Picnic in the Park
A Success

The San Jose Historical Museum Association would like to thank Earline Shields, Museum Association Special Events Chairperson, for her work in making the 1980 "Picnic in the Park" a huge success.

The picnic was attended by over 100 members and guests who enjoyed a bag lunch on the plaza provided by O'Brien's Ice Cream and Candy Store. Included with the lunch was a coupon for ice cream and a ticket for Kelley Park's South Pacific Coast Railroad.

Don DeMers, Museum Director, gave an interesting talk on the Museum, its goals and progress. Museum docents Eileen Beek, Jackie Brown, Judy Henderson, Janet Reynolds, and Louise Workman staffed the outdoor exhibits. Carol Carbon, Museum Association Gift Store Chairperson, made the gift store available.

Sue Robbins volunteered her time with the picnic registration and Nancy Valley helped register new members. Other Museum Association members helped to make the day a success by attending with their guests. We hope to see everyone at next year's "Picnic in the Park."

* * *

COMING TO THE MUSEUM:
Edison and the Electrical Age

The San Jose Historical Museum is pleased to present Edison and the Electrical Age: 100 Years, an exhibition in honor of the 100th anniversary of the invention of Edison's incandescent lamp, which is circulating nationally under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). The exhibition will open at the end of January, 1981 and will remain on view through April 12, 1981.

Graphic images and period photographs from the collections of the Smithsonian National Museum of History and Technology and the National Park Service set Edison's work in historical perspective and illustrate the amazing development of electrical power from a simple system run by one man to an increasingly large and complex interconnected network which has become a vitally important component in our lives. Artifacts from the San Jose Historical Museum's collections will be included to supplement and expand the exhibition.

Edison and the Electrical Age was developed by curators from the Division of Electricity in the National Museum of History and Technology with the generous support of the International Committee for the Centennial of Light of the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation. It is hoped that this exhibition and other activities commemorating Thomas Edison's life and work will stimulate our creative talents and encourage and appreciation for the value of research and study in improving the quality of life.

"The electric light bulb was the greatest achievement of Thomas Edison's incredible career. With typical audacity, in October of 1878, he proclaimed that only a few weeks' work by him and his Menlo Park staff would be needed to produce a practical electric light. But it was not so simple. For the next year, Edison wrestled with the problem of producing an incandescent lamp that would last a reasonable length of time, that could be turned on and off without affecting other lamps, and that could be manufactured in great quantities. By the end of 1879, he had succeeded."

From Edison and the Electrical Age: 100 Years

Museum Association Holiday Party Is Coming

Now is the time to mark Thursday, December 11, 1980, on your calendars as the date for this year's Association Holiday Party. Annually held in the Pacific Hotel, the Holiday Party is a well attended and enjoyed event. Please RSVP for yourselves and friends.

Earline Shields, Museum Association Special Events Chairperson, plans hors d'oeuvres and a special selection of cheeses along with a no-host bar in O'Brien's. Entertainment will be provided by the San Jose Chapter of the Society of the Preservation and Encouragement for Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, or in single terms, a Barbershop Quartet.

The party starts at 8:00 p.m. and the 1981 membership publication will be available. We hope to see you here.
ASSOCIATION\'S \n\nPRESENTER'S \n\nMESSAGE

The Association is now launching the membership drive for 1981. The funds received from the sale of memberships enable the Association to provide special exhibits and events, exhibitions, publications, and an expanding docent program. These monies are also used to supplement City funds for capital improvements.
Recently the Museum received a substantial addition to the costume collection from San Jose State University. These items need to be stored in special acid free boxes. Thus the Association funded the purchase of 500 of the storage boxes.

Some of these valuable costumes will be on display in early 1981. Everyone had a delightful time and delicious lunch at the September "Picnic in the Park." Many thanks to Earline Shields and her committee.

Save Thursday, December 11. This is the date of the Association's annual Christmas Party for our members. Please come; we would like to thank you personally for your support.

Marty Lion

Patty Imsen Plans 1981 Membership Drive

Patty Imsen plans to make 1981 the biggest membership year ever. With the help of the Membership Committee, plans are being made to increase membership by 25%, and to include local businesses and corporations in our Museum. Anyone wishing to help on the committee can volunteer their time by calling the Museum offices at 257-2590.

MUSEUM \n\n\nDIRECTOR'S \n\nREPORT

GRANT FUNDS HIRE MUSEUM REGISTRAR

The Historical Museum has received funding from the federal Institute of Museum Services to hire a Registrar, Jill Serota-Bradner, who received her Master's Degree in Museum Studies from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., has been employed to fill the position. The Registrar is responsible for cataloging and maintaining the records for the hundreds of thousands of items within the Museum collection. Jill will also be working with the architectural firm of Bamburg and Associates which is designing new storage and storage improvements for two of the Museum's three warehouses.
We welcome Jill to the Museum. The monies generated for her work recognize the Historical Museum's commitment toward the better care and organization of its outstanding collection.

ASSOCIATION HOSTS MUSEUM GROUP

The delegates to the Western Regional Conference of the American Association of Museums had an opportunity to visit the Historical Museum in October. Participating in a tour of peninsula museums, the visitors, which included trustees, directors, curators, and other museum officials, from throughout the nation, enjoyed refreshments, courtesy of the Museum Association.

Other groups who have used the Museum in recent months include the Arthritis Foundation, the County Board of Education, and the alumni of the University of California at Berkeley Business School.

MUSEUM HOSTS ARCHIVAL WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, November 18, the Museum will host a workshop on the care and preservation of photographs and manuscripts. The workshop is presented by Bonfield Archival Consultants and is open to museum personnel or private collectors who are interested in preserving manuscripts or photographs. For time and cost of the workshop, you may call the Museum at 257-2590.

Don DeMers, Director

Docent Update: Educational Services Expanding

The docent program is continuing to expand its educational services during this school year. We are completing two a-part program to better prepare school groups for their visits to the Museum. The first phase of this program has been accomplished with the printing of a booklet called "Museum Guide," a project funded by the Museum Association. The "Guide" contains information about the museum building, provides a brief general history of Santa Clara Valley, and gives a summary description of daily life in the Victorian era, ways of making a living, and leisure time for families. While the "Guide" classroom activities are also included to stimulate children's involvement in the subject matter. Each teacher who books a tour receives a copy of the "Guide."

The second phase of our expanded education involves creating a filmstrip about life in the Santa Clara Valley a century ago. The "first-filmstrip" has been completed and the committee is currently working with Panorama Productions in Santa Clara to select appropriate graphics and coordinate the end product.

Martha Tracy
President, Docent Council

From Reading, Expanding Again

Your response to the last issue of the news was most gratifying. Thank you! We are working hard to improve the quality of the issue. With this issue some new feature columns begin. Several of the staff members will keep you informed about some of the many "in the news" articles which are making the Museum a healthy and viable institution. Thus we add "On the Record," "In the Collection," "Volunteer Vent," and "Looking Back," to our "Update," and "Today's Report."

Unfortunately, printing is expensive. Therefore, we have begun a program to solicit advertising. See elsewhere for the specific details. The success of this program will depend on you, the readers. You can help with your advertising, either a business or personal ad. Then, please patronize our advertisers and let them know you saw them in the News.

As always, ideas for stories and articles are needed. If you take a trip, please share your adventures and impressions with those of us who are here to read. You can do this on the Meet the Reader's Forum.

Until the next issue, have an enjoyable holiday season.
Nancy Valley, Editor

IMS Grant Received

The San Jose Historical Museum was one of only 408 museums in the nation to receive an "IMI Grant" for educational support from the Museum Services. The grant of $14,000 will be used to improve the care of the Museum's extensive artifact collection that was purchased by the City of San Jose in 1968. According to the Museum Director, that "the grant, though small, will help us care for and make more accessible items within the collection. It's an important step in preserving the City's multi-million dollar investment in the Museum."

Over 1,500 museum submitted applications to the Institute, which is operated under the recently created Department of Education. The Institute provides grant funds to a wide range of museums, zoos, botanical gardens, technology centers, aquariums and planetariums.

Radio Buff Respond

The San Jose Historical Museum would like to thank all those who have responded with radios for the Museum's planned permanent exhibit on Charles Herrold, the founder of modern radio broadcasting. Some real radio treasures have surfaced.

Eric Bracher, Museum Association Treasurer, donated a large upright Philco radio with a roll-top radio cover. KWQ of San Jose, the country's first radio broadcasting station, is included in the pushbutton section. Pat Liley, weekend volunteer, brought in a trio of interesting radios: the "Flinch Chief" radio has a speaker cover that is a tapestry of a farmhouse with a footbridge in a pastoral scene; a "Silvertone" radio with a "Rambler" speaker cover which sports a black scotch terrier dog. Hank and Laura Calloway, long-time Museum volunteers, gave a wonderful cathedral tabletop "Silvertone" which also has a KWQ selection. Mary Simas, Museum docent, donated a unique "civilian radio receiver," Alice Orth, Museum Association member, gave us a gaudy old tabletop radio that belongs to her father, Regner A. Ekstrom.

The San Jose Historical Museum is very pleased with the response we have received to include all of these in the display. The Museum still needs to locate an early crystal set so that visitors can see one of the very first radios. If you have any radio equipment in memorabilia, please call the Museum at 257-2590. Once again, thanks for the support.

San Jose Historical Museum
257-2590

San Jose Historical Museum News
December 1980
Outstanding Membership Premium for 1981

The 1981 membership premium is San Jose: California’s First City by co-authors Edwin Beilharz and Donald O. DeMers. The premium will be available at the Association’s Holiday Party on December 11, 1980 in the Pacific Hotel. For those who have collected the Association’s series of publications, this is an outstanding edition.

San Jose: California’s First City is part of a national series of city histories. This updated history of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley is being published by the Continental Heritage Press in conjunction with San Jose Chamber of Commerce.

Heavily illustrated, this book will indeed be a premium to remember. It will retail for $25.00 from local bookstores but will be included with a Museum Association $25.00 membership, with all the usual membership benefits.

This publication and a Museum Association membership make great gifts. Do not neglect yourself or friends in this 1981 membership year.

The Association will have only a limited number of these volumes; therefore, this particular premium will be available only until supplies are exhausted.

Design and Construction

Many people are unaware that the Museum houses its own carpenter shop. In charge is Joe Cardinalli, Exhibit Designer/Builder, who supervises two carpenters, Russ Inglieri and Charlie Taylor. This three-person team is responsible for the design, construction and contractual management of the Museum’s exhibits and buildings. This column will keep readers informed of the Museum’s progress in Design and Construction.

Joe Cardinalli has worked as the Exhibit Designer/Builder for the Museum since 1974. Before transferring to the Museum, Joe was the Designer for Happy Hollow Park and Baby Zoo.

He received his Master’s Degree in Theatre Design from San Jose State University, where he often designs scenery for the Theatre Department’s summer productions.

Joe has been instrumental in coordinating the Museum’s new phases of construction from the Pacific Hotel groundbreaking to the present.

Russ Inglieri has worked eight years as a City carpenter, assigned to the Museum.

His versatile finish carpentry skills contributed much to the Main Exhibit Room and also much of the fine cabinetry here. He acquired much of his experience during his 18 years as a union carpenter. Among his list of accomplishments is the finish carpentry work at the Pruneyard Shopping Center in Campbell.

Charlie Taylor has been with the City of San Jose Parks and Recreation Department for 20 years. Six years ago, he was assigned to work at the Museum as a carpenter.

Before being permanently assigned to the Museum, Charlie worked on all of the original Museum buildings, with the Kelley Park Crew, from pouring the foundation of Dashaway Stables to shingling the roof of the Print Shop.

Born in Nahant, Massachusetts, Charlie moved to San Jose with his wife and children in 1960. Prior to that, he served in the Air Force as a carpenter while stationed in Japan.

Charlie enjoys many interesting hobbies, such as gold mining in the Mother Lode country and bottle collecting. He is an avid History buff on the Pioneers and the Gold Rush Era.

Thomas A. Edison said:

“The incandescent light was the hardest one of all; it took many years, not only of concentrated thought, but also of world-wide research.”

Guests enjoying “Picnic in the Park.” Photo by Ann Whitesell
Sanborn Block Books On Microfilm

One of the more important holdings in the Museum’s map collection are the Sanborn Block Books. Originally compiled for fire insurance companies, the books show detailed information on every structure within the city limits. The Museum has the most complete collection on San Jose existing in a public agency, covering a period from 1884 to the mid 1960’s.

These books can prove invaluable to preservationists and interested homeowners and have also been widely used by history and urban planning students. Unfortunately, the books are very large (about 24” x 32”) and heavy. Each time they are used a little more damage occurs to the leather bindings and more of the tiny, glued-on corrections fall out.

The Sourdough Academy, San Jose State University’s historical collection, recently requested to microfilm the books, since their students are the most frequent users of the resources. In return for the loan of the books for filming, they offered a full copy set for our library. Their offer was gladly accepted and the filming was carried out the week of September 15.

Now the Block Books and their vital information can rest peacefully on the shelves, disturbed only a few times a year instead of several times a week. This means they will be around much longer and the microfilm, instead of the original objects, will be withstanding the wear and tear.

Motorland Uses Museum As Model

Those of you insured by the California State Automobile Association who receive Motorland magazine may notice something familiar about the photograph of the 1981 small cars that will be appearing in the November/December issue. The picture was taken at the Historical Museum.

Members of the San Jose Civic Light Opera and Museum Designer/Builder, Joe Cardinali served as models and the new cars were contrasted with wagons from the Museum’s collection. Motorland editor, John Holgren, did the photography.

It was exciting to see the new cars before they were officially unveiled and also to know that the Historical Museum will be receiving publicity throughout the Northern California area.

1981 small car on view at the San Jose Historical Museum. Photo by Ann Whitefield.

On The Record

For those of you who have either done research here or visited the Museum Repository, you know that the Museum holds perhaps the best collection of local history materials in the area.

Containing over 1200 linear feet of public and private records, the Repository materials tell the story of the cultural, economic, and political life of the Santa Clara Valley. Most of the records, in fact, about 90%, are public records, meaning that they have been generated by either the City of San Jose or Santa Clara County. These records begin around 1850 and run through 1987.

While the subject areas range from just about “a to z,” highlights of the public records include valuable information on both property and personal. Wills, probates, court judgments, tax assessments, voting registries, and deeds are just a few of the record sets available.

Of course, our earliest records are the Pueblo manuscripts dating from 1793-1818 which reveal the administration and life of Pueblo in San Jose. Complementing the records are our Rancho papers which document the struggles for ownership for 17 out the 40 Santa Clara Valley ranchos.

Other private papers in the Repository collection help tell the story of the New Almaden Mines through rent and pay rolls, supply lists, and related Quicksilver Mining Company documents. In addition, the stories of many local organizations, businesses, and individuals are revealed through other private ledgers and manuscripts.

While our public records are received through transfers from other city agencies, the Museum Repository receives its very valuable collection of private manuscripts (letters, diaries, and etc.) and records from individuals and donors, people who recognize that by placing their materials in the Museum Repository, their documents and records will receive the physical care offered by a “professional archival facility,” and equally important, be available for research.

If after “cleaning” your attic or analyzing your personal collection, you discover any manuscript or record material that you now feel would be better preserved in the Museum Repository or which you would like to share with other serious researchers I am donating it to the Museum collection, please contact Claudius Jurmain at the Museum. If you would like to use the Repository materials for your own research project, contact the Museum for a research appointment.

Claudius Jurmain, Curator

Thomas A. Edison said:

After the invention of the light bulb and the electric system to make it work, Edison went on to produce even more inventions, including an improved phonograph and the movie camera, a storage battery, as well as many smaller inventions. Never leaving his laboratory for long, Edison’s passion for tinkering and experimenting made him the greatest inventor that ever lived, the time he died in 1931, at the age of eighty-four, I had 1,083 patents to his name.

Thomas A. Edison said:

“Remember, nothing that’s good works by itself, just to please you—you’ve got to make the damn thing work.”
“Looking for a few good Docents”

By reading the Association Newsletter you have “given yourself away” because we now know that you have an interest in local history, enjoy learning, and probably like meeting people. If you would like to put these “admirable” traits to good use, the Museum Docent Program wants to know who and where you are!

Beginning March 2, 1981, the Museum will train volunteers to give tours of the Museum buildings and exhibits and of the Peralta Adobe, San Jose’s oldest surviving building. This free weekly training lasts for eleven weeks and includes lectures on selected Museum themes and specialized in-Gallery Training to teach effective tour techniques. After training, docents are asked to give six hours of monthly service. Beyond tour giving, the Docent Program can offer you participation in a wealth of related activities such as preparation of Museum filmstrips, teacher’s guides, and school kits, as well as ongoing enrichment through special lectures and training seminars.

The Docent Program reaches more than 10,000 children and adults annually, and is one of the most rewarding ways there is to serve yourself, your Museum, and your community. You can learn more about this opportunity to join the Docent Program by calling Claudia Jurmain, Curator, at the Museum (297-2290) or Martha Tracy, Docent Council President, at 390-2428.

Thomas Edison Said....

“Genius is ninety-nine percent perspiration and one percent inspiration.”

What Is a Museum Registrar

For those readers who have noticed that the Museum has received a grant for a registrar and are wondering...

What is a Museum Registrar? The duties of a museum’s registrar, particularly within a small museum, are varied. Basically, the registrar maintains all of the museum’s records on its collections, is responsible for keeping these files clear and accurate, and develops new ones as necessary. All objects that enter and leave the museum are recorded by the registrar.

When an object arrives at the museum, the registrar must first accession this item. To accession means to record an addition to the collection. An accession may consist of a single item or many items. The San Jose Historical Museum receives objects from many sources. Some are gifts from citizens of San Jose, while others may be purchased or received in trade from other museums. The registrar issues a control number to each artifact and then acknowledges the receipt of the object. The object is then carefully labeled with its number and placed in storage.

The registrar is also responsible for the safe handling and storage of every object that enters the collections. At San Jose Historical Museum a vast reorganization of the storage area is currently underway in order to assure proper care of and access to our wonderfully rich collections.

Gift Shop

Christmas Shop

The San Jose Historical Museum Association Gift Shop is stocking up with Christmas items, and we have many other items that make very unique Christmas presents. Come visit any weekend, 12:00-4:00 p.m. If you are unable to come to the Museum, you may order by mail the following items:

- Old Fashioned Wooden Top... $2.25
- T-shirts with Museum Logo... (Youth) $4.50
- Old Fashioned Wooden Top... (Adult) $5.00
- Old Fashioned Xmas Wrapping Paper... $1.25
- Old Fashioned Xmas Postcards... $2.25/pk.
- Xmas Coloring Books... $1.50
- Xmas Poster... $8.99

BOOKS

1. “Sierra Santa” by Ralph Bamber... $2.00
2. “Old Fashioned Paper Dolls” (to cut out)... $3.00
3. “Historic Valley of Santa Clara”... $12.95

4. Previous books given with memberships:
   b. “Ten Years in Paradise”... $10.00
      by Mary Bowden Carroll
   c. “Santa Clara Valley — Images of the Past”
      by Don DeMers and Ann Whitsett... $10.00
   d. “History of Santa Clara County”... $10.00
      by Eugene T. Sawyer

Many Mannequins Needed

The SJHM is planning an exhibit of clothing for its changing exhibit room for mid-1981. This exhibit will give the Museum a chance to show off its costume collection and give visitors a chance to see how clothing has changed throughout the years. More on the details of the exhibit will follow in future issues, but if any reader has mannequins or dress forms they would like to donate, please call the Museum at (408) 287-2290.
**MEET:**

**Eric Bracher, Treasurer**

Association Treasurer, Eric Bracher, is a natural for the job. After being born and raised in Santa Clara, he graduated from San Jose State with a degree in Business.

Married, with one son, Eric spent 13 years in the California Army National Guard and had attained the rank of Captain. He worked for IBM and Memorex before establishing his own business.

Eric’s company manufactures model kits for model train enthusiasts. Since model railroad is one of his hobbies, that’s really combining business with pleasure. Before joining the Association Board, he was President of the 30,000-member National Model Railroad Association.

Local and western history also interest our Treasurer. His family had a pear ranch on Kifer road until the orchard gave way to the electronic industry.

Eric also finds time for skiing and photography, and is a welcomed member to the San Jose Historical Museum Association Board.

![Eric Bracher, Treasurer for the SJHMA. Photo by Ann Whitesell.](Image)

**Looking Back...**

This is one of the first "aerial" photographs taken of San Jose. Shortly after the Electric Light Tower was finished in 1881, a photographer from the studio of Loryea & Macaulay climbed to the top, aimed his camera south toward Market Street and captured the scene we see here.

The rooftop of the original Pacific Hotel can be seen, just next door to St. Joseph’s Church with its old octagonal dome and spireless front towers. The Plaza was just a bare plot with a few trees and the wagon runs through the middle suggest that most people took the shortcut instead of following the street around.

Ann Whitesell, Photo Curator

![Looking south from the Light Tower, 1882. Photo by Loryea and Macaulay. San Jose Historical Museum Collection.](Image)
TRAVELS
Wagons Ho!
By Loraine Vick
June 21-26, 1980

Jamestown North Dakota here we come— if any of you are looking for an unique way to spend part of your next summer vacation, I have one to recommend, but it is only for people who pride themselves in being strong in body and spirit, and even for these it will be a real challenge.

Fort Seward Inc. is a non-profit organization made up of people who feel it is very important for their children and others to become acquainted with and preserve some of the customs of their pioneer ancestors. This years trail ride was called the "Pinegro Centennial" or the eleventh one that has been undertaken.

My husband, our grandson, and I flew to Bismarck, N.D., rented a car and drove to Jamestown, N.D. where we joined the group that was assembling for the "Wagon Train Adventure." They came from 10 states and one foreign country — 150 men, women, and children plus 40 staff members. Our entourage consisted of 10 wagons, a chuck wagon, and a bivy (4 holer). Each family or person brought their own tent to sleep in. Everyone was assigned a wagon and that was your home on the trial during the day. There were about 15 to a wagon, but more than half of them rode horses or walked. We were wagon riders! The ages of the people in the party ranged from 2 to 76.

We were up at 5:00 and on the trail by 7:30, travelling 16 to 20 miles a day. The traditional wagon breakfast was formed at midnight break, at noon, and at the end of the day.

Everyone was assigned some kind of a camp chore each day: cooking building, cooking, serving, and dishwashing.

Jeans and shirts were permitted on the trail, but everyone had to dress for dinner (long dresses and sun bonnets for the women — shirts, suspenders, vests, and hats for the men).

The food was excellent and served cafeteria style from pots and containers on the ground. I have to admit the food wasn't typical of the food the early pioneers prepared along the trail.

If you have seen "Wagon Train" on T.V. — You have seen it all — Indians included! Believe it or not.

If any one is interested in going on an adventure of this kind, you can write to:
Fort Seward, Inc.
Box 244
Jamestown, N.D. 58401
I'll be glad to answer any questions about the trip — phone Loraine Vick, 259-0101.

MEET:
Margery Richard, Historian

As Historian for the Association, Margery Richard continues her lifelong interest in local history because "the Museum has great opportunities to continue preserving and restoring the heritage of this Valley which has changed and grown more dramatically than most any in the country. From the 'Valley of Heart's Delight' to 'Silicon Valley', this is a great place to live."

Margery was born in San Jose, as was her father. Her grandfather came here in the early 1800's and had a tinsmith and stove business on So. First Street. His sons joined him in the Company known as John Stock and Sons. He bought both commercial and agricultural property in San Jose which remained in the family until it was sold in accordance with his will.

Margery earned a B.A. degree in Political Science at U.C. Berkeley. The family of her husband, Henry Richard, came to the Santa Clara Valley in the mid-1880's and bought property in the Alviso area for pear orchards and dairies.

While raising two sons, Margery spent quite a few years doing some Social Service work and volunteer work in several organizations. Later, she went into the Real estate business, people and property being of the most interest to her.

Her grandfather Martern, her father and his sister had also bought property in San Jose. When her father, who had managed the family Real Estate for many years, became ill in 1962, she took over. Her experiences as a realtor was very helpful. Even though these were very difficult years for the downtown area, they saw the development of the Financial Center, the Performing Arts Center, and the Convention Center. Margery feels it was a privilege to know some of the many dedicated, loyal San Joseans who worked and continue to work so hard to develop the city.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

O'BRIEN'S SAN JOSE CANDY FACTORY | SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Volunteer Voice

To launch this column, it seems appropriate to make Association Members aware of the invaluable service our Volunteers contribute to the Museum. If it were not for the time and services of these Volunteers, I doubt we could present the Museum to the public on our current daily basis.

The group of Museum Volunteers have the great pleasure in coordinating and scheduling work primarily on week-ends. There are, also, volunteers that work on a regular week-day basis. There are volunteers who offer their time week-ends and week-days. There are approximately forty to fifty Museum Volunteers that contribute their time and talents to the Museum on a monthly or weekly basis. The time they volunteer to the Museum is scheduled a week or month in advance. If they agree to serve on a specific day and time, they do so willingly. There is an occasional cancellation or change of day but this is rare. These Volunteers are a rare breed, indeed.

The week-end volunteers staff the Historic Bldg. and the Pacific Hotel Lobby Desk. Week-day Voluntees staff the Lobby Desk. Some of the week-day Volunteers who are Docents or have Docent training conduct tours in the Museum exhibits.

All of the Museum Volunteers are well informed regarding the history of San Jose and the Museum exhibits. Their high enthusiasm and motivation in preserving and sharing this history and our Museum with all visitors is wonderful to behold.

My main responsibility as a staff member of the Museum is to supervise it's operation on week-ends. There generally is only one other staff person to assist me. This is the Ticket Booth & Information Operator at the Main Gate entrance. If I could not depend on our Volunteers to assist and support me on the week-ends this responsibility would be quite overwhelming.

It is my hope to profile in this column in future Association News the interesting and diverse individuals that comprise the San Jose Historical Museum Volunteer core.

We will share with you, in addition, some of the interesting and amusing experiences Volunteers have encountered in presenting the Museum to the general public. I am encouraging our Volunteers to use this column as an outlet for any suggestions they may have to improve and upgrade the Museum's total operation.

If there are any individuals who would care to contribute their time in this type of volunteer service, contact me at the Museum (408/257-2290). I can promise it will be a rewarding and interesting experience.

Grace Brewer, Volunteer Coordinator
MUSEUM INFORMATION

The San Jose Historical Museum offers a unique view of the past—a visit to the heart of San Jose, much as it existed near the close of the 19th century. On 16 acres in Kelley Park surrounding a quiet plaza, the original and faithfully reproduced homes, businesses, and other historical landmarks present the city's rich past in a delightful and informative manner.

The Umbarger House authentically reflects the typical Victorian house of the late 1800s. The restored Electric Light Tower exhibits a working blacksmith shop, antique carriages and buggies. The Bank of Italy, former home of the Bank of America, offers a view of turn-of-the-century banking. In the elegant Pacific Hotel, comprehensive exhibits trace the history of the area from the time of the Costanoan Indians through the 1920s.

Whether touring these attractions stopping by the Print Shop, the Bandstand or the Doctor's Office, enjoying a treat at colorful O'Brien's Ice Cream and Candy Store, or simply passing through the impressive 115 foot Electric Light Tower, the Dashboard to the San Jose Historical Museum will experience a sense of the past that is truly memorable.

Still expanding, the San Jose Historical Museum has recently added a 1927 Associated Oil Company Gas Station, the Coyote Post Office, the Empire Firehouse, the Chiechi House, and the Stevenson Ranch Fruit Barn to its growing list of completed and soon to be completed exhibit attractions.

Other Museum features include an old-time Photographic Studio where visitors can pose in turn-of-the-century costumes, a Gift Shop located in the Print Shop, changing exhibits in the Pacific Hotel, a Research Library containing archival and photographic collections relating to Santa Clara County (by appointment), and a meeting room available for 60 people.

The San Jose Historical Museum is located in the south end of Kelley Park. Here visitors can catch a ride on a small scale reproduction of the South Pacific Coast Railroad and travel by San Jose's Japanese Friendship Garden and Leininger Community Center on to Happy Hollow Park and Baby Zoo.

Won't you join us for a stroll through our past and present? Visit the San Jose Historical Museum in Kelley Park.

MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

The Museum Association was founded in 1971 to financially and socially assist the San Jose Historical Museum. Through fundraising, volunteer activities, publications, annual events, dedications and special projects, the Museum Association adds active community interest and participation in this project.

Your membership benefits include a local historical publication, gift shop discounts, invitations to special events and free admission to the Museum.

The Museum Association Board Members are annually elected by the Museum Association membership and serve for a period of one year.

MUSEUM BACKGROUND

To celebrate the centennial of the 1849 Gold Rush and California's first legislature, the City of San Jose, with the help of the State of California and Santa Clara County, erected a replica of California's first state house. The two-story, 40 x 60' replica provided space for artifacts to be shown.

Public enthusiasm was so great that instead of the building being demolished after the celebrations, it was given a home at the Santa Clara County fairgrounds where it was moved in 1950 under the supervision of City Historian, Clyde Arbuckle. The public donated so much material that an annex was added in 1958, in another four years, the annex was filled.

In 1965 Theron Fox, with the help of the Historic Landmarks Commission, convinced the City of San Jose to set aside 16 acres at the south end of Kelley Park for the reconstruction of an historic town, to be known as the San Jose Historical Museum. In 1967, the purchase of a large collection was made which tripled the holdings of the Museum. Ernest Renzel, Jr. generously provided funding for this purpose by making an interest-free loan to the City.

To house and exhibit this collection of over 300,000 artifacts, restored buildings and replicas were constructed in the south end of Kelley Park. Included to date are a Print Shop, the Dashaway Stables, Wurzburtton's Doctors Office, the Bank of Italy, the Pacific Hotel, with O'Brien's Ice Cream and Candy Store, the Umbarger House, the Electric Light Tower, the 1927 Associated Oil Company Gas Station, and the Museum's Water Tower Entrance. Immediate plans call for the completion of the Empire Firehouse, the Coyote Post Office, the Chiechi House, the Steven's Ranch Fruit Storage Barn, and the San Jose 1888 Chinese Temple.