LASTING LEGACY — THE PROMISE KEPT

The Chinese Historical and Cultural Project will present “Lasting Legacy — The Promise Kept,” a dinner-dance on April 8, 1989, at the San Jose Fairmont Hotel. Proceeds will benefit the Chinese Historical Project in reconstructing the Ng Shing Gung building at the Museum.

The Ng Shing Gung, House of Five Immortals, served the Chinese community in San Jose from 1889 until it was destroyed in 1949. The replica building will house exhibits relating to the history and contributions of the Chinese in the Santa Clara Valley. The elegant evening festivities will be hosted by television celebrities Vic Lee, Emerald Yeh and Carol Lin. Special entertainment has been arranged to enhance the evening’s festivities.

Tickets are $60 per person. For further information call (408) 296-5612, Mildred Chin, or (408) 297-0939, Evelyn Gates. To reserve tickets, make checks payable to CHCP and mail by March 31 to Mildred Chin, 954 Seale Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303.

For further information about the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project at the Museum, contact curators Nancy Valley or Sarah Nunes at 287-2290.


SACRAMENTO STATE CAPITOL AND OLD SACRAMENTO

WHEN: Wednesday, March 29, 1989
WHO: Association members and their guests
HOW: Royal Coach Tour bus — leaving and returning to the Phelan Avenue parking lot of the San Jose Historical Museum.
TIME: 7 A.M. (bring your own hot beverage and we will have doughnuts on the bus) to 5 P.M.
COST: Members $20.00 (lunch not included)
Non-members $25.00 (lunch not included)

We will begin the day at the State Capitol. The nearly forgotten collection of California Mission paintings executed by Henry Chapman Ford in 1882 are on display in the upper Capitol Rotunda. We will have a docent speak to us about these paintings. The works of art by Ford (1829-1904) are architecturally and historically important to California because they helped influence the 19th Century restoration of the Franciscan Missions and the revival of California’s Spanish heritage.

Next, we will have a docent-led tour of the State Capitol. A massive restoration of it was completed in 1982. It once again reflects the beauty and grandeur of the early 1900s. The magnificent dome, marble mosaic floors, crystal chandeliers and monumental staircases are some of the highlights. There are seven historic museum rooms depicting the executive branch of the government at the turn of the century.

We will then board the bus and head for Old Sacramento, where reminders of California’s past will surround you. You will then be free to explore on your own, choosing one of the many unique restaurants for lunch. There are old-time shops to visit, the California Railroad Museum, and horse-drawn wagon rides for you to enjoy on your own in the early afternoon.

We will return to the Historical Museum by 6:00 P.M.

Reservations for this trip are limited and refunds will be made only when there is a waiting list for the trip. Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association (SJHMA) and sent (along with the coupon below and a SASE) to the San Jose Historical Museum, 636 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112 Attn: Earline Shields.

SACRAMENTO: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1989 RESERVATION CONFIRMED □
7:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
NAME: ______________________________________
ADDRESS: ____________________________________
PHONE: ______________________________________
(See Trip to San Juan Bautista on Page 6) NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: ______________________

San Jose Historical Museum
636 Phelan Avenue
San Jose, California 95112
Address Correction Requested
FROM THE EDITOR

Endowment Fund

As members of the Museum Association you will soon be receiving a letter calling to your attention our Endowment Fund.

The Association's Endowment Fund was established in 1987 to provide for the continued growth and development of the Museum and to further strengthen the Museum's membership acquisition. And although the Endowment Fund is young, allocations made in January of 1988 and January of 1989 have substantially increased the fiscal base of the Museum.

In an effort to build awareness of our Endowment Fund we will soon be sending you a brochure which details various gift giving options, makes a donation to the Museum, and uses it whenever a gift to the Museum seems appropriate.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the growth of our Endowment Fund! It is through the fund that the Museum will build a real resource of security and enhancement for the Museum and its programs.

Kathleen Muller
Administrator

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New Members

1988 is a wonderful year for the San Jose Historical Museum. We are very encouraged with the number of referrals and new members in our Association so far. Laurel Persia, our Membership Chairperson, has scheduled a "New Member Coffee" to be held on March 11, from 10:00-Noon, and it is limited to the first 25 new members that wish to attend. This will be an opportunity for you to participate in guided tours of the Museum grounds, exhibits, and libraries, including the collections and archives. Since this is only open to new members, make your reservations early. Registration forms are available at the Desk.

Winter History Nights

I want to thank Jack Douglas for his slide presentation of San Jose postcards as part of the SJHMA’s Winter History Nights series. Jack, a long-time supporter of the Museum, had many interesting stories to share as well as about 140 picture postcards of San Jose, some dating back more than 100 years.

I also want to thank Dr. Dave Hulsebeck, archaeologist, and member of the Santa Clara University faculty, who has been conducting excavations at the University for the past five years of an early Mission location, for sharing his findings and stories at another Winter History Night. SJHMA members should remember that their membership entitles them to attend these events at a reduced rate - the good deal of history can be learned by attending.

Planning for 1989

Once again the SJHMA Board of Directors is setting out in March to look at Museum goals, the role of Board members in the Master Plan, and other important topics. We concluded that, although we have come a long way in the development of the Museum, the key ingredient to future development is a steady stream of donations. The Board will continue to work with our elected City officials in an effort to expedite this process. February was a busy month for SJHMA. Board meeting, when our Board of Directors, Advisory Board, Development Council, City Council, and our partner with the San Jose Community services and SJHMA personnel all got together. There was a great deal of enthusiasm and we accomplished this year’s planned activities. With your help, I believe we can accomplish all of our 1989 goals.

Brian Serpa
Association President

FROM THE ARCHIVES

From time to time we read of works discovered "quasi" in some archives or found in storage or in someone’s garage. This is certainly the case in the collection. The Board of Directors, in a meeting last year, decided that a full catalog development for the collection held in trust for the community. In the early phases of a collection’s life it’s often a greater priority to save the material than to restore it to order. But it can systematically be processed. Without the extensive archival collection of material, many of the documents in the collection would have been lost.

The full extent of what is actually in a collection is not known until an assessment and a full catalog is developed.

As collections are cataloged and as the collection grows, additional self-help tools, more detailed descriptions, materials are re-examined and re-assessed to see how they relate to the collection policy as a whole. And as conditions change, sometimes that examination an extraordinary find occurs.

These are the unexpected treasures, an extra poignant for that this is the very stuff itself that is being lost. The effort it is the cumulative, cohesive total which is the most important. Perhaps, it is not as glamorous or as time-consuming undertaking, but the day-to-day and long term use are these the essential working documents which bring together the full history of our community.

Archives Open Saturdays: March 11 and 25, April 29, May 13 and 27 from 1 to 4 p.m. Please, call for an appointment.

Leslie Masunaga
Archivist

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Just Testing

In the last issue of the Association News, fifty members of the San Jose Historical Museum were discussed. Well, there are only forty years with our 50th anniversary scheduled for 1988! This is a great foundation for an institution, the fifth is one to plan for as a major milestone.

Planning for the Future

Currently the San Jose Historical Museum is preparing for the future by conducting an effort to update the Mission San Jose Master Plan, which will include a physical site plan and long-range programs designed for operations and economic development. With the economic climate occurring, the Historical Museum continues to search for increased membership and services. These programs receive financial support both from the City of San Jose Recreation, Parks & Community Services Department and from the San Jose Historical Museum Association.

The City of San Jose provides operating funds for full-time Museum programs including collection management, exhibitions, site supervision, facility use and event rentals, and similar projects. The Museum Association also supports a staff member in the Membership services, operates O’Brien’s and the Gift Shoppe with an increased emphasis on costume rental and provides major financial support of the Museum programs including special projects. Currently the budget is close to 1.5 million dollars annually generated through membership contributions, gift shop proceeds, and the San Jose Historical Museum Association.

Additional projects like the Trolley Barn and Gordon House projects are not reflected in the Museum’s budget, as their source of funds comes from other agencies.

Comments Please

As we proceed to plan for the future of the San Jose Historical Museum I hope everyone takes the opportunity to let us know what they like and what they envision for the future.

Mignon Gibson
Museum Director

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION CORNER

For most of the 20th century, structures of the 19th century were out of favor with just about everyone. The old buildings, trolley barns, mills, and other relics from the past to the average person the old-fashioned buildings needed to be removed to make way for progress. But for the last two decades structures of the 19th century have been enjoying a renaissance. Many have been restored, their beauty and history brought back to life at our Historical Museum and many are being restored at their original locations throughout our communities.

Over three dozen structures have been designated as landmarks of special historic importance. The Trolley Barn Hotel, located at the northwest corner of South Market and Post Streets, has just been added to this list by the City Council after a recommendation from the Historic Landmarks Commission. The Hotel, constructed in the 19th century, is a good specimen of commercial style of this period, embodying delicate ornamental facade of the 19th century. The Historic Landmarks Commission reviewed a planned development proposal that would provide for the construction of the Home of Benevolence at 516 Martin Street, and add single family attached residential units on vacant land adjacent to the landmark structure. The Commission found the proposal would preserve and enhance the Home of Benevolence at 516 Martin Street.

The Commission is planning to update and expand the Historic Landmarks Inventory with the assistance of structures throughout our city to our Historic Landmarks Inventory. The Inventory identifies over 6,000 historic resources like the Home of Benevolence, and this receive careful scrutiny during land use and development planning. The inventory is used by many city departments as a resource when they submit plans for additions or renovations to significant structures. This assures all reasonable care is taken to preserve these cultural riches of our past.

William Thomas
Historic Landmarks Commission

The San Jose Historical Museum is part of the City of San Jose Department of Recreation, Parks and Community Services.
MUSEUM AUXILIARY

Anytime you see Grandpa John sitting on a bench at the Museum, you can be sure he has something new to tell us about our town.

For instance: "Grannie is all excited about a spring project here at the Museum. My granddaughter, Millie, says it's called Exhibit Maintenance Day. But Grannie said it was plain old-fashioned spring house cleaning. Millie has enlisted a lot of volunteers from our town to help. This is a fun time for our town because those who help are allowed to handle with care all the articles in our buildings. You see, everything gets dusted or swept or polished. It will take all day and we always have some music, but the carpets are on the rugs. It certainly will be nice to have all our houses and buildings bright and shiny again. One thing that puzzles me is why everyone is supposed to wear gloves. How can you spring house clean wearing gloves?"

Exhibit Maintenance Day will be held on April 24. Anyone who would like to help our Conservation Corps should contact Milita Rios-Samaniego, Curator, 287-2290.

Joan Helms
Assistant Director

DOCENT REPORT

The San Jose Historical Museum. Docent Council Board has many unusual heroes among its members. One of these is the Evaluation Chairperson. Working with a committee of Docents who have served more than three years, the Evaluation Chairperson is responsible for evaluating Docents who have served more than three years prior to their "graduation" as well as all experienced Docents every three years in all nine Museum tours, office tours, and special programs. An evaluator uses a check sheet which covers such topics as factual content, enthusiasm, introduc-
tions and conclusions, use of props, concept, voice projection, and eye contact. The purpose of these evaluation tours, however, is not just to review the delivery of the educational material but also to get the Docents' feedback on the Docent Council, the Museum, and the overall volunteer program.

This two-way communication is vital to the healthy, quality program such as ours.

A second very important Docent Council officer is the Continuing Education Chairperson. This individual in cooperation with the Auxiliary Continuing Education Chairperson plans field trips for the Museum volunteers to local places of historical interest or "behind-the-scenes" tours to various Museum volunteers' knowledge of Santa Clara Valley. The volunteers have enjoyed fascinating and educational trips to Quicksilver County, Mt. View Cemetery, Lawrence Livermore Lab, San Juan Bautista, Peralta Adobe/Fallen House, and the Olmsted Gardens. Efforts of this Chairperson. Seven field trips each year are arranged by these two hard-working Continuing Education Chairpersons.

Linda Kelly
Docent Council President

CUPERTINO 1989

6th Annual

UNIQUE

SHOP & SALE

De Anza College

MARCH 18

SAMARA CARRERA GALLERY

MARCH 19

Museum and Consignment

10-5

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TWIN REDWOODS ANTIQUE PRODUCTIONS

April is San Jose Beautiful month. On Saturday, April 15, there will be a variety of activities throughout the community. Join the celebration by visiting the Japanese Tea Garden at Kelley Park and the Prusche Farm at the corner of King and Story. Arbor Day, April 29, will see the opening of Plaza Park in downtown San Jose. Watch for announcements of events planned for that weekend.

OLD HOUSE RESTORATION

A series of three programs on old house restoration, co-sponsored by the San Jose Public Library and the Victorian Preservation Association, will be given on Saturday March 11, Saturday April 15, and Saturday May 6, at 10:30 a.m., at the Empire, East San Jose Carnegie Library, and Rosegarden Branch Libraries respectively. Topics to be covered include researching your old house, dealing with City codes and permits, Victorian period decoration and practical restoration techniques.

For further information call: Empire Branch Library, 286-6817; East San Jose Carnegie Library, 998-2000; Rosegarden Branch Library, 998-1212.

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

During the months of January and February, contributions were made to the Museum Association's Endowment Fund/Special Projects Fund in honor of the following individuals:

In Memorium

Andrew Roderick
Mary-Lou Hamburger
Alice Roberts Kelsey
Bruce Barton
Abigail Hart
Lloyd Batchelder

General Donations

Eugene Jackins
Yuriko Misawa

Gifts to the San Jose Historical Museum Association are to honor someone on a special occasion, or as a memorial, may be sent to the San Jose Historical Museum Association Endowment Fund, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the person being honored or the family of the deceased.

MUSEUM STAFF

Mignon Gibson ................. Director
Office
Wanda Foss .......... Senior Steno
Jeanne Kondo .......... Clerk/Typist
Archives
Leslie Masunaga .......... Archivist
Education
Virginia Beck .......... Curator of Education
Volunteers
Delcie Jackson .......... Volunteer Coordinator
Ellen Garboke (q.o.) .... Volunteer Projects
Coordinator
Events
Monte Duran .......... Museum Events
Collections
Milita Rios-Samaniego .......... Curator
Sarah Heiglo Nunez .......... Curator
Nancy Valley .......... Curator

ASSOCIATION STAFF

Kathleen Muller .......... Administrator
Administrative Services
Barbara Arata .......... Administrative Asst.
Carol Osselott .......... Bookkeeper
Karline Shields .......... Membership Secretary
Shops
Carol Carlson .......... Manager
Anita Kassuba .......... Scheduler/Supervisor
Des culiarico .......... Supervisor

"A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words"

In the photograph collection is valued both as an artifact and as a source of documentary information. It must be cared for as a fragile part of the material culture of the past. At the same time it must be available to researchers to study the content, the image which documents one moment in time. These requirements for use and care are at times conflicting and present problems to the curator. Photographs and the collection, important in several ways. They can be examples of particular methods of photography or of the work of important photographers. The photograph can be a work of art. Photographs have specific needs for long term preservation and care. They are vulnerable to irreversible damage from light, humidity, heat, and handling. Ideally, they should be kept in the dark in a neutral (acid-free) storage file in a temperature and humidity controlled environment with filtered air. The long term preservation needs can conflict with the use of, and access to, the information contained within a photograph. This conflict can be minimized when a photograph is only carefully preserved in the dark.

At the San Jose Historical Museum this problem has been mitigated through the development of a specialized catalog. In the catalog the photographic image is reproduced and attached to a file card with all known information. Thus the "information" becomes available while the "original" remains safely in storage. The "original" photographs can be made available for limited use for exhibitions and special studies. Currently the catalog contains more than 2000 images. However, the Museum's photograph collection is much larger. Because of the time and expense involved in the destruction of the catalog, only selected images are included. Museum staff carefully screen images for historic significance and information before including them in the catalog. Access to the images in the Museum catalog of photographs is open to the public in the Archives open hours or by appointment with the Curator of Photography. In addition, a fee based on a set schedule is available. Prints can be made in almost any size with the fee varying accordingly. Please contact Nancy Valley at the Museum for information with any questions regarding photographic services.

The Museum continues to actively collect photographs. Any photograph that tells part of the story of life in this valley, from the people to the buildings to the events, is important. It is important to have such photographs from any era time period contact Nancy Valley, Curator, at the Museum at 287-2290 to discuss possible donation arrangements.

Nancy Valley
Curator

"A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words"
INTRODUCING GERRY DE YOUNG

Gerry De Young, Vice-President in charge of planning with the engineering firm of Ruth & Going, brings unique and particularly valuable skills to the task at hand. At this time, when a new Master Plan is being prepared which will guide the Museum's development into the next century, it is particularly important to have the advice and guidance of professionals such as Gerry De Young.

A native of Stockton, Gerry and his wife Susan decided to remain in this area following their graduation from Santa Clara University. Gerry's degree in History was good preparation for his years of service on a variety of community organizations, many of them concerned with historic preservation.

In 1961 Gerry joined the Historic Landmarks Commission where he served for six years. These were critical years as the Commission worked with the City's Redevelopment Agency and private developers to preserve significant sites and structures, particularly in the downtown area. Gerry's term of office overlapped that of Judy Stahile, who went on to join the City Council following her service on the Commission.

Gerry developed a familiarity with the issues concerning the future of Kelley Park when he served on the Happy Hollow Board for nearly nine years, two of those years as president of their Board. He joined the Advisory Board of the Museum Association in 1965, and was chairman from 1955 to 1967, then joined the Board of Directors as a Member-At-Large last year.

With this background, Gerry has been an effective and eloquent advocate for the Museum before City Council and other city agencies.

Gerry's primary goal for the Museum is the development of a comprehensive and flexible Master Plan. He feels that in the past some members of the community have regarded the Museum as merely a repository for structures. Houses were "left on the doorstep" with little thought for their eventual placement or the funds to pay for their restoration. While he feels the Museum Association has done an excellent job so far in restoration, the impact on Museum resources is the De Luxe House.

In the future if the City moves significant structures to the Museum grounds they should be accompanied with sufficient resources to ensure that they are incorporated into the interpretive plan in a timely fashion. The Ruth & Going firm certainly contributed to this goal when they donated the plans and engineering for the foundation of the De Luxe House.

Currently the majority of Gerry's volunteer time is spent on the support and development of the San Jose Repertory Theater. He is serving a two-year term as president of the Rep's Board of Directors during a time of tremendous growth for the organization.

Gerry and Susan and their two daughters live in the historic Palm Haven section of Willow Glen. Susan is also very involved in community activities, although her orientation is toward education. She has been president of the PTA of every school her children have attended. Our community and our Museum are richer for the talents and commitment of this special couple.

O'CONNOR HOSPITAL, A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY

On May 1, 1889, O'Connor Hospital and the Daughters of Charity will celebrate a century of quality health care service to the Santa Clara Valley. This legacy begins with the May 1, 1889, when Sister Severina, the Sister Superior, began her duties with the aid of three other sisters. The first patient at O'Connor Sanitarium was a Protestant gentleman from Santa Clara stricken with tuberculosis. At this time the O'Connor Sanitarium offered no surgery, laboratory, maternity or pediatric services.

How the brick structure of the original O'Connor Sanitarium, became the O'Connor Hospital of today is a story combining the compassion of the Daughters' health care mission with the technological advancements of the twentieth century and the support of a committed community.

It was in 1887, that Judge Myles P. O'Connor, noted Valley lawyer, built a country home known as the "White House" at Race and San Carlos Streets in San Jose to build his Sanitarium. He and his wife, Amanda, invited the Daughters of Charity to take charge of the non-sectarian facility, providing every comfort and necessity for the sick and distressed, its services available to all.

By the late 1880s, within a decade of its founding, the Daughters transformed the O'Connor Sanitarium into a happy, rest home for the elderly into a full-service hospital, the first private hospital in Santa Clara Valley.

Though the O'Connor Sanitarium was partially destroyed by the earthquake of 1906, the Daughters remained in control by pitching tents and converting nearby buildings to accommodate the injured. In the two decades which preceded the Second World War, O'Connor's admissions quadrupled, and the demand for expanded services became critical. So, in 1953, the Daughters of Charity launched a fund-raising drive which partially financed the development of a pear orchard into a four-story, 300 bed hospital on the present Forest Avenue site.

Equipped with the additional beds, O'Connor couldn't keep pace with the demand for health care. After the 1953 building was constructed, the number of patients treated yearly, surgeries jumped 450 percent and emergency treatments had increased by over 800 percent. The decision was made to construct a third O'Connor Hospital.

In August 1983, the Daughters opened the third and present Hospital. As O'Connor celebrates its centennial, it is the oldest and the newest hospital in the Santa Clara Valley.

Calendar of Events

On April 30, 1989, O'Connor Hospital and the Daughter of Charity will begin their centennial celebration. The day will begin with a 10:00 a.m. Mass in the Medical Office Building (MOB) Auditorium at O'Connor Hospital, 2105 Forest Avenue in San Jose. Following Mass, there will be an Antique Car Parade to honor the Red Lion where the group will gather for a special Founders' Day Pioneer Luncheon Celebration.

A No-Host Cocktail Reception will be held between 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. in the Red Lion's Thunderbird Ballroom area where members will be on view. Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m. and will be followed by a gala program, including a fashion show by the museum's Vintage Fashions and historical slides of the Santa Clara Valley, O'Connor Hospital, and the Daughters of Charity. The luncheon is $35.00 per person, all proceeds going to the recently established O'Connor Hospital 80ers Charity Care Endowment Fund.

The Pioneer Luncheon is the first event in a week of activities scheduled to celebrate O'Connor Hospital's Centennial. On Monday, numerous activities will be held to commemorate May 1, 1889, the day when O'Connor Hospital was founded. Sponsoring the organization, coordinating, and coordinating the Founder's Week activities, is the O'Connor Hospital 80ers, a support organization to commemorate and continue the pioneer legacy of the Daughters of Charity care mission at O'Connor.

Persons interested in additional information about the O'Connor Hospital 80ers, the O'Connor Centennial Pioneer Luncheon Celebration and/or Founders' Week activities, are invited to call Joanna Rose at the O'Connor Foundation/Development office, 947-2649.

SOURISSEAU ACADEMY AWARDS

The Award Program of the Sourisseau Academy, San Jose State University, annually recognizes outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations perpetuating and protecting the historical heritage of our valley's history. Two awards of $500 each, one to an individual, and one to an organization, are granted in one of the categories listed below:

A. Organization which brings historical resources to the community through educational programs, exhibits, outreach programs and publications promoting awareness of our historical heritage.

B. Recognizing significant historical activities, diversity and innovation in projects and accomplishments of an individual on a voluntary basis.

C. Extensive research and writing that has a beneficial impact on the community.

D. Initiating and completion of projects and research for the preservation of our historical heritage, either by an individual or organization.

Please send nominations with accompanying qualifications to:

Sourisseau Academy
Glory Anne Leffly, Executive Secretary
Department of History
San Jose State University
San Jose, CA 95192
If there are any questions contact chairman, Frances L. Fox, 258-1879.

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LIVING HISTORY DAYS,
MAY 20-21, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Get out your pen and May calendar and circle May 20 and 21! Preparations for Living History Days, the fun-filled, family-oriented event are underway. The 1989 happening celebrates Santa Clara Valley’s history at the turn-of-the-century with demonstrations and displays of miniature buildings, spinning, blacksmithing, and Morse telegraphy to name only a few of the over 40 different activities.

Children have an opportunity to choose such activities as making corn husk dolls, dancing the Maypole, watching a puppet show, or making ice cream. Horseless carriages, equestrian sites and hundreds of townspeople in costume help make the Museum’s town come alive. A roll through the agriculture area reminds one to the time when the Valley was covered with farms and crops. Of course no one will want to miss the old-fashioned parade at 2:00, the glint of an entertainment-filled day.

This special event runs on volunteer power. The 1988 event was made possible by the efforts of over 300 volunteers. More volunteers are needed in 1989. If you can help, call Virginia Beck, event Chairperson at the Museum at 297-2290 to discuss possibilities for volunteering.

NEIGHBORS ENJOY VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Yes, seven children from the apartment complex directly south of the Museum grounds stepped in time and had a taste of life in historic San Jose when they were treated to an afternoon at the Museum.

One week ago, it began a few weeks before the event when three of us were nearing the end of our second walk along Coyote Creek. Our destination was the Museum, but the undergrowth was so thick along the side that we lost our bearings and came up some distance south of the Museum.

We walked surface streets back to our destination, we came across a group of apartment areas where many children were playing outside. During an ensuing conversation with Kathy R (Administrator of the Association) we told her about our discovery and she remarked that it be nice if there were some way of introducing the children to the Museum.

We agreed that a green light for Pat Loomis and me. We began planning what we’d have to do to pull off a visit without a hitch.

The two trips to the apartments to talk to parents (and allow them to meet us), a very generous donation from the Miracle Mile Optimists which purchased lunch and favors for each child, and the most of five helpers, we were ready to take on a Victorian Christmas expedition.

The children were met at the Museum by their teachers in a room that was set up with the trolley, dolls, and adult volunteers. The children were greeted by a volunteer at the trolley and had the opportunity to play with the trolley and its various parts.

In total, the children had a great time. They ran and laughed, ate a huge hot-dog lunch, talked with Father Mas, rode the trolley and played in the “snow.” They listened to stories, rode the elevator, and tried all the other activities.

At the end of the day, the children were treated to a special treat of ice cream and cookies. They left the Museum with a new appreciation for the Victorian era and the hard work that goes into preserving our history.

Virginia Hamness

MCS

PHONE 3. JUNE 24

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AMBULANCE

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INTERVIEW WITH

JUDGE DOLL

Early last year I interviewed an old friend, retired Municipal Court Judge Louis Doll. Lou is an extremely warm and humorous person. I think the audiotape captured the essence of the man.

Judge Doll was born in Santa Clara and attended Santa Clara University and Law School. He passed the bar shortly before World War II. Upon his return from the army he joined the local District Attorney's office where he served until being appointed to the bench in 1963.

Through the kindness of the Soutsease Academy, we were able to have the oral history tape transcribed. Here are a few selected portions.

MT: When you were in the DA's office, who were the private attorneys that were doing most of the criminal defense work?

LD: Dave Lull, John Machado, Foley. Oh! Elmer Jensen did a lot of work.

MT: Did you ever try a case against Elmer Jensen?

LD: Yes, I tried a few cases. I'll never forget Elmer. I'll tell you a little case about Elmer. It was a case which he tried as a defense attorney. And Elmer spoke for I don't know how many hours and all he had — I saw it, I was watching him — all he had in his hand was a piece of paper with a list of the witnesses on it. And he spoke for 2 or 3 hours. And when he ran out of gas — I'll never forget that — he sat on the steps leading up to the Judge's chair, he sat there for about two minutes with his head down, and his hands over his head, and he said, "Please excuse me, I'm thinking, and I don't want to miss anything." He thought for a while, but by God, he got up and was good for another hour!

Later in the Interview...

MT: One time when you and I rode out there (Alviso) we passed by an old place called Sutters. You were telling me that it used to be one of your hangouts when you were in school.

LD: That is a bar — a gambling room out there now, card room — And Sutters was operated by Joe Sutter, who was Swiss. Because in the Milpitas area they had a lot of dairies, the juke box was all Swiss dairy yodels. Joe Sutter was the first man I saw who had a ring in his ear... Guess he was the first hippie that ever showed up. And the bar was pleasant there. I remember one Sunday afternoon when it was there, some nice couples were driving around the valley looking at the blossoms and the trees and so forth. And they came in. One ordered a Manhattan and one ordered a martini and another ordered an old fashioned and things like that. And old Joe said, "What kinds of drinks are those? We serve only two kinds of drinks here, beer and whiskey! Now how much whiskey you want?" So he just poured it and told them, "Tell me when to stop."

Judge Mark Thomas, Jr.
Advisory Board

We regret to report that Judge Doll, a long time Museum supporter, passed away on February 22, 1980.

PUBLISHING YOUR OWN BOOK

Are you working on a family genealogy, a novel, or a collection of poems you would someday love to have published? Would you like some practical suggestions that might set you on the right track and help you avoid some pitfalls?

Then plan to join us on Saturday morning, April 11, 1989 from 9:30 to 11:30 when Theron Fox will lead a seminar designed to provide you with some answers and direction.

Theron Fox, beloved member of the Museum's Advisory Board and one of the founders of the Historical Museum, was employed by the Rosicrucian Press in San Jose for 37 years. During that time he produced hundreds of books. After retirement, he founded the Harlan-Yang Press and continued to produce books and booklets for interested individuals.

At this seminar, which will be limited to 20 people, Theron will help you focus on the target audience for your publication, give you guidance in writing and editing your manuscript, select a printer, understanding costs and managing the difficulties of promotion.

You will learn not only through Theron, but also from the experiences and questions of the other seminar participants. The cost of the seminar will be $10.00 for members of the SJHMA and $15.00 for non-members. Coffee and refreshments will be served and helpful handouts provided. To reserve your place, detach the coupon below and send it with your check or cash to: San Jose Historical Museum Association, 100 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. Attn: Kathleen Muller.

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"HOW THE WEST WAS WORN"

Circle March 15 on your calendar for a very special Vintage Reflections Workshop in the Firehouse from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. Barbara Murray, who is on the faculty of Santa Clara University, will present "How The West Was Worn," a slide lecture and demonstration on the clothing of the early California emigrants. Dr. Murray just completed an extensive research project on her aubhstical last year. She visited museums and private collections in the California gold country to study the clothing of the "49ers." She will also share with us patterns and design information. Please plan to attend this important and informative program. Everyone is welcome!
only did it diminish imports of French wine thereby opening new markets for the California product, but it convinced a young Frenchman named Paul Masson to seek his fortune in San Jose.

Masson, who originally came to San Jose to study business at the University of the Pacific, became friends with Le Franc and his family, which included the three children Henry, Louise and Marie. Masson returned to France briefly before returning to help market Almaden Wines for Le Franc. It was while working for Almaden that the young Masson began experimenting with sparkling wines, eventually setting up his champagne cellars. Masson first worked out of Almaden’s business outlet at 165-169 West Santa Clara Street (the building which is now occupied by the D.B. Cooper Saloon) until he established his own outlet on East Santa Clara Street.

Charles LeFranc

Charles LeFranc continued to be a leader in the California wine industry until his tragic death in October, 1887 when he was trapped while attempting to stop a team of runaway horses. His son Henry quickly assumed control of the business. Paul Masson, shortly afterward married Louise Le Franc and became part of the family. Masson, absorbed in his own champagne operation, probably did not guess that someday he would control the combined family fortune, but that is just what happened when Henry Le Franc and his wife Louise Delmas Le Franc were killed when an inter-urban trolley smashed into their car on a county road. Their daughter Nelly, thrown from the car, survived.

Masson managed both enterprises right up to and into Prohibition. While most wineries went out of business during this period, the crafty Masson sold his grapes for juice and also became certified to produce sacramental and medicinal wines. The aging winemaker sold the operation to the Almaden Vineyard Corporation, headed by Charles M. Jones, in 1930.

When Prohibition was lifted in 1933, Jones, who had a large inventory of wine stockpiled by Masson, was ready for full production. As one might guess, a whole lot of inferior wine was quickly produced by start-up wineries. Jones, as a founder and first director of the Wine Institute, did much to establish standards to improve the quality of California wines.

After Jones’s death in 1940 the Almaden winery was purchased by Louis Benoist and Brayton Wilbur. These San Francisco businessmen revitalized much of the vineyard stock and began purchasing vineyards beyond Santa Clara County. Benoist, who appreciated Almaden’s traditions, had the old Le Franc ranch house restored in a French style, and then he hired the former Novitiate brother and winemaker Oliver Goulet to create many distinguished wines. Goulet’s Grenache is today in demand, with clever marketing, changed the nation’s drinking habits.

Another important member of the new team was Frank Schoonmaker, a connoisseur and wine author. Schoonmaker enlisted the viticulturists of the University of California in experimenting with grape varieties in areas of Monterey and San Benito counties. Almaden started the movement that led to the area becoming one of the largest wine producing regions of the world. During the 1940’s and 50’s Almaden won top awards for many of its wines and helped to make California wines serious competitors to the European imports.

In 1967, at the height of its success, Louis Benoist sold the winery to National Distillers. During their stewardship Almaden rose to become the third largest wine producer in the U.S. and by 1980 the largest producer of premium varietal wines. Thus, Charles Le Franc’s vision of making good, inexpensive, varietal wines available to all was fulfilled.

During this last period the management turned the historic property into a showplace. They built a lavish chateau-style structure to house their office, and added a banqueting room to accommodate groups desiring to taste the wines. Unfortunately the original Le Franc chateau house burned to the ground in the mid-1970’s.

All of this interest in the historic property ceased when National Distillers purchased part of the giant Heublein liquor cartel. Heublein chose to consolidate their interests by moving the winemaking and bottling operations to the source of their grapes. While this made good economic sense, it sounded the death knell to the past of Santa Clara County’s great agricultural traditions.

Plans for turning the winery and vineyards into an entertainment and tourist development are well under way. Most of the equipment has been moved or sold, but the fate of the historic 1860 and 1878 winery buildings is under some dispute. The site is a State Historic Landmark, and the winery buildings are clearly eligible for the National Register, but local housewives do not want the area turned into an historic park. They are interested in keeping only the new administration building as a possible community center.

It remains for the Historic Landmark Commission, the Planning Department and the City Council to assure that this premier historic site is integrated into the development plans. The contributions of pioneers like Charles Le Franc should not be forgotten in our rush into the future.

ARGONAUT MEETING
March 30th
7:00 P.M.
Presiding
Guest Speaker: Leonard McKay
Association Members welcome!
THE PRUNE PIT
by Bernadette Barton

If names like "Raisin Capitol," "Rice Bowl," and "Valley of the Heart" have been ascribed to the San Joaquin Valley in the 1950's, Santa Clara Valley could have been known as the "Prune Capitol" of the world. Most of the prune picking was done by Negroes. In the last week of our summer vacation in the orchards crawling on hands and knees, gaging on the dust, baking in the August sun, and picking the prunes off the ground might have called this the "Prune Pit" of the world.

After the middle of July, we watched for the first sign that the prunes, ripe and heavy with concentrated sugars, were ready to fall by their own weight. Their dull thud in the soft adobe sent up tiny smoke signals telling prune pickers the time had come.

Prune pickers came in all sizes and shapes. Willingness to work was more important than age. Anyone worried about how they looked didn't pick prunes. Anyone afraid of getting dirty found something else to do. But for me it meant some money.

The basic dress code was pants and anything old. We wore long sleeved shirts and broad brimmed hats because my mother was convinced that too much sun would have dire consequences. We were delighted when there were no old Easter bonnets around. It meant we were entitled to a new hat, a "Farmer John" type straw hat from the hardware store or a lady-like sun hat from Woolworth's. The price made the difference. We saved our old school oxfords for prune picking. Even if we had shoes most of our feet into them, they stood up under the wear and tear of crawling on the ground and saved our toes.

Everyone wore pants for the job. Old Levi's were best. Knee pads were essential. The leather pads that buckled on were expensive. We wore the homemade sewn-on variety. For the padding, my mother raided her rag bag for scraps of fabric. She cut squares and made stacks an inch thick, then stitched the pieces together with an upholstery needle and carpet thread. The outside cover was usually a piece of tough denim from a pair of a father's old Levis. The pads, sewn on over the knees of our prune picking pants, were there for the duration. By the end of the season, the pants were in tatters with prune juice and dirt and could stand alone.

Each picking paid by the box, $2.50 to $3.00 for each ton picked. The first picking, the first time over the orchard, was usually light. It was only the fruit that had fallen by itself. For the second picking, the trees were shaken lightly to encourage the ripe fruit to drop. When the remaining fruit was ready, the trees were "cleaned" for the last picking.

Our day started when the sun was just coming up and it was light enough to tell prunes from clods of dirt. In full uniform and armed with prune buckets and a jug of drinking water, we marched single file down the road. The heavy shoe pads on our pants flopped back and forth with each step like an extra pair of rag-doll legs. We had about a month of crawling in the dirt picking up prunes as fast as we could to fill as many fifty pound prune boxes as we could before dark. By the time we stopped for lunch each day, we were a mass of sweat and dirt. Our hands were black and crusted and had the choking smell of dusty prune juice.

For summers like this I got an aching back, sore knees, hands full of blisters, broken fingernails and not enough money to pay to get the red bicycle with balloon tires from Montgomery Ward.

The Prune Pit" was reprinted with permission from Glimpses of Then and Now by Those Who Lived 'Em, a collection of stories written by the Memoirs Writing Class, taught by Am Thompson and offered through the Santa Clara Adult Education Center. Copies of Glimpses are available through the Center.

ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL SERIES
A series of events entitled "Preview of the Cathedral" is being sponsored by the San Jose Cathedral Foundation this spring.

The first of these will be a poetry reading dance performance March 19 from 4:30 p.m. at 8 S. Market St., San Jose. The following month, April 22, a reception and exhibit of historic photographs will be held at the same location from 4-6 p.m. Watch for announcements of future events. For more information call 882-8397.

MYSTERY PHOTO
What's happening here? If you have a clue, please contact the Archives at 287-2290.

OLD MYSTERY PHOTO
We apparently started 1899 with a very easy photograph! The structure has been identified as the International Mineral and Chemical Plant on Monterey Road which became known as the "Accent" Plant. Thanks to the nearly fifty people who helped with the identification.

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA

WHEN: Saturday, April 22, 1989
WHO: Association members and their guests
HOW: Royal Coach Tour bus - leaving and returning to the Phelan Avenue parking lot of the Museum
TIME: 8:45 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.
COST: Members $15.00 (lunch not included)
Non-members $18.00 (lunch not included)

Come bring your camera and spend a day in old San Juan Bautista.

Our day will begin on the plaza, where we will be given an orientation by a State Ranger on the Historical Park. We will then have a self-guided tour of the many adobe and Victorian structures that line the Plaza. On one side of the Plaza sits the Mission San Juan Bautista, which was completed in 1812.

Like the plaza, Third Street is lined with 19th century stores and houses. Here amid porticoed haciendas and crumbling adobes are antique stores, a bakery, and restaurants. You may want to have lunch in one of them or bring your own picnic lunch and eat at one of the many picnic areas in the park.

Reservations for this trip are limited and refunds will be made only when there is a waiting list for the trip. Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association (SJHMA) and sent (along with the coupon below and a SASE) to the San Jose Historical Museum, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. Attn: Earline Shields.

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA: SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1989 RESERVATION CONFIRMED

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