A CHANGE IN MUSEUM DIRECTORSHIP

Donald O. DeMera, Director of the San Jose Historical Museum since 1974, resigned effective August 15, to take a new position with the San Jose Police Department.

Don, whose father was also with the San Jose Police Department, holds a B.A. in Social Sciences from San Jose State and an M.A. in Historical Museum Administration from State University College of Oneonta in Cooperstown, New York. He is a native San Josean. Don came to the San Jose Historical Museum after being in charge of restoration of the Gen. Herkimer House, a pre-Revolution farm in Little Falls, New York. When Don took over Directorship of the San Jose Historical Museum, it consisted only of the Printing Office building and the warehouses crammed with uncatalogued artifacts. Don oversaw the growth of the Museum to what it is today — 13 restored and reconstructed buildings with professional exhibits and one of the finest collections of purely local historical materials in the State.

The Museum is fortunate to have as its new Acting Director, Mignon Gibson, who also came to work here in 1974 as Curator in charge of the Museum’s collections. Mignon holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Art History from San Jose State University and came to the Museum with gallery and exhibition experience. Over the years she has added to her knowledge of the Museum field by attending courses and seminars, and through on-the-job experience. Her involvement with all the major exhibit projects, collections, promotions, facility rental, and administration of Museum programs makes her well-suited to the task of directing the Museum. Always receptive to ideas, advice, and volunteer efforts, Mignon looks forward to continuing her work with the many people involved in the San Jose Historical Museum.

AUTUMN AFFAIRE

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness — and a time for one of our Museum’s most dazzling events. It’s a fan-packed, bustling festival, to be held on the Museum grounds.

Called the Autumn Affaire, the festival is being jointly sponsored by the San Jose Historical Museum and one of the city’s leading sporting clubs, the San Jose Seahawks Rugby Club.

It is to be a carnival of fun with an autumn theme, an antiques show, gourmet food feast, craft show and a weekend of parades, games and assorted events to delight an anticipated 20,000-plus crowd.

It will be a fund-raiser for the Museum and a fun-raiser for the crowds. Explained Seahawks coordinators Christina Harrison and Mike Ayers: “We heard that the Museum was hurting for funds, and we saw an opportunity to have a community group — the Rugby Club — do something directly for the community by organizing this event.” (continued on page 8)
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As this message is being written, the Museum staff is down to two full-time people on the City payroll. The budget cuts and the resignation of our Director, Ms. Nancie Valley, have depleted our staff and all the internal operations require a remarkable job with what little resources she has left.

Due to the ongoing problems of the future of the museum’s funding, our little board has converted a contingency fund to allow us to increase the income to the Museum from special events, and also to identify ways we can promote and expand the Museum. We are also working with members of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Landmarks Commission to help solve the funding problem.

On the brighter side of the news I would like to call your attention to the upcoming picnic on September 19th. Our "Plains in the Park" was held during the week days at noon time. To provide an event that most of our members could come to, we have changed the time to a weekend and later in the day. Our annual Fall fest will be on the same evening, a chance to enjoy food, drinks, shopping, and playing games with the Clappers delivering the honors of cooking the meal. The Pennon Junior Banjo Band will provide the entertainment.

Some of you may have read recently in the San Jose Mercury News an idea that management of the Parks and Recreation Department are voicing in regards to using the Museum for corporate meetings, conventions, and construction of a kitchen for an on-site caterer by converting present meeting rooms to space to meeting room use. In conjunction, they are talking about the use of the Museum by outside groups to bring in more funds to make the Museum a "pay as you enter" place. Currently the Museum has a City operating budget of approximately $125,000. The City would like to see the City's share of this lowered by a considerable amount, with the difference made up by a greater income from further use of the museum and buildings. No one can argue with the idea of a greater use of the Museum by the populace to increase the revenue to offset the operating costs. Currently there is a concentrated effort being made to offer the Museum for events such as wedding parties, fund raising events, automobile exhibits, background for commercials and photos and other similar types of events that bring in outside dollars to help offset our operating costs.

Eric Brucher

MUSEUM SERVICE COUNCIL

Volunteers working with the Museum Service Council are enthusiastically meeting one Saturday morning each month to share ideas, plan for specific training and continuing education events. In August the group participated in some fantastic role-play regarding historical characters and responsibilities.

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- History demonstration
- Museum greeter
- Theaters

Many thanks to Mignon and Nancy Valley for their informative tours through the archives and collection areas. About 20 volunteers have been helping with the development of our total program based on their efforts.

Plans are to schedule 8 volunteers each Saturday, Sunday and holiday to staff the buildings, and 6 volunteers on weekdays (3 hour shifts) for the desk and general public tours. That is over 600 volunteer hours, in cooperation with the Docent Council, for the month of September.

I have served on the Docent Council for three years, last year as Admissions and Education Chair, and currently Nominating Committee Chair. Now it is exciting to be acting coordinator for these special volunteer and expand all the possibilities of expanding our services.

Anyone interested in this program is invited to join us at our next meeting, Saturday, October 9th at 9:30 a.m. for sharing and in-service training in two of our buildings.

Kathy Muller

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The 1989's are proving to be the decade of change and challenge for the San Jose Historical Museum. 1981 saw the Museum budget cut by about 40%. 1982 saw it reduced by another 40%. The picture painted for 1985 is so grim that the Museum Director for the past eight years Michael O. Demers decided to make a career change and transferred to the City of San Jose Police Department.

Never one to give up, I have managed to stand the Museum throughout these years and have been able to commit to the Museum and its future, to the extent that I believe in the Museum's growth into the ambitious plans that can be found on paper and in the minds and hearts of many of San Jose's citizens.

With these drastic cuts in operating personnel, the Museum is faced with a number of operational and structural changes that could make for more efficient and better functioning facility. I don't believe the Museum's high standards of operation will have to suffer.

Change can be healthy, and already a Task Force has been developed to determine what the Museum should be in the future and the organizational structure necessary. With the cooperation of the Board of Directors, a Development Committee has been organized to review ideas discussed at the Task Force meetings and to also take a lead in the design and development of the Museum facility.

There is nothing like challenge to draw people together! I've worked for the Museum for the past eight years and I have never seen so much volunteer activity, on so many levels, as there is now.

I believe in Museums and in what I am doing and plan to continue to the Educational, Research, Collection, and Exhibition Program at the Museum. To do this more and more, community funding for operational and development programs will be sought.

With the current major funding source, the City of San Jose, wanting to show a "zero deficit" - this will indeed be the challenge of the 1980's.

Mignon Gibson, Curator
Acting Director

FROM THE EDITOR

The first in our new program of one-day tours to places of historic interest was the trip to Sacramento on August 20th to tour the Restored Capitol. Response to the trip was extremely positive and our group of 45 had a delightful day. We had an excellent tour guide, Brent State Senator in attendance and several of our group also toured the Old Governor's Mansion and visited Old Sacramento.

We are very fortunate to have Frances Fox to lead our October 16th tour of Downtown San Jose and the Guadalupe Neighborhood. Also, that should prove to be a very interesting day for long-time San Joseans as well as newcomers to the area.

Finally, I am looking for interested local businesses who would like to support the Museum by taking part in our advertising in this Association News. This newspaper is our primary means of promoting the Museum and its activities and communicating with our membership. The circulation of the paper is available to anyone who contributes articles. If you or someone you know, would be interested in advertising space, please have them contact me at the Museum, 297-2290.
**DOCENT REPORT**

The docents have spent a busy summer at the Museum. They helped staff the desk and give general Public Tours in June, July, and August. This practice will be continued throughout the year whenever there are no scheduled tours.

Our Docent Council Board for 1982-83 includes:

President — Mary Ann Herlihy
Tour Coordinator — Virginia Beck
Secretary — Florence Haney
Admissions & Evaluation — Mary-Lois Hausgaard
Creative Programming — Betty Myers
Continuing Education — Pat McCas
Community Relations — Joan Shomler
Nominating Committee — Dulcie Janzen
Past President — Peggy Harrell

All of the Committees have already started work. The Creative Programming Committee's main project will be the development of a Horticultural Tour. They are researching herbs and spices from the 1780-1900 period and finding their uses. They have also planned a tour of Sasso Gardens in order to get more background information.

The Community Relations Committee has compiled over 300 brochures for our annual September mailing. These brochures inform schools and organizations of the services we offer.

The Admissions and Evaluation Committee has completed our 1982 Docent list. We now have over 80 docents. The Committee also will begin evaluations on docents who present the Victorian School Kit and docents who give tours of the Peralta Adobe.

The Continuing Education Committee plans to review our "Touch Basket" and "Docent Building Handbook." They have also arranged field trips to the Oakland Museum, Monterey, and the Railroad Museum in Sacramento for the Docent Council.

**COLLECTION NEWS**

Over seventy different donations to the Museum's collections have been received during 1982. One of these is a major costume collection from the Land family of Santa Cruz. Several hundred clothing items are included in the collection. Mainly women's apparel, there are dresses from the 1880's to 1930's. We are very pleased to have received this collection.

Some of the features which make this a particularly exciting donation are that there are a number of near duplicates of dresses. Thus a particular dress may appear in a different color or with different trim, or both. In addition, there are examples of garments in various stages of completion. These aspects are of particular interest to students of the history of costume, as they demonstrate both style and methods of construction. Plans are being formulated to display a portion of the collection in the Changing Exhibit Room. The Museum is most grateful to the Land family for their generous donation, which represents a significant addition to our costume collection.

Anyone interested in making a donation should contact the Museum (267-2298) for an appointment. Our collections cover all aspects of the life and history of the Santa Clara Valley.

**SIGNPOSTS 1983 Membership Premium**

The San Jose Historical Museum Association is very pleased and proud to announce that its 1983 Membership Premium will be Signposts by Patricia Loomis. Every new and returning member of the Association will receive a copy with a minimum membership of $25.00. 1983 memberships will go on sale in November.

Signposts began as a series of articles written by Pat Loomis for the San Jose News. The series, which started on a three month trial basis and lasted a full ten years, tells the story of San Jose through the history of street names and places within the City.

Pat, whom many of you know as an active member of the Museum Association, the California Pioneers, and the Argonauts, "never had so much fun in her life" as she did when she was writing the "Signpost" series. Pat wrote one article each week for the ten years the series ran. "San Jose is not an island," she says, and "the streets here are named after people who came from all over." Their stories are a part of the story of San Jose.

Signposts, the book, is a collection of fifty articles chosen from the series. It is one hundred pages in length, and is illustrated with historic photographs.

Signposts will be printed in a beautiful hardcover edition by the Rosecrans Press, expressly for distribution by the Museum Association. We are very grateful to the San Jose Mercury-News and the Directors of the Stella Gross Trust Fund for their generous assistance in making publication of this book possible.

**LOS CALIFORNIANOS TO MEET**

Los Californianos, descendants of the Spanish who arrived in Alta California before February 1848, will hold their Quarterly Meeting October 23 - 24 at San Jose's Hotel St. Claire.

Banquets will be held at both St. Claire and the downtown Holiday Inn.

The guest speaker will be Dale F. Debolt, instructor of American and California History at Evergreen College in San Jose. His topic will be "The American Conspiracy: The Human Potential Movement in California in the 1980's."

He will be examining careers and creative leisure from a historic perspective, portraying California as the "Land of New Opportunities" in the late 20th century. Debolt has taught in the San Jose Community College District since 1968.

A two-hour, two-mile walking tour of downtown San Jose, conducted by Clyde Arbuckle, is also planned. The walk includes a visit to the Peralta Adobe, San Jose's oldest structure from the Spanish period.

In addition, a genealogy research room will be set up.

Los Californianos, a non-profit organization, was established with a three-fold purpose: to preserve the heritage of early Spanish Californians in Alta California, to conduct research on genealogy, civil, religious, military, and cultural activities in Alta California, and to provide representation in regard to Alta California's history and culture by means of oral, written, pictorial or other methods prescribed by the Board of Directors, in an effort to provide accurate and authentic interpretation of Alta California's history. Applications for new members may be submitted by those who believe they would qualify for membership.

The area host chairman for this Quarterly Meeting of Los Californianos is Evelyn Romero Martinez, whose family roots date back to 1777, six generations, to her third great-grandparents. Evelyn presently lives in San Jose with her mother Paulina Romero Martinez and her son Michael. She counts eight generations of her family born in California since the founding of San Jose!
MEET PATTY IMSEN

Patty Imsen is a native San Josean and a second-generation Californian whose interest in preserving our local history led her to become involved in the San Jose Historical Museum Association more than five years ago. Patty has served the Association in several capacities— as Secretary, Publicity Chairman, and as Membership Chairman for the past two years.

Patty is married to Hank Imsen, a New York Life Insurance agent in San Jose, and they are the parents of two grown children, a son and a daughter.

Patty was graduated from Lincoln High School here in San Jose, and earned her undergraduate degree in Speech and Drama and her Elementary Teaching Credential from the University of California at Berkeley. Her two children are also Berkeley graduates.

Currently Patty teaches part-time in a program for Gifted and Talented Children in two schools in the Campbell Unified School District. Over the years she has brought many of her classes to the Museum for tours and she is very proud of the educational programs the Museum has to offer to the community.

In addition to her involvement at the Museum, Patty is also active as a Sustaining Member of Junior League and Past President of the San Jose Auxiliary of the Children's Hospital at Stanford. She enjoys water-skiing and snow skiing, and loves to read and garden.

The Museum Association is very grateful to Patty for all that she has contributed during her years of involvement, and especially for her work this year which has produced many new members for the Museum Association.

HISTORICAL NEWS ITEM

A Strange Story
A Woman Who Thinks She Will Die
When Her House Is Built


The house stands in the midst of a large and extremely beautiful lawn. Fountain throw their spray over figures that seem almost human. Beautiful flowers grow everywhere—roses, lilacs, trees, vines, pampas grass, rare plants of every description dot the soft grass and help to make a magnificent setting for the buildings which look like nothing else so much as an old German castle, with its surrounding strongholds. There are many buildings besides the house, and they too, show the effect of the owner’s odd belief that when the handsome residence is entirely completed, she will die. Ten years ago the place was ready for occupancy, but improvements and additions are constantly being made. Summer houses and conservatories are made with the most picturesque of pinacles and there are many unexpected niches where groups of statues are hidden. Even the barns and granaries are built in La’s and T’s which suggest that they were made in parts and are ready at any time to have the work continued.

Mrs. Winchester and her niece live alone in the great residence, and its doors are closed to all but a favored few. The tap, tap, tap, of the carpenter’s hammers never disturbs them in their cozy and luxurious quarters, which are as far removed from the sound as if it were somebody else’s house that was being built.

Mrs. Winchester is a shrewd business woman, and socially very exclusive. Whether she has discovered the secret of eternal youth and will live as long as building material, laws, and hammers last, or is doomed to a disappointment as great as Ponce de Leon’s in his search for the fountain of life is a question for time to solve.

Leslie Haues

ATTENTION TEACHERS!

An informative and entertaining new filmstrip with cassette has been produced by the San Jose Historical Museum Docent Council for elementary classrooms. Using original historic photographs and contemporary graphics both in sepia and color, the filmstrip highlights the daily life, work and leisure time activities of Santa Clara Valley children and adults 100 years ago.

The filmstrip is 12 minutes in length and contains 77 selected historic photographs and contemporary graphics both in sepia and color. A narration cassette is included with an audible and audible pulse capabilities. A printed script is also included with the package.

This outreach program can be used to supplement your classroom curriculum or to prepare your students for a Museum visit.

To order, contact the Docent Coordinator at the Museum, 297-2290. The cost is $30.00, made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association.

San Jose Parks & Recreation
PRUSCH PARK DEDICATION SET

San Jose's long-awaited Emma Prusch Memorial Park is rapidly nearing completion and will be formally dedicated Sat., Oct. 30 at 10:30 a.m. at its King Ave. location between Story Rd. and Interstate 680.

Emma Prusch Memorial Park is a project of enormous scope and vision. When completed, the park will encompass a working farm, community garden plots, barn and corral complex, orchards, vineyard, alternative energy displays, demonstration gardens, park areas for recreation, and a multi-purpose building with classroom and kitchen facilities.

The 48-acre site is the legacy of Emma Prusch, daughter of a pioneer San Jose farmer and businessman, William Prusch. Emma Prusch gifted the land for the park and the adjoining Police Athletic League facilities to the City of San Jose in 1962.

Emma Prusch Memorial Park is provided to the community by the City of San Jose and administered by the Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with numerous civic, school, and community groups. The ongoing success and direction of the park is guided by the Prusch Park Foundation.

Highlighting the dedication ceremony will be an address by Jim Wilson, former executive director of the National Garden bureau and past president of Garden Writers of America. Also attending will be representatives of city government, service clubs and community organizations. Hosting the event will be San Jose city councilwoman Blanca Alvarado, according to John Dotter, farm park supervisor.

The ceremony will also be accompanied by workshops, displays, mariachi music, and exhibits by such park participants as 4-H, Future Farmers of America, San Jose Food Bank, and Garden Valley Farmers Market.

For more information, contact John Dotter at 279-0922.
LIKE MODERN EDENS—
Winegrowing in Santa Clara Valley and Santa Cruz Mountains 1798 - 1981

When the frost is on the pumpkin it's a good bet at California's grape crop is safely harvested, ill on its way to the wine vats. At the same time, urists are heading for wine country to enjoy the relaxed and genteel hospitality of the California wine maker.

While the names, Sonoma, Mendocino and saliva countys come to mind for many, Santa Clara Valley and its recognized area as the 8

atest wine district in the country, with wine parable in quality to that of the European

ines.

According to wine historian and author, Charles L. Sullivan, "No state produces wine more than California. History sells wine, for age earns quality to the average wine drinker while addition and longevity seem to imply quality in a wine." His book, "Winegrowing in Santa Clara Valley and Santa Cruz Mountains 1798-1981," is the first regional history of California winegrowing, based on a thorough study of contemporary sources, and serves as a seminal history of the state's wine industry from ison days to the present. In its pages you meet some of the famous pioneer vintners and their viticulture that is essential to understanding the wine industry, only to see them die in the yellosas epidemic, where many vineyards were placed by prune orchards. You learn about the Prohibition era and bootleggers who deriv... of the remaining vineyards.

Sullivan's estate, "A collection of the wine industry, probably the most important thing that happened during the years 1849-1862 was when ranch owners sold the San Jose area choosing to focus on the agriculture, viticulture and silviculture for the home of California. Chief among the pioneer nurserymen was Antoine Delmas who came in 1851, introducing European wine grapes to northern California. By 1869 there were 1,000,000 bushes in the banks of such rivers, one of which is the Guadalupe River, is credited with the father of commercial wine industry in santa Clara Valley while Pierre Pellicer established the industry in Evergreen on the east side of the county.

Chief among the vintners was John A. Dix who founded the Mission San Jose Winery. He then sold the land to Charles Ray who later sold it to Joseph E. Seagram & Sons in 1943. The following year, 1937, there was a rebirth of the Mission and family winemaking. The Mission had been valley and today their wine industry has grown to almost industrial proportions.

Other changes occurred in 1941 when Louis Boisfont and Brayton Willmar bought the Almaden Vineyards for $1,000. In 1867, Benoiton sold Almaden to the National Distillers, a large corporation that owned wineries in California during the war. In 1941 the Irvine family had gained control of the old Weimer Ranch and Villa Vista Ranch next door. The Filice family sold the San Martin Winery in 1975 to Texas-based Southdown Corporation which sold it to the gigantic Norton-Simon Companies of Los Angeles. The Filice family maintained their ownership in the family vineyard.

The 1950's saw the beginnings of the rapid urbanization of the Santa Clara Valley and the retreat of wine grape cultivation from most of the valley. The major wine operations kept their local roots but struck off to the south to plant grapes. Almaden planted huge vineyards in San Benito County, while Paul Masson and Raymond laid out vast vineyards in Monterey County.

In summarizing his story Sullivan said, "The Santa Clara Valley will continue to be a wine growing area, but vineyard acreage is destined to decline." He added, "That seems to explode into modern Edens over a century ago is now paved over or will be soon. Where viticulture and winemaking will survive is on the less rich soils on the slopes and the growers are not inviting to the developer or subdivider."

Like Modern Edens, published by the Califor-

nia History Center, De Anza College, is a 165-page hardcover book illustrated with over 60 rare photographs, maps, footnotes, extensive bibli-

ography, index and a fold-out winegrowing map of Santa Clara Valley and Santa Cruz Mountains. A contemporary four-color jacket designed by artist, Helen K. Davis, depicts the wine harvest against a background of gold, blue, scarlet, purple and green and León D. Adams wrote the foreword. The book retails for $10.95 plus tax and may be purchased at the California History Center or at the bookstores in Vallco Fashion Park or De Anza. It is fascinating reading and a significant contribu-

tion to the wine history of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties.

At the dedication ceremony, which was attended by representatives of the University of Berkeley, and received his M. A. from San Jose State University. While teaching at Leland High School he developed a keen interest in the wine industry and since 1979 has taught a course at the California History Center, De Anza College. He has also written for a multitude of publications about the state's viticultural history and served as a historical consultant to some area wineries.

We are pleased to announce that Charles L. Sullivan will write regular columns for the Association News on the history of the wine industry in the Santa Clara Valley, beginning in the next issue. His comments will be entitled "Vinous Vignettes," and in December he will deal with the French influence.

SUNNYVALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO SPONSOR LECTURE SERIES

Popular DeAnza history teacher Kenneth Bruce, called "America's stand-up Historian" for his salty, humorous treatment of historical subjects, will teach a 3-lecture "mini-series" at Sunnyvale's Murphy Park this fall. The lectures will be once a month on Monday evenings, 7:30 p.m., starting Sept. 27th.

Titled "ERAS IN CALIFORNIA HISTORY," the topics will be: SETTLEMENT of California and how it came about (9/27); THE GOLDEN STATE and influx of miners in search of the precious metal (10/25); and CONTEMPORARY CALIFORNIA from earthquake to peripheral canal... from urban sprawl to meffify (11/29).

The mini-series program is offered by DeAnza's California History Center as part of its fall quarter courses. Sponsoring the lectures at Murphy Park is the Sunnyvale Historical Society, which will host Poi-Lock Suppers at 6:15 p.m. preceding the 7:30 p.m. p.m. lectures. The programs will be held on a once a month on Mondays, September 27th, October 25th and November 29th.

Registration for the 3-lecture series is $7 (waived for students age 60 or older, although voluntary tax-deductible donations of $3 or more to the California History Center are appreciated) plus a $1 laboratory fee (payable by all participants). Individual lectures are $3 each.

To register, attend the California History Center's "History Faire in the Trianon" at DeAnza College, Tuesday evening, September 14th, 7:30-9 p.m. - meet and talk with CHIC instructors over refreshments and register for courses that evening. Or, stop by the Center weekdays, 8:12 or 1-5 p.m. Call the Center at (408) 996-4712 or 4713 for more details.
A PAINTING OF THE PERALTA ADOBE RECENTLY ACQUIRED

The Museum is pleased to have been given a significant painting of the Luis Maria Peralta Adobe. It is the work of Manuel Valencia (1856-1935), who painted the adobe in a setting of oak trees, a meadow, and a small pond on a 6' x 10' board. It has recently been suitably framed and preserved to reveal its beauty for us and future generations to enjoy.

Ethele Valencia Grau, a daughter of Valencia, donated the painting which had been in the family's possession since it was painted. Valencia and his family lived in San Jose at 954 Vine Street from 1906 until 1913. Mrs. Grau related that her father had been the artist for the 1912 Fiesta de las Rosas and the art director of the Santa Clara County Fair.

Manuel Valencia was a well-known painter of California landscapes, whose compositions often resembled the works of William Keith and other popular artists of the day. Today his paintings are sought after by collectors and are listed in important museum catalogs. His "Sutter's Fort" is on display at the State Library in Sacramento.

The Luis Maria Peralta Adobe, located at 184 West St. John Street in downtown San Jose, was built around 1800 and dates back to the time when San Jose was California's first civil settlement. In 1796 the adobe was fully restored as a result of the enthusiastic efforts of many citizens and organizations which included the Junior League of San Jose and the Mt. Charley Chapter of E. Campius Vitas. Thomas McKinney, recently elected mayor of San Jose, was the chairman of the Peralta Restoration Fund Committee to raise the sufficient amount of contributions in 1974, and which qualified the adobe for a Federal Grant.

In 1973 it was designated a California State Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The San Jose Historical Museum Docent Council offers guided tours of the Peralta Adobe for groups.

Helen Kuesel

NEEDED!

The Museum Docent Council is preparing a second Victorian Schoolkit, one of its most popular Outreach Programs developed in the last few years. This exciting Schoolkit is designed as a "hands on" experience for 3rd through 6th graders. It contains more than 50 touch items: children's clothing and historical photographs which are brought out to public and private school classrooms throughout Santa Clara County by two docents.

In preparing the new Schoolkit, the docents find themselves in need of several original items dating from the period 1870-1900. If anyone would have, and be willing to donate, an original rug beater, coffee grinder, homemade soap, a wooden butter paddle, or an old-fashioned hand school bell, the Docent Council would most appreciate and many children would benefit. Please call Martha Tracy, Docent Coordinator, (287-2226) if you would be able to donate one of these items.

Patricia Loomis

SCHOOL NOTES

September means the end of summer, when the tarantulas mosey across Sierra road and the poison oak turns red, and your mother takes you shopping for school clothes.

That much about September hasn't changed. What has are the schools.

The architecture is different, so is the curriculum. There are cafeterias with hot meals, and the outhouse is inside. Even recess is different...hardly anybody plays hopscotch or marbles, and grandparents would have to explain mumbletyeep to the kids today.

There is a separate room for each class in today's schools, and no bench for the door for the wash basin. The pencil box is gone and the teacher has to find some other punishment than cutting stove wood for boys who misbehave.

Even getting to the school house is different. Big buses pick up the little kids and the big ones drive their own cars. In grandparents' time it was walk, ride horse or drive the pony cart if it was a country school, or take the street car in the city.

Teachers were big on reading, writin' and 'rithe mic' back in grandma's day, and there was reciting and penmanship and now and then a letter. Nobody had yet heard of computers or television, and 'foreign' kids learned English without any special instruction. You had to raise your hand if you wanted to play hide-and-seek or had to go to the outhouse.

Grandpa didn't realize he was missing out because his school didn't have carpets or a swimming pool.

He expected to get crackked with a ruler if he misbehaved, and knew he'd be double punished when he got home if his pa found out about it.

The kind of school that grandparents attended is gone, and it is hard to find one of the little abandoned one and two-room country schools still standing.

There that we can think of are on the east side of the valley. One is winding up its years providing shelter for cattle east of Gilroy between Calaveras and Felton interese extent. This was Laguna School which was suspended by the county in the 1940s after serving the children of ranchers for more than 70 years.

Another is Hall's Valley School, built in the mid-1880s after Mt. Hamilton road was constructed and the sheltered valley at the foot of the mountain began filling up with small farms. Abandoned by the county in 1948, it reverted to descendants of the Bernal and Tiernan families who gave the land for the school, and since then has been used as a residence.

It sits beside Mt. Hamilton road just north of the Quimby road intersection, smack-dab in the middle of the county's Grant Ranch Park.

The third old country school is just off San Felipe road south of Evergreen and The Villages on the way into the Henry S. Coe ranch. This was one-room Highland School taught early in this century by the late Rosalind Boring (later reference librarian at the San Jose Public Library) and boarded with families of her pupils.

She rode horseback to school, as did most of the children, and the family dogs usually tagged along.

She remembered one memorable day of the annual visit of the county superintendent of schools. He arrived unannounced (as was customary) to find dogs sleeping on the floor of the classroom, a horse with its head through the open window, and the entire room decorated with great baskets of poison oak.

All of this was long ago, but the memories still live among the faded photographs and records housed in museums such as ours.

Patricia Loomis
CHASE THE ARTESIAN: A SAN JOSE CLASSIC

On Sunday, October 10, 1982, at Kelly Park the first annual San Jose Classic Rotary Run - Chase the Artesian will be held. The 5-mile run will feature a hard-core runner as well as a 1-1/2 mile run for families. The 5-mile run will end in front of the San Jose Historical Museum park bandstand, while the 1-1/2 mile run will be through San Jose's Kelly Park.

The proceeds from the registration fees ($6.00 for the 5-mile and $1.50 for the 1-1/2 mile) will be used by the San Jose Rotary Club to give various community activities.

The run, co-sponsored by Joseph George Distributing, is limited to the first 1,500 registrants. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the race in the parking lot of Kelly Park. The Fun Run begins at 9:30 a.m., the 5-mile beginning at 10 a.m. Trophies will be provided to the first three finishers in 12 categories of entrants with additional prizes awarded to other entrants. Soft drinks, fruit and other refreshment will be available at the end of the race.

The registration fee for runners entitles all runners and their families entrance to San Jose Historical Museum for the day. T-shirts will be available for purchase on the day of the race. For further information, contact Lee Hughes (686-8767) or Bob Pers (294-0123).

Placing An Event?
RENT-A-MUSEUM
For information call
287-2290

EASY DAY GAS ENGINE AND TRACTOR ASSOCIATION MEET

The Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association, Branch 3, Fall Meet will be held at the San Jose Historical Museum on October 2nd and 3rd from 12:00 to 4:30 each day. The Association is a world-wide organization, founded in 1965, and dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and demonstration of early agricultural equipment. Presently, the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association has over 1,500 members, and twenty branches throughout the United States. The public is invited to come out to the Museum on Oct. 2nd or 3rd to see approximately 150 examples of early gas engines and tractors, many of which were used by the agricultural industry of the Santa Clara Valley in the early years of this Century. Admission to the Meet is free with general admission to the Museum.

In the early days of this century, before our farms had electricity, the power for running machines came from one-cylinder gasoline engines that had large flywheels. These engines were manufactured in sizes ranging from 3/4 HP to 100 HP. Often a farmer owned one engine of moderate size (5-10 HP) which was mounted on wheels so that it could be moved to different machines. These engines pumped water, washed clothes, sawed firewood, threshed grain, ran home generators and machines in a shop. The larger engines were often used on large pumps and sawmills.

This Fall Meet of the local branch of the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association will be a forerunner of their National Meet which also will be held here at the San Jose Historical Museum in late June 1983. Over 2500 participants from all over the world are expected to be here in San Jose for that four-day event.
TOURS OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS
For current times call (408) 287-2200

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

ADMISSION
Adults $1.00
Children (12-14 years) 50c
Groups (12 or more)
(Prearranged) 40c per child
80c per adult
40c per senior
Seniors 50c

(continued from page 1)

"We expect to have 100 or more booths, between 35 and 46 of them serving food or drink, and they will represent the finest of the Tapestry and Talent exhibitors.

"We will have exhibitors displaying and selling antiques and crafts from furniture to weaving, and we have already gone to considerable lengths to ensure that only top-quality will be presented."

"Many of the city's best antiques dealers will be showing their wares. We have carefully screened the crafts exhibitors to put only the best wares on show — they include top-rated people like Polka Dot Enterprises, blue ribbon prize winners at the Tapestry and Talent show recently. We have a gourmet smorgasbord of food stalls, with everything from cheese steak sandwiches to pumpkin pie."

The whole festival, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, the 30th and from 10 a.m. until dusk on Sunday the 31st (the day we put our clocks back, by the way) will have a strong harvest theme.

"We're offering a $100 prize for the best costume in our costume parade," said Harrison. "We're having face-painting, all-day music from a variety of local and Bay Area bands — everything from country, through banjo bands and rock to mariachi and barbershop quartets."

"There will be a handful of pumpkin pie speed-eating contests. There will be games for youngsters — and the not-so-young, too — like sack races, three-legged races and egg tosses and there will be everything to entertain the individual or the family.

"But above all, this will be a tremendous opportunity for people who are beginning their Christmas shopping to find unusual and beautifully-made gifts. It will be a real opportunity to find that special gift for someone special."

Seahawks committee chairman Mike Ayers explained the club's involvement with the Museum: "It seems an unusual liaison to see all these big guys helping set up an antiques show, but it isn't really."

"The Seahawks are a nationally-ranked Rugby Club — we host the national champions last season, the first club to do so for three years — and we have strong and close ties to San Jose. "We heard that the Museum was in financial straits and we decided that what we have to offer is an organization with plenty of manpower. So we offered to set up the festival and run it for the Museum. We will have about 70 people in our organization here each day, cleaning up, setting up stalls, providing assistance. It gives us a chance to make closer ties to the City and community and to advertise our presence."

"There will be theme decorations everywhere and a very special fan atmosphere we know everyone will enjoy. It's a first for us and for the Museum — and we're sure it will be a tremendous event that we'll both want to keep doing for a long time."

Admission to Autumn Affaire will be the regular Museum Admission (adults, $1.00 and children, $.50). For more details on the festival, call Peggy Lane (288-6990) or Jane Hummel (727-7058).

Places To Visit

LOCAL HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

American Museum of Quilt & Related Arts
225 El Paseo de Saratoga
San Jose, CA 95038
378-5533

California History Center
DeAnza College
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Capitola, CA 95014
966-4712

Campbell Historical Museum
Lower Level of Library
70 N. Central Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008
397-3060

Furber Mill Museum
75 Church Street
Los Gatos, CA 95030
385-7375

Gilroy Historical Museum
105 Fifth St., Corner of Church
Gilroy, CA 95020
847-2885

Los Gatos Museum
4 Tait Avenue
Los Gatos, CA 95030
354-5346

New Almaden Mercury Mining Museum
21570 Almaden Road
New Almaden, CA 95042
289-7880

Saratoga Historical Museum
20450 Saratoga Los Gatos Rd. & Oak St.
Saratoga, CA 95070
867-3511

Sunnyvale Historical Museum
Martin Murphy Jr. Historical Park
N. Sunnyvale Ave. at California
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
739-0470

Open M-Th 10:00 - 6:00
Fri 10:00 - 9:00
Sat 10:00 - 5:00
Sun 12:00 - 5:00
Free Admission

Open M - F
8:00 - 12:00 & 1:00 - 4:00
Free Admission

Docent Program-call for group reservations

Open T, Th, F, S
2:00 - 4:00 & by appointment
Free Admission

Open W - Sun.
12:00 - 5:00
Free Admission

Open M, W, Th, F
2:00 - 12:00 & 1:00 - 5:00
Free Admission

Open T-Sun. 10:00 - 4:00
Free Admission

Current Exhibit: through Oct. 15

The Works of Constantine Cherkas

Open M, Th, F: 1:00 - 4:00
Sat, Sun, Hol: 10:00 - 5:00

Admission:
Child: 75, Adult 2.00, Senior 1.75

Open W, Sun.
1:00 - 4:00

Docent Tours by appointment

Open M, T, Th, F, Sat: 12:00 - 3:00
Sun.: 1:00 - 4:00
Free Admission

The San Jose Seahawks in action against the Old Blues of Berkeley. Photo courtesy of the San Jose Seahawks Rugby Club.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Name ____________________________ Date: _________
(1982 Renewal) (New Member)

Mailing Address ____________________________ (Bus.) Phone ____________________
(Res.) Phone ____________________

Individual Authorizing Contribution

TOTAL ANNUAL PLEDGE $ ________ AMOUNT PAID NOW $ ________ BALANCE $ ________

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS
□ Pioneer Circle ($10,000)
□ Patron Circle ($2,000)
□ Mission Circle ($1,000)
□ Postbelle ($500)
□ Tower Circle ($200)
□ Century Circle ($100)
□ Half-Century Circle ($50)
□ Quarterm-Century Circle ($25)

□ Master Charge □ Visa

Please indicate method of payment. □ Check or money order enclosed. □ Master Charge □ Visa

Expiration Date ____________________
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Master Charge customers: in addition to your account number, please list the four digits above your name.

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

Make check payable to:
San Jose Historical Museum Association, 845 Phelan Ave., San Jose, CA 95112