prepared! Reservations are limited.

Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association and sent (along with the reservation form below) to: San Jose Historical Museum, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112, Atttn. Kathy Muller. You will receive the reservation form by return mail as a confirmation.

Filoli Trip 4/26/84

Name: ___________________________
Address: _________________________
Phone Number: ___________________
Number of Reservations: _______
Member: __________ Reservation Confirmed: [ ]

Complimentary cheese and crackers will be served, and wine will be available for a small donation.

Entertainment will be provided by Islander of Skye, professional group of four young people who lay and sing the traditional music of Ireland, England, Scotland and America. They will bring with them copies of their recently released record album, entitled simply, Islander of Skye, for you to see and purchase. We were fortunate enough to engage the services of this talented group because the parents of one member, Joe Senichetti, are long-time members of our museum association.

Come and join us for a pleasant afternoon at the Pacific Hotel. You are sure to see old friends and meet new ones, while supporting the museum. To give us an idea of how many to plan for, we request that you make a reservation for the party by calling the Museum, 257-2290.

Picture postcard of downtown San Jose, featuring the Electric Light Tower. An enlarged reproduction of this postcard is available for purchase through our Museum Gift Shops.

San Jose Historical Museum
635 Phelan Avenue
San Jose, California 95112
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

In attending Board meetings or just from being around the Museum, one cannot help receiving those great vibes that we are moving, making progress. As we press forward, membership increases and vice versa. What are things going so well? In the last edition of the Association News we spelled out three reasons: Carol Carlson, Manager of our Gift Shops and O’Brien’s; Mignon Gibson, our Director; and Kathy Muller, Coordinator of the Teen Service. Here are three more, listed in alphabetical order:

VIRGINIA BECK is the coordinator of our highly successful Docent Program. She also chairs the Living History Day events, the next which is the Spring Living History Day at the Museum. We are very enthusiastic that the forthcoming Living History Day will be even more well received than before. A native of Minnesota, she relates her interest in history to the days spent at her grandparent’s farm, a child antique hunting with her parents. Virginia came to the San Jose area in 1967 and obtained a Masters Degree in Home Economics with emphasis on clothing and textiles from San Jose State University. She became involved with the Historical Museum when she joined the Docent Program in 1981. She also teaches part-time at Ohlone College in Fremont.

WANDA FOSS is an Illinoisan by birth, arriving in California in 1959 by way of Texas (El Paso), Maryland, Virginia and Japan. She had begun college studies at Eastern Illinois University and finally graduated from San Jose State University in 1975 (not really a college mastering—marriage and four children were of higher priority than “book toot”). Wanda arrived at the Museum by chance and remained by choice. Her job description: office manager, secretary, photographer, liaison, etc. She is involved in all phases of organization and operations—accidentally or by design. Though not necessarily of an “historical bent” she finds the Museum to be engaging and passably interesting and frequently surprising.

NANCY VALBY moved to San Jose in late 1972, after graduation from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in Political Science. She and her husband George were early members of the San Jose Historical Museum Association and her active involvement began when she joined the Docent Program in 1975. She served as President of the Docent Council and several terms on the Museum Association Board. She has served as the Registrar and supervises Collection Care at the Museum. She has found that every day is different—one never can anticipate what donations will come in, or the stories to be told by donors. Nancy also arranges loans from our collection to other Museums for special exhibits, and has charge of general collection care and exhibit upkeep. She was the originator of the Living History Day programs here at our Museum, and is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Youth Science Institute.

Judge Mark Thomas, Jr. Association President

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Official Museum Liaison Appointed

At the request of the San Jose Historical Museum Association, Mayor Tom McEnery has appointed an official City Council liaison for the Museum and Association. Councilmember Iola Williams was selected not only because the Museum is in her Council District but because of the interest and support she has given the Museum during her years on the City Council. Councilmember Williams stated, “I am pleased to be appointed City Council liaison to the San Jose Historical Museum. As a member of the Historical Museum Association, I have been involved in bringing the Museum to the attention of the public and it has reached today—a source of pride for the citizens of San Jose. I take particular pride in the achievements of the Museum as it is located in my City Council District—7.”

Iola M. Williams
Councilmember

Postcard Exhibition To Be Long Term Loan

In November of 1983 the Museum Association financially sponsored an exhibition of historical postcard reproductions for display at the City Council Office. Councilmember Susaedo has since requested that the exhibition be acquired for permanent display. That’s quite a compliment and the Association Board voted to offer the exhibition as a long term loan.

In the December issue of the Association News, several of the postcards are on sale through The Museum Association Gift Stores, and the Store Manager, Carol Carlson, plans a duplicate of the display for viewing at the stores and in the Museum offices.

Kelley Park Plans To Be Updated

The Department of Parks and Recreation will begin the process of reviewing and updating the plans for Kelley Park including the developed areas of Happy Hollow Park and Zoo, Lieninger Center, the Japanese Friendship Gardens, the Historical Museum and current picnic sites. Undeveloped resources such as the Kelley Mansion, the orchards and open space to the east of Coyote Creek will be analyzed for the best use and the problems of parking and traffic flow will be discussed. Kelley Park is one of the best park facilities in the City of San Jose supports and is part of the ambitious Coyote Creek Park chain.

This updated plan is necessary for all the revenues in the future. Those involved are anxious to work on the project.

Orville Hawes Is Missed

Those that knew Orville Hawes were saddened at his passing on January 3, 1984. I knew both Orville and his wife Leolo because of their volunteer work in the Docent Program and the Museum archives. Orville gave pleasure to Museum visitors through his tours and helped develop an archival resource by cataloging the obituaries in the Mercury News starting with the first year. Among the Hard Work, the Hawes would show up to work and we at the Museum expected to see them regularly.

Orville was a very quiet and unassuming man so we didn’t really learn until after his passing about his years at the Hawes Printing Company in Crookston, Minnesota and a 15 year stint as a school teacher. He touched to learn what a good son and wonderful father he was and our hearts go out to Leolo who was obviously very much in love with the man. Orville had three grandchildren and two children remain in the area and they have purchased a bench for the Museum in his memory. We miss him very much at the Museum.

J. Morgan Green
Museum Director

DOCENT REPORT

Artine Vojtacska and her committee did such a fantastic job of recruiting new docents that our 1984 training class was at 74 members. And what a great group they are! Our Docent Council is fortunate indeed.

The docents are being provided with several opportunities to visit various museums to observe other docents in “action”. Joan Schomler and the Continuing Education Committee research and prepare materials so that we are informed before the trip.

On January 26th we will see one of our docents modeling in a fashion show presented by the Assistance Guild of San Jose. Sylvia Grevingeld will represent the San Jose Historical Museum.

I was most impressed by the presentation James Silverman gave at our January 9th general meeting. He is a children’s book historian who demonstrated clearly in his lecture and slides that “California Children’s Books” give a true picture of the history and values of the people of our state. I hope he can come again.

As we look toward Spring, we see a filled calendar. Our docents are busy people helping to make our Museum grow.

Betty Brown
Docent Council President

FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to our excellent speakers, and the many Association members who attended, our Winter History Night was a great success. If any of you should have suggestions for future lecture topics, I would appreciate hearing your ideas.

It is a pleasure to welcome some new contributors to the Association News this month. Thank you to all of those who take the time to research and write articles!

Kathy Muller
Editor

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, and the promotion of the image of the Museum to the community.


DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Marvin Beauchamp (Chairman) Jim Arbinckie, Eric Bracher, Chuck Buckely, Patricia Loomis, Leonard McKey

ADVISORY BOARD: Eric Bracher (Chairman) Dwight Renter, Barbara Center, John Clark, Gary DeYoung, Jack Douglas, Thomas Fox, Roberta Janislon, Stephen Liu, John Luckhardt, John Nose, Patricia Newman, Duncan Osnel, Marjorie Pierce, Ernie Rentel, George Scarliff, Cliff Swenson, Ascan Warburton

Kathy Muller
Executive Director
Mignon Gibson

Contributors: Betty Brown, Doch Callioux, Rob Deerr, Dick Doughty, Victor Ferrara, Mignon Gibson, Lorrin Hawes, Dolice Jainzen, Linda Larson, Wilma Lee, Joyce Lick, Patricia Loomis, Lillian Martin, Kathy Muller, Mark Thomas, Jr., Nancy Vallby

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

San Jose Historical Museum
Association News

600 Park Avenue
San Jose, California 95112
(408) 257-2390

Kathy Muller
Editor
MUSEUM SERVICE COUNCIL

WANTED! A folding wheelchair for use on Museum Tours. We would like to offer a wheelchair for persons wishing to take the tour but unable to walk that distance. Please call the Museum if you know where we might acquire one.

We welcome seven new volunteers who have joined our Service Council this month. Each volunteer brings special gifts, talents, and ideas that no one else can give. We appreciate the diversity of interest, perspective, and effort from each of our many volunteers.

The regular volunteer meetings on the second Saturday of each month will be for planning and preparation for Living History Day to be held on May 19th. Come join the fun! Dulcie M. Janzen Volunteer Coordinator

IN THE COLLECTION

Two special recent donations to the Museum have been typewriters. The first, a Remington portable, came with a history. The donor's father, a very important legal figure in Bombay, ordered it from London in the early 1900's. Later it was used by his uncle, a ship's doctor. Thus the typewriter traveled throughout the Malay Peninsula and far east. The typewriter then passed to Vinod Rao who used it as a student, college lecturer and chairman of the Physics Department at Jai Hind College in Bombay. The typewriter immigrated to the U.S. in 1979 and was in use once again by Mr. Rao's student son at UC Berkeley. Like most of us this machine has brought a rich history to the valley.

The second typewriter has not had its story recorded. Nevertheless it is an interesting mechanical marvel. The name plate on the Hammond boasts "for all nations and tongues." Thus the keyboard contains symbols and markings. It also uses a double shift system which limits the keyboard to three lines. The type is on a rotating cylinder and the paper is pressed against the type.

MacKenzie's Barbershop may have closed its doors on East Santa Clara, but some day they can reopen at the Museum. The interior furnishings, including the chairs and shoesine stand have been donated to the Museum by Mr. MacKenzie and his daughter, Mrs. Anthony Santana.

Bart Sepulveda has donated a wine press that originally belonged to a local family. It traveled to the northern part of the state before returning to San Jose. It dates from the 1890s.

At deadline time, Duncan Oenal brought in a miniature livery stable and its history. He wrote: "In 1904, when Duncan Oenal was one year old, his maternal grandfather, F.D. Hatman, built this replica of a livery stable for his only grandchild. Since there were no modern machine tools, the structure was constructed entirely by the use of hand tools and a close examination will show the result of careful, precise and detailed handwork, even to make a child's toy." The craftsmanship shows in its superb condition following play by three generations of Oenal children.

Nancy Valby Registrar/Collection Services

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION CORNER

HAYES MANSION

The Hayes Mansion has been purchased by the City Redevelopment Agency, and an Advisory Committee has been set up to determine what uses the Mansion might be put to. Two Landmark Commissioners, Judi Henderson and Leslie Hurst, are on this committee. There will be a series of meetings held over the next few months to look into various proposals. If you have any ideas you wish to share or want to attend one of the meetings, contact Mario Sanchez in Private Development at 277-4774.

ST. JAMES PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

The St. James Park Historic District was approved by the City Council, January 3, 1984, and is the first locally designated historic district. As there will be many new structures to be built in the area, the Landmarks Commission is working with the Redevelopment Agency on design guidelines for the area and structures surrounding the park to ensure that the area will keep its unique setting. There will be a special meeting of the Commission March 22 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall to discuss the proposed guidelines. Your comments are invited.

ALVISO LIBRARY

The Alviso flood last year damaged many of the structures in the Historic Alviso National Registered District. The Alviso Library was one of those buildings. This small wood structure was built as a W.P.A. project and made to "look old." It was the last City Hall/Firehouse for the town of Alviso and now serves as the Alviso Branch of the San Jose Public Library. Rehabilitation is nearly complete and the library will re-open March 5. There will be a re-dedication of the Library on March 24 at 11:00 a.m.

Leslie Masunaga
Commission President

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. We receive 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 receive more information.

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED: LIVING HISTORY DAY, MAY 19, 1984

Are you a ham at heart? Do you secretly long to be Judge Roy Bean, an outlaw, a gypsy with a medicine show, or just the town gospiper, and get away with it? Well here's your chance. Come and participate in Living History Day at the San Jose Historical Museum.

On March 24, April 14, and May 12, 1984 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. the Museum will be holding participant meetings to help with characters, information on San Jose during 1884, costume clinics, and much more. These meetings will help to make this day in May realistic, informative, and FUN, FUN, FUN.

We are looking for men, women, children, and the young at heart, to help turn back the hands of time 100 years and make the streets come alive at the Museum with colorful characters, townspeople, and entertainers.

For more information call Virginia Beck at (408) 287-2290.

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PHONE 408 / 280-2300

THIS TROLLEY NEEDS HELP!

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED TO RESTORE HISTORIC SAN JOSE TROLLEYS

March 1, 1984, San Jose, CA ... Work is starting on restoration of three historic trolleys now located in the new Trolley Barn at the San Jose Historical Museum. Mr. Fred Bennett, the Master Car Builder, is in need of 100 volunteers to help restore these trolleys. Mr. Bennett has been contracted by the city to assure accurate restoration of the cars, but needs "helping hands" to work closely with him to bring them to their original condition.

Here is an excellent opportunity for craft-oriented San Joseans, both young and old, to get physically involved in a challenging, worthwhile and exciting project for the betterment and pride of the community at large. When completed, after approximately two years, the restored trolleys will see use as part of the new Transit Mall and light rail system in downtown San Jose.

Please take the time now to call Herb Schrader, volunteer coordinator, at 295-5733 and add your name to the list of volunteers for this important project. He will be notifying and organizing the growing group of people interested in helping.
MEMORIES OF AN OLD RAILROAD DEPOT

One of my fondest memories of living in San Jose in the 1930s and 1940s, is of the old Southern Pacific Railroad that ran through the downtown area. At one time, the railroad was literally the center of town. If one wanted to go from the shopping and business area located on First and Second Streets, to the Public Library located on the corner of Fourth Street and San Fernando, one had to be careful crossing Fourth Street. It was really not a street for any traffic other than the railroad. It was unpaved, with the railroad ties and rails, and the usual "Stop, Look, and Listen" signs. The Southern Pacific continued to operate the railroad along Fourth Street, with the main depot located on Market Street, until 1935.

Most of my time in school, when I wasn't in school, was spent at my father's store in downtown San Jose. There were no baby-sitters as today, and I spent many happy times in the store, crossing the railroad to the library, and wandering around the business section. Crossing the railroad was an occurrence that happened often in a week. An avid reader, I had to fulfill the vital necessity of keeping my supply of reading material fresh. The San Jose Public Library was the old Carnegie Library building with its domed roof having been torn down for a much larger building. In my memory, the railroad and the library go together.

The main depot of the Southern Pacific Railroad was a typical low, wooden structure, next to the tracks. It had those beautiful wooden benches that looked like they were made of slats but were painted and varnished, and a fine, smooth finish. In the middle of the passenger's waiting room was an iron pot-bellied stove for warmth.

San Jose was a small town of 50,000 people and one did not commute to work as today; there were not many passengers crowding the depot each day. In comparison to modern transportation passenger waiting areas, the depot was quiet and undisturbed, yet exciting for a child who had come to watch the trains come in. My father often went to San Francisco on business and occasionally in the 1930s he would take the train. It was such a delight to be able to go to the depot and watch the steam engines pull into the station with the beautiful Pullman cars and the curious looking cabooses.

The Keystone Coffee building was on the same street as the Southern Pacific Depot, and on some days the smell of roasting coffee added to the beautiful sounds of the railroad station. Cold crisp air, the smell of fresh ground coffee, the clink of the train on the tracks, the hiss of steam, the scream of the train whistle, and the call of the conductor to board the train are memories of times past that are gone forever. In 1935, a new railroad station was built, the tracks down Fourth Street pulled up and the surface paved for car and pedestrian traffic. The end of a wonderful era.

The first time I went to the new railroad station, on Montgomery Street (by the way, it was called a station, whereas the old one was called depot), I was in awe. Here was a huge building, in comparison to the old depot, of stone and marble. It had high ceilings that caused all sounds to echo. The offices, large waiting area, covered platform outside, heat from a huge furnace, and outside so many tracks I could not count them. It was truly a modern building, the like that San Jose had never seen. The parking area was as big as the old depot itself. What a convenience to be able to drive in and park close to the station, leave your car, and in a few minutes board the train for your destination. Doesn't sound like today's commuter who must be driven to the station because there is no place to park!

As lovely as this new station was, and as proud as the San Joseans were of their progress, it did not have the romance of the old depot. Public address systems echoing in the waiting room,

bellowing out words that no one could understand because of the acoustics, can't compare to the more personal call to board the train by the conductor himself. The friendliness of those standing around the pot-bellied stove, wearing the warmth while waiting for a train, was lost in the vast furnace heated room, where everyone was in a hurry to be on his way.

Today, the station seems small in comparison to the much more modern transportation facilities, but in its day, it was considered to be a wonderful addition to San Jose, helping to put her "on the map!"

San Jose was growing up with the new railroad station. Students at San Jose State College no longer ride from Gilroy and get off by the college to attend classes as they formerly did. Now, other means of transportation were needed. Many students didn't own cars then and depended on public transportation, so a bus service from the depot to the campus had to be established.

The business man now available to him the train station, much closer to his home. The merchants downtown had a new, paved street on which to build stores and expand businesses. The number of cars was increasing in San Jose, and on Fourth Street several new garages went in to cater for these vehicles, as well as other kinds of businesses. Such is progress, but the fun and excitement of the old tracks and depot will always remain in the memories of those of us who grew up in San Jose.

Wilma Lea
Wilma Lea is a native of San Jose and a 5th grade teacher at Schallenberger Elementary School in the San Jose Unified School District.

The old Southern Pacific depot at Market Street in San Jose. Photo courtesy of Charles McCaleb, from Tracks, Tires & Wires.

UPDATE ON MUSEUM GROWTH

As you all know, the past two years have seen a remarkable renaissance at the Museum. The financial plight of the city two years ago brought forth the suggestion that the Museum be closed. This was not an idle threat, but rather one of the possible cuts in the attempt to balance the city's budget. The friends of the Museum were successful in bringing about a compromise, but the reductions left the Museum with but two employees, and the outlook was indeed bleak.

Then the Association stepped in, hiring four part-time people, taking over O'Brien's and opening two gift shops. This year will see the completion of three projects and the possible beginning of several others. With the Association adding almost five hundred members last year, the momentum is obvious. But here is where we need your continuous help. About two hundred of you are already volunteers in some capacity, and you are undoubtedly aware of the contagious enthusiasm that pervades the Museum, but we would like to ask all of you to assist in recruiting new members. Our goal is to add another five hundred this year, and if each of you would contact at least one person who is interested in local history, we should be able to reach our objective.

To all of you for your past activity, thanks; to all of you for your future help, more thanks.

Bob O'Biren
Association
Vice-President

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EASTER MOTHER'S DAY

greeting cards
decorative eggs
unique gift items
bunnies
treasures
PARK BENCH PROGRAM

The park bench program at the Museum is off to a good start and there will soon be sturdy decorative oak and iron seats placed around the grounds for the enjoyment of its donors. Cast aluminum plaques will name the donors or those to be remembered by the $200 tax-deductable gift.

Many of those donated so far relate to the history of San Jose and Santa Clara Valley, honoring such as the Doerr and Bracher families, J.D. Owen, publisher and editor of the San Jose Mercury from 1861 to 1884, and the pioneer Down family which operated the Keystone Coffee and Spice Co. here for many years. The Doerr family came from Germany in the 1800s and were among San Jose's early merchants and civic leaders. Charles Doerr operated the New York Bakery on S. First Street, for many years, and Fred Doerr had the Garden City Electric Co., on W. San Fernando Street. They, along with Bob Doerr, current Vice President of the San Jose Historical Museum Association, and a long-time educator, all served on the San Jose City Council, and Fred and Bob served terms as mayor of the city.

The Bracher family, also German immigrants, were the first to have left their name on Bracher Road north of the city, a school and a park in Santa Clara. Frederick Bracher, his wife and seven children settled in the area in the 1860s, first raising hay and strawberries, and later planting pear orchards. Frederick and his brothers, Karl and G.A. Bracher, also operated the Bracher Fruit Co. in the days when the valley was famous for its orchards.

The plaque on the Down bench will specifically honor the late Alice Down Luckhardt, a San Jose State University history professor and Henry J. Down, president of the Keystone Co. for 50 years. Their father, John H. “Jack” Down, a Cornwall miner who came to the area in the 1880s to work in the New Almaden quicksilver mine, went into business with the Eagle Spice Mills, which later became Keystone. Donor of this memorial bench is Dorothy Helzer, sister of the honorees.

Others being honored in the park bench program will be recognized in future articles.

For information on the park bench program call the Museum, 287-2299.

Patricia Loomis

Mr. Jim Arbuckle, member of our Association Development Committee is currently making the donor plaque of his recently donated bench which will soon begin to appear on the Museum grounds.

HOWARD B. GATES: SAN JOSE PIONEER

You may recall that in the last issue of this journal, there appeared an article describing the recent nomination of the Gates-Maybeck House to the local register of buildings of historic and architectural merit. The article described in some detail the architectural features of this unique building and its noted designer, Bernard Maybeck. In this issue I would like to give a little background on Howard B. Gates, the locally prominent physician who commissioned Maybeck to design this landmark home.

Gates was born in 1867 in the San Jose Institute, a private school run by his father, Freeman. As a boy, young Howard probably rode the first horse cars out the Alameda all the way to downtown Santa Clara, fished in Guadalupe Creek, and marveled at the new-fangled electric lighting on the 230 foot tower sitting astride the intersection of Market and Santa Clara Streets. Being the son of a schoolmaster, he probably had less time for play than other boys. Gates attended U.C. Berkeley during the period when Maybeck was commissioned by Phoebe Hearst to make a master plan for that campus. It is possible that he may have met the great architect at this time; at any rate, he would have been aware of Maybeck's work.

Gates enrolled in Cooper Medical College in San Francisco after graduating from Berkeley and later received his M.D. degree from New York's Homeopathic College.

Dr. Gates returned to San Jose in 1885 and began his practice in the old Porter Building at 2nd and Santa Clara Streets.

Two years later, Howard married Amelia Lavenson, also an MD, and they soon had a thriving practice at the Gates Sanatorium at 11th and Santa Clara. This location was on the edge of town in those days, so that their sanatorium was probably the precursor to the medical complex that is dominated by San Jose Hospital today.

By 1904, the Gates were affluent enough to have their custom built home erected on 13th, just two blocks from their sanatorium. Howard’s hopes of walking to work were shortlived, as he was soon to be appointed Superintendent of the County Hospital, which would require that he take the “Big Red” streetcars across town.

The earthquake of '06 caused extensive damage to many local buildings. St. Patrick’s Church on Santa Clara, the Normal School on Washington Square, and the County Hospital were left in total ruin. It became Dr. Gates’ greatest challenge to supervise the reconstruc-

Howard and Amelia took a two year sabbatical in 1908 and traveled to Berlin, Vienna and Zurich to brush up on the latest surgical techniques. Although hardly forty, Howard's heavy workload was taking its toll on his health, and in 1909, his family convinced him to relocate in the Los Angeles area. Soon after he had established his practice in Los Angeles, Howard suffered a serious mental breakdown. In 1913, he recrossed the Atlantic to take the cure in Sorrento on the Bay of Naples. Gates’ condition worsened, however, and he was moved to Rome where he lived out his last days surrounded by his family, which now included an adopted son.

The end came on May 1, 1914, just a few months before the continent was swept by the “Great War.” The cause of Gates’ tragic death at age 47 was diagnosed as an acute case of “peripheral neuritis.” One can't help wondering if that two year trip abroad in 1908-09 had not been a fruitless search to find a cure for this mental illness. Perhaps he consulted with Freud while in Vienna.

Gates’ body was cremated in Rome and returned to California. The records at Oak Hill Cemetery indicate that his ashes were buried there when his mother was interred in the family plot in 1920. There is no inscription on the stone, however, so for all intents, Howard Gates lies in an unmarked grave in the section of Oak Hill which is reserved for San Jose Pioneers. Gates’ singular Maybeck home remains a monument to this unique individual whose life began in frontier San Jose, and ended so tragically in the eternal City of Rome.

Jack Douglas
Historic Landmarks Commissioner

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OFFER CASH AWARDS IN ANNUAL HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST

The general public is invited to compete for cash awards in an essay contest on the history of Santa Clara County. Two awards may be made, one for high school students and one open to all others, each offers three awards. First place in each category is $200, while second place offers $50, and third place is $25.

Sponsored by the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, the annual contest requires that essays be a minimum of 3000 words and include a bibliography.

Deadline for entries is April 29, 1984. Completed papers should be mailed or delivered to:

Austen Warburton
12th Floor, Bank of America Bldg.
101 Park Center Plaza
San Jose, CA 95113

Detailed contest rules are available by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Essay Contest
California Pioneers of Santa Clara County
P.O. Box 8388
San Jose, CA 95155

Questions regarding this contest should be addressed to Mrs. Helen Arbuckle at 269-5324 or Mr. Henry "Hank" Calloway at 294-1786.

Linda S. Larson
ONE LAST DRINK FOR DOBBIN

FEBRUARY 1910 — Our solid granite drinking fountain created for the welfare of horses and dogs had just been positioned and presented to the City of San Jose by the Ensign National Humane Alliance Trust. The fountain was located at the north end of the cobblestoned aproned Market Street Plaza, just opposite the Post Office of 1895, now the San Jose Museum of Art.

It was a time when folks discussed the latest innovations in family carriages, while most every home of any size had a stable. Sears Roebuck mail order featured such pleasures as carts, buggies, surreys, harness, blacksmith equipment, lap robes and "Jack Frost neck" sleigh bells. Automotive offerings by Henry Ford, Mercedes and Studebaker, among others, were already causing street scenes and if the need be, were towed by horse to the nearest blacksmith shop for service.

The National Humane Alliance was founded by Herman Lee Ensign for humane work in educating the population in kindness to dumb animals.

Ensign was a native of Carbondale, Pa., born there in 1849. An expert in telegraphy he went on to manage a publication called The Alliance — somewhat religious and humane in policy. He continued to reap a fortune in advertising in Rochester, N.Y., until his passing in 1889, but not before setting up a trust aimed to prevent animal cruelty.

According to the San Jose Herald, the fountain in San Jose was made possible through the determined efforts of Dr. John W. Davy, president of the Santa Clara County Humane Society. After considerable negotiating, and because San Jose was the home of the state organization, National Alliance by-passed forty applications already lodged with it in favor of San Jose. Davy then coerced the Southern Pacific to provide fountain freight from Chicago to San Jose without cost to the Society.

This thousand dollar refreshment stop for Dobbin and canines was one of fifteen made each year by the Alliance. The bowl was six feet in diameter resting on a square base two feet in height. A square shaft carved with two lion heads rose from the bowl. Streams of water played into the bowl from each lion's mouth. Fidos lapped from mini-bowls at its base. A bronze plaque on the face side read, "1909 — Presented by the National Humane Alliance, Herman Lee Ensign, Founder."

The fountain was emplaced without a cent of expense to the Santa Clara County Humane Society. The heavy mass was hauled from the local freight yards to its location by the Union Teamsters without charge. The task of setting the fountain up was done by the city under direction of V.M. Trace, street superintendent. The city provided the lamp which topped the gift at a cost of $100 while the United Gas and Electric Co. installed all conduit and connections without expense.

Harold Flannery who retired in 1964 after forty-two years of service as City Engineer remembers the fountain very well. "Near the early 1930's," he states, "it became such a menace to traffic, it was declared a high priority item for removal by Public Works Administration (PWA) funding during the Depression."

Hugh Edes, the local police department's oldest living retiree, sums it up plainly, "When the horses left, their water hole just went dry. It was taking up most of the street; so it just had to be uninstalled, too bad!"

In tribute Dr. Davy often voiced, "Herman Lee Ensign was a lover of domestic animals his entire life and detested all that was cruel and unkind in their treatment. It became a passion dominating his entire life."

An Ensign fountain, in its entirety, may be seen today at Carzon City, Nevada on the County House grounds.

Hank Calloway

Hank Calloway is a long time member of the San Jose Historical Museum Association, our Museum's "official" sign painter, and Editor of The Trailblazer, newsletter of the Santa Clara County Pioneers.

Unfortunately that same month Hill's sister, Sarah Althea, filed her infamous palimony suit against William Sharon at a time when even divorce was not condoned. The sensational publicity surrounding the six years of litigation involving Althea and Sharon altered the young couple's course significantly.

Meanwhile Diana inherited the 4900 acre part of Rancho de Agua de la Coche after the death of her father. She and Hiram established a country estate, building the ornate Victorian home, Villa Miramonte, surrounded by orchards and ranch buildings.

Instead of attending to this ranch in Morgan Hill as planned, they first escaped to Europe because of the sister's incessant publicity and to the East, but later separated. Still they kept the property and made annual visits here.

Hill moved to Elko where he managed the Murphy ranches in Nevada establishing a headquarters at Rancho Grande in Hailee where he remained until his death in 1913. Diana and their daughter, Diane, alternated between residences in San Francisco and elegant quarters in Washington, D.C. where they led an opulent life style. Diane later became the Baroness Diane Murphy-Hill de Reinhart-Werth.

By 1892 the ranch property was subdivided and sold in 10 to 100 acre parcels. Streets were laid out and the City of Morgan Hill, named after its first citizen and subdivider, was incorporated on November 2, 1892.

Today, confusion still exist as many people assume the cone-shaped peak overlooking the town is Morgan Hill. Actually it is El Toro Mountain, also known as Murphy's Peak. Hiram Morgan Hill was a man, not a mountain.

While the south stretch of Santa Clara Valley is yielding to modern development and high technology, author Beth Wyman, former mayor of Morgan Hill, reflects her affection for the land and its people in her many magazine articles and feature stories on local history. Her Master's thesis is "The History of Morgan Hill, California, Indians to Incorporation."

Beth Wyman, will be present at our Authors Party on March 18. You may purchase your copy of Hiram Morgan Hill that day, and Beth will be happy to autograph it for you.
FIRST BLACKSMITHS

The blacksmith shop at San Jose Historical Museum is one of our most intriguing displays. So few of us have reason to see a smith's service today that most of the tools are mysterious remnants of the past. There are no longer listings for blacksmiths in the yellow pages of the phone book.

Smiths seem as remote and romantic as cowboys to us. One of them, Hiram Miller, who is buried in an unmarked grave in the Pioneer Section of Oak Hill Cemetery, was the subject of Column 212 by Mrs. Fremont Older for the Evening News. 

Joyce Link

The first American blacksmith to arrive in San Jose was Hiram Miller, who came from Springfield, Ill. He was in the great caravan that crossed the plains in 1846. By not taking the Hastings cutoff, which was the new short way to California traversed by James Frazier Reed and the Donners, he arrived in safety. Miller was one of those brawny, courageous men who went on the second relief expedition to the Donner party. He accompanied James Frazier Reed, and without Miller's strength Reed, two of his children, the Brees and several others would have perished at Starved Camp.

After the Reeds arrived in San Jose in 1847 and temporarily occupied a little adobe house on Market St. nearly opposite Post, rented by them of Peter Davidson. Nearby was the shop of Miller.

To Miller, James F. Reed went when he desired to have tested the gold sent out in a buckskin pouch by an Indian messenger from Capt. Sutter. Reed had met Capt. Sutter several times when he came into California to get relief for the Donner party and so to him Capt. Sutter wrote to find out whether this glittering yellow stuff being taken from the ground was really gold. He asked Reed to have a test made.

Reed gave the gold to Hiram Miller who put it in an army lantern and placed it in the forge of his blacksmith shop. Miller reported that in his opinion the metal was gold. This report was largely responsible for the rush from San Jose to the gold fields. In fact Miller himself went with Reed and Dr. Corey.

Later Hiram Miller and his brother Jake, had a blacksmith shop on First St., near the present site of the Victory Theater. The Miller boys were full of high spirits and were the perpetrators of many practical jokes.

Once Hiram Miller tied several small dogs to a rope and led them into the butcher shop owned by Mr. Flinkinger. The shop was filled with customers, and Miller gravely pretended that he was delivering the dogs for sausages.

Hiram Miller knew the Donners in Springfield, Ill., and the ties between him and the family were strengthened by the experience in the snow. When the George Donners were found to have perished in the mountains, Miller became the guardian of the Donner children. Among them was Mrs. Houghton of Los Angeles who wrote a book on the Donner party.

Hiram Miller did not live to be old. At one time smallpox raged furiously in Sacramento. He was warned against exposing himself to the disease, but the big blacksmith who had braved death on the plains and again in the snows which carried off 40 of the members of the Donner party, laughed at what he called "baby measles." However as the result of "baby measles" Miller became paralyzed and a few years later he died.

INTRODUCING JUDGE MARK THOMAS, JR.

Our new Association Board President, Judge Mark Thomas, Jr., is a native of San Jose. He is a graduate of Stanford University and the University of Santa Clara Law School. After practicing law for eighteen years and serving a term as president of the Santa Clara Bar Association, he was appointed Municipal Judge by former Governor Ronald Reagan and assumed office in January, 1975. In December of 1983 he was elevated to the Superior Court by Governor Deukmejian. Judge Thomas resides in Willow Glen with his wife Marjorie. They are the parents of four children.

Judge Thomas became especially interested in local history when he served as judge of the Sunnyvale-Cupertino Municipal Court. When he tried to obtain specific information on the identity of the early judges in the Sunnyvale area he received such a variety of names he decided to find the correct answers himself. He sifted through volumes of city directories, and museums and conducted personal interviews. Within months his research resulted in the compiling of a century of not only judicial history but the history of the town of Sunnyvale as well. From there he went on to research the courts in other areas.

Since 1978, in Brief, the official magazine of the Santa Clara County Bar Association, has published his stories on the old Municipal Courts in Santa Clara County, including the Alviso, Morgan Hill, Sunnyvale, Palo Alto, Mayfield, Saratoga, Willow Glen and Gilroy courts. Judge Thomas is currently researching the police court of the old city of East San Jose and the history of the local federal commissioners. Copies of In Brief are available in the California Room of the main branch of the San Jose City Library.

For the past two years, Judge Thomas has served as Parliamentarian on our Museum Association Board of Directors. We are so pleased to have had his participation in the past, and look forward to an exciting year for the Museum Association in 1984 with Judge Mark Thomas as President.

The San Jose Historical Museum is part of the City of San Jose Parks and Recreation Department.
WOMAN AT WAR EXHIBIT

The San Francisco Presidio Army Museum currently has an excellent exhibit honoring American women who have served America in the armed forces and on the home front 1776 to present times. It is titled THIS AMERICAN WOMAN AT WAR and can be seen on the third floor of the museum.

This is the first exhibit to tell the illustrious contributions of women in the Armed Forces. The exhibit was put together by Lynn Tondorf, a young woman who grew up in Low Aliso, and earned her Master's Degree with a thesis on this subject.

Artifacts from the Civil War, the Frontier period, Spanish American War, World War I, and II, Korea and Viet Nam, tell this largely unknown story. Also featured are stories of the Women's Army Service Pilots, "Rosie the Riveter" and others who have served America in time of war.

The museum is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday thru Sunday. For further information or guided tours contact: The Presidio Army Museum, 16th. 2, Presidio of San Francisco, CA 94029 or telephone (415) 561-3319/4415. Admission is free.

The entire museum should be of interest to history buffs and contains many interesting exhibits including outstanding materials on the 1906 earthquake.

TOUR THE HAYES MANSION

WHEN: Saturday, March 31, 1984 — 10:00 A.M.
WHO: Limited to 40 Association Members
COST: Tour of the Mansion is Free
$2.00 Donation for handling of reservations

We will meet at the Edenwade site of the Hayes Mansion (formerly adjacent to Frontier Village) at 10:30 AM for a 1/4 hour tour of the house, led by representatives from Councilman Jerry Estruth’s office and the City Redevelopment Agency.

The mansion was once the home of Mary Hayes-Chynnouweth and her family. Mrs. Hayes was well known for her ability to heal the sick and as founder of the True Life Church.

This home was completed in 1905 and the Hayes family continued to live on the estate until the 1950’s. The building has deteriorated over the years because of neglect and vandalism and as a result of water damage, but has recently been purchased by the City of San Jose. It consists of 62 rooms and boasts 11 fireplaces.

Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association and sent (along with the reservation form below) to: San Jose Historical Museum, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112; Attn.: Kathy Muller. You will receive the reservation form by return mail as a confirmation.

HAYES MANSION 3/31/84

Name:
Address:
Phone Number:
Reservations:

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Name ______________________ Mailing Address ________ (Bus.) Phone ________
(Res.) Phone ________

Individual Authorizing Contribution

MEMBERSHIP

CLASSIFICATIONS

Pioneer Circle ($5,000)
Patron Circle ($3,000)
Mission Circle ($1,000)
Tower Circle ($500)
Century Circle ($100)
Half-Century Circle ($50)
Quarter-Century Circle ($25)

Please indicate method of payment. ☐ Check or money order enclosed ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa
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Help us if you can. membership of $50 or more enable us to cover more than the costs of our membership program.
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