MUSEUM DOORS
OPEN AGAIN!

Special Visitor Day
Sunday, October 4, 1992

Members of the San Jose Historical Museum Association are cordially invited to join in a special celebration of the re-opening of the Museum on Sunday afternoon, October 4, from 12:00 Noon to 6:00 PM.

After a closure of three months for construction of the street system and infrastructure, the Museum will re-open with a special free-admission day filled with activities for the whole family to enjoy.

The Museum grounds have undergone a major transformation, with wide new streets and intersections in the downtown area and winding country lanes defining the rural and residential sections of town. The trolley track has been extended and rides on the historic trolley car will be a featured activity of the day.

All Museum residences and businesses, including the Gordon House, will be open on October 4 with costumed volunteers in attendance. Food will be available for purchase from O’Brien's and additional food vendors, but picnics on the grounds are also encouraged.

Music will be heard throughout the day from the Bandstand, and demonstrations of blacksmithing, printing, woodcarving and spinning will be ongoing. There will be a variety of activities and games for children and displays of antique automobiles to enjoy.

The day will conclude at dusk with a special lighting ceremony when the Electric Light Tower and seventy street lights located throughout the grounds will be illuminated.

Parking is available in Kelley Park lots for a nominal fee. Additional parking is available at Phelan Avenue and Senter Road. Free parking is available at Boschlet across from the Museum.

HOTEL SAINTE CLAIRE
Benefit Garden Party – September 20, 1992

On Sunday afternoon, September 20, the San Jose Historical Museum Association will be the beneficiary of a grand opening celebration at the newly-restored Hotel Sainte Claire in downtown San Jose. The open house and garden party in the Hotel's interior courtyard will take place from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

The afternoon will feature hors d'oeuvres provided by Il Fornaio, the highly acclaimed restaurant to be located in the Hotel, and music by the Smith Debon Quartet. The party is being underwritten by the Mobeckashi Hotel Group, Il Fornaio Ristorante, Joseph George Distributors, the Redevelopment Agency of the City of San Jose, and the San Jose Downtown Association.

The entire ticket price of $50 per person will benefit the San Jose Historical Museum Association.

Members of the Museum Association received invitations in the mail during the month of August. A limited number of tickets are still available by calling the Association office at 287-2500. Advance reservations are required.

Bus Trip to John Muir Historic Site. Details on page 4.
Great Time to Start Volunteering

With all of these improvements and our facility and programs growing, this is a great time to get involved in the Historical Museum by volunteering. In 1991 volunteers gave over 70,000 hours. They all had fun and they keep coming back. If you would like to get involved as a volunteer call the San Jose Historical Museum and ask for the Volunteer Coordinator who will be happy to schedule you to one of our orientations. It's a great way to meet people, explore an existing talent, learn a new skill, and make a contribution to our growing institution.

Mignon Gibson
Museum Director

FROM THE EDITOR

What should have been a quiet summer at the San Jose Historical Museum turned into quite an active period of planning for the Museum's growth and development.

Members of the Association's Board of Directors have been involved in a variety of discussions with City staff in the last few months to find better collection storage facilities, update the existing Museum master plan, identify new funding sources for projects and ongoing operations, and plan for the operation of the Peralta Adobe-Fallen House complex downtown.

The San Jose Historical Museum and the Museum Association together seem to be poised at the threshold of another exciting period of growth in the months ahead. The completion of our street system sets the stage for greater accomplishments, and we are blessed with the help of many individuals of extraordinary talent and generosity. I am constantly amazed at the amount of time they are willing to give to serve this community and to see the Museum become a recognized educational and visitor attraction.

This is an exciting time to be a member of the San Jose Historical Museum Association. Our schedule allows, I would suggest you might also want to volunteer to become more involved. There are many areas where you will find a range of talents can be utilized, and you will surely be inspired by the other people you meet who have so much to share.

Kathleen Muller
Administrator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Association Goals
How quickly time flies...especially when you are having fun. Already we are more than halfway through 1992. I'm pleased to say that we have accomplished most of the Nominating Committee's agenda as listed for this year. Our major accomplishments include: 1) a very successful Membership drive; 2) encouraging the City to study the feasibility of acquiring the Benbrook Facility, in part to resolve the Museum's long-term storage and exhibit space; 3) Adoption of the Central School as a site for SJUSD's Adopt-A-School Program; 4) increasing the visibility of the Museum through the print media; 5) successfully addressing the good press about the streets project; 5) working with the Museum Director to establish a process for updating the Museum's Master Plan; and (6) the almost complete possibility of the Association's involvement in the Peralta-Fallen complex downtown.

Almost all of these accomplishments are "Dynamic" in that they are goals that we are continuing to work on. In the next newsletter, I hope to be able to report to you on the last two items, in particular, since they are very exciting efforts.

Nominating Committee Report
Your San Jose Historical Museum Association is growing and changing in ways that require periodic changes in our By-laws. The changes shown on page 8 in the newsletter are proposed by the Nominating Committee and are believed to be in keeping with the future direction of the Association. To this end the Board makeup is being changed. Most importantly we believe that the Board's composition should reflect our Member's increasing ethnic diversity. The election of our new Board members is evidence of this commitment.

Many thanks to Trish Newfarmer, Parliamentarian, and the members of her Nominating Committee for their many hours of hard work.

Gerry DeYoung
Association President

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FIRST AND ST. JAMES STS.

SAN JOSE, CAL.

President's Message

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Gerry DeYoung
Association President

The purpose of the San Jose Historical Museum Association is to support the San Jose Historical Museum through Association membership, fundraising, educational and volunteer services, and the development of the image of the Museum in the community.

Kathleen Muller
Executive Editor
Mignon Gibson, Cali & Going, Inc.
Carolyn Gip Gagnon, Assistant Editor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Gerry DeYoung, Joseph Melkonian, Victor Gianouche, Brian Lasseter, Patricia Noonan Newcomb, Tom Compton, James Ousada, Pamela Almond, Gloria Steen, Alice Ewan, Louise Evans, Jean Barrett, Laurel Person, James Beall, Jr., David Carpenter, Sharon Howden, Yvonne Hnil, Mary Ellen Brown, Brian Starkey, John Luckhardt, Steven Cox.

ADVISORY BOARD: John Lockhardt, Dwight Bestott, Brian C. Davis, Jack Dillaha, Frank Freiden, Thomas Fox, Lillian Gey-Guy, Mary Gottschalk, Gloria Hrom, Patricia Bull Maloney, M. John Pierce, Bruce Paul, Ira Helms, B. James Watsor, Kathleen Muller, Michael M. Almond, James Zettarzick.

CONTRIBUTORS: Gerry DeYoung, Jack Douglas, Louise Evans, Alice Ewan, Carolyn Gagnon, Mignon Gibson, James Lyman, Leslie Mason, Kathleen Muller, Judge Jack Howard, Jerry Hines, Larry Mages.

The San Jose Historical Museum Association News is published by the San Jose Historical Museum and supported by contributions from the San Jose Historical Museum Association, the City of San Jose, and the San Jose Historical Museum.

The San Jose Historical Museum Association includes members from the San Jose Historical Museum Association.

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Solid Brass Antique Reproductions—over 900 rare items including: hardware such as handle sets, Bails and Knobs, Door Plates, and even Glass, for antique furniture & Victorian reproduction door plates and knobs for the restoration of vintage homes, also Window Hardware, Locks for furniture & doors, & even some antique lighting. Be sure to look in the antique section of the phone directory for details. Brass fixtures for kitchen and bath, Solid brass backplates. Stair rods to hold draperies on staircases, Solid brass lamp posts. Brass repro, lighting and even some antique lighting are available. A Full Color Catalog, for mail order, is just $2.00, or come see us. Supplier of brass hardware used on the restoration of the Antique Trolley—restored in San Jose. So, you know car quality is one of the best.

Sales: 191 Lost Lake Lane (off Dell Avenue), Campbell, Phone: 408-246-1962

Contributors:
Gerry DeYoung, Jack Douglas, Louise Evans, Alice Ewan, Carolyn Gagnon, Mignon Gibson, James Lyman, Leslie Mason, Kathleen Muller, Judge Jack Howard, Jerry Hines, Larry Mages.
DOCENT REPORT

How does a docent use time away from his or her volunteer duties? Looking forward to the Fall opening of the Museum, many docents have taken advantage of opportunities to broaden their experience, enhance their skills and develop more understanding of the museum visitor.

Viewing the role of docent in relation to the disabled visitor was the focus of an interivew presented by GRASP Foundation and funded by the Museum Association. A panel of four people, who have had to overcome special challenges, demonstrated how they have been able to reach their potential. The openness and frankness with which they shared their experiences developed an awareness of their achievements in all listeners. To apply what we learned, docents, in meeting visitors who are disabled, should consult with the person regarding any special help that they may need rather than making assumptions about his or her capabilities and limitations. A simple question, "How may I help you?" should give the docent the guidance necessary to make the tour successful.

A discussion led by Patricia Muson of "Dimensions in Discovery" revealed the motivating factors which propelled people into volunteering at the Museum. The rewards and pleasure of sharing their interest in local history with adults and children can be enhanced by improving relationshios. Honest communication, taking responsiblity for difficult situations, and not losing emotional energy by procrastinating are all suggestions for finding fulfillment in volunteering.

Inspired by new ideas and energized by a summer break, Museum docents are ready for a grand re-opening and a full season of activity at the San Jose Historical Museum.

Alicelee Bean
Docent President

MUSEUM AUXILIARY

The Volunteer Recognition Bar-B-Que/Potluck Picnic on August 15 was held to honor all the Auxiliary, Docent, and Board Volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the Museum. The following Auxiliary volunteers were recognized for five years of service to the Museum:

Jim Boyden
Virginia Boyle
Gerry Bonacorso
Dick Breitenbinder
Dolly Breitenbinder
Jane Browstone
Bert Cass
Scott Daniels
Barbara DeWitt
Carol Feist
Nidia Fonseca
Howard Frazee
Mac Gaddis
Scott Gerken
Pat Greives
Bermuda Gross
Chuck Hawkins
Anne Louise Heigh
J.C. Holmes
Don Hensing
Chuck Hopkins
Colleen Kelley

We are proud to honor our forty-eight volunteers who represent one quarter of our corps of Auxiliary members!

Louise Evans
Auxiliary President

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Columbus and After: Rethinking the Legacy

In July the San Jose Historical Museum participated in the campaign, "Columbus and After: Rethinking the Legacy," a traveling chau-

taxa sponsored by the California Council for the Humanities and the Oregon Council for the Humanities, commemorating the Columbusquincentennial.

The main programs at Santa Clara University were presentations wherein various scholars took on the persons of historical characters: Columbus, Father Junipero Serra, Jessie Benton Fremont, and Antonio Carra, to bring history alive through the dramatization of each histori-
cal person. Each presentation was followed with a "stepping out" of character for each scholar to discuss the impact and the understanding of these semiannual historical individuals on today's world.

The concept of "commemoration" rather than "celebration" was an integral facet in the approach to this program. History, as traditionally taught, is from one viewpoint and rather simplified. We all learn major dates and events by rote; however, life is not that simple and neither are the people who created history. To make history come alive is to encounter the conflict, individual personalities, and social and political issues, and to understand the impact not only historically but as we perceive it in the Twentieth Century.

This dialogue continues and underlines the concerns we share today. The understanding of actions and people must be considered in the light of the entire panorama of our historic expe-

rience.

Leslie Musonoglu
Archivist

IN THE COLLECTIONS

Fall Public Education Programs

The Collections and Archives programs at the Museum are charged with the care and preservation of our historic objects and documents. Included in this is an educational role. Fall at the Museum will include workshops and lectures to educate the public on the care and identification of their personal collections. The workshop series focuses on family collections. The lecture series covers topics relating to the Aesthetic Movement.

Family Collections Workshops

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., September 12, October 3, and November 13, 2009. These workshops will provide hands-on training in identifying, evaluating, and caring for family collections. Cost is $25 per family.

Lecture Series

California Painter 1955

November 10
No. $ 15
Subtotal $ 15

Identification of Art Glass 1922

November 17
No. $ 15
Subtotal $ 15

History of Fashion 1919

November 24
No. $ 15
Subtotal $ 15

Total Due $ 45

Payment Options

Check: Please mail checks payable to: San Jose Historical Museum

Cash: Payment on the day of the program.

Registration Form

Name
Address
Day Telephone
Family Workshops

Scrapbook 9/26
No. $ 15
Subtotal $ 15

Family Threads 10/7
No. $ 15
Subtotal $ 15

Family Tales 11/7
No. $ 15
Subtotal $ 15

Subtotal $ 45

Lecture Series

California Painter 1955

November 10
No. $ 15
Subtotal $ 15

Identification of Art Glass 1922

November 17
No. $ 15
Subtotal $ 15

History of Fashion 1919

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Check: Please mail checks payable to: San Jose Historical Museum

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INTRODUCING JOHN LUCKHARDT

With a bird's-eye view of the construction cranes and the extensive work associated with the San Jose Sharks stadium, John Luckhardt scans the San Jose skyline from his 11th floor office in the original Bank of America building. John is a Certified Public Accountant and active community servant.

In addition to serving this year as Chairman of the Advisory Board on the Museum Association's Board of Directors, John is active in the Sempervirens Fund, seeking to obtain preservation funds for adding land to Big Basin and Castle Rock State Parks. The Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation benefits from John's current work as chair of fundraising efforts. He is an active Kiwanian and past district officer and, certainly, there are not many others who can tout that they have over thirty years of perfect attendance at Kiwanis meetings.

John is a native San Josean who attended Hester, Hoover and Lincoln schools. Though John first graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in Chemistry, he never put it to use — instead giving three years of service as an Air Force pilot, flying cargo in Europe, North Africa and the Far East.

When John returned from his tour with the Air Force he enrolled in the MBA program at Stanford. While in Palo Alto he met his wife Carol, from Spokane, on a blind date to play miniature golf with fellow students. While neither John nor Carol turned into golfers, they found many other things in common and have been married 16 years. Now, Carol and John collect history books, love to garden and to hike, particularly enjoying Big Basin or the Yosemite Panoramas Cliff trail. He and Carol regularly attend Civic Light Opera performances such as "Cinderella," and occasionally dine at historic Henry's Hi-Life.

John has demonstrated a steadfast interest in local history and was a member of the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission in the seventies. He originally served as the Museum Association's Board President from 1975-1977 during the days when he says, "the warehouses were the Museum and volunteers were doing the painting and the curation of displays." John appreciates the Museum and the community of San Jose, which he remembers as a town where his father, an attorney, could address by name everyone he encountered on the street. His mother's family, the Downs, settled in English-town in Almaden and later began the Keystone Coffee Company. Terry Graff, Marty Lion and Bonnie Bamburg called his attention to the Museum Association's annual "Stable Stomps" in the '70s and the Museum has had John's attention ever since.

John points out that volunteering and charitable giving are uniquely American characteristics — good ones! Senior citizens are an excellent resource needing to be tapped more because of their unbeatable talents. San Jose has been good to the Luckhards and, therefore, John is not at all embarrassed to ask others to volunteer or to invest in their community by giving money on behalf of the Museum or other service groups. He thinks it admirable, for example, that Mrs. Kristina DeLuz chose to will her home and the proceeds from the sale of her property to allow for restoration of the home as a location for the Museum's textile exhibit and Vintage Reflections costume rental shop.

Additionally, John stresses that people should not discard historical papers and objects which may have importance to the Archives and Collections: the substance with which to tell San Jose's story.

Upon retirement, John is thinking about becoming a Museum docent. Activities for youngsters interest Carol, too, for Carol helps the Children's Hospital at Stanford by raising funds at The Thrift Shop.

Places that bring people together and improve the quality of the community will always have John's support. Bringing more recognition to the San Jose Historical Museum is a priority to John Luckhardt; his interest speaks well of the objectives of the Museum Association and its members.

VINTAGE REFLECTIONS GOES TO THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY FAIR

In July and August volunteers helped to keep the public aware of opportunities and changes at the Historical Museum. Below Pat Koenney and Pauli Brunni catch their breath after setting up the booth with the help of Russell Baker and Shawn Severinson of James Lick High School.

Association Board President Gerry DeYoung and Vintage Reflections volunteers receive recognition for participation in the Fair at a ceremony pictured below. (Also see photo on page 3).
ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS
During the months of July and August 1992, contributions were made to the Museum Association’s Endowment Fund/Special Projects Fund in honor of the following individuals:

In Memorials:
- Joseph DeCle
- Betty Farrell
- William Friend
- Percy Francis Gardiner
- Dean Gilbert
- Shirley May Gauld
- Carrie Helms
- Robert Hunsicker
- George Mesunaga
- Matilda Antonia Smith

Celebrations:
- 90th Birthday of Opal Kubik
- Birthday of Ernie Noble

In Honor:
- Trolley Volunteers
- Julie Pifer
- South Valley Women’s Exchange
- 1990 Docents Class

Gifts to the San Jose Historical Museum Association to honor someone on a special occasion, or as a memorial, may be sent to the San Jose Historical Museum Association Endowment Fund, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112. A letter of acknowledgment will be sent to the person being honored or the family of the deceased.

In the Aftermath

Harry Farrell signs his book for over 100 Fairmont Hotel guests.

One of the most interesting portions of Harry Farrell’s book Swift Justice, is “Aftermath.” What was the later effect of San Jose’s 1933 lynching? What happened to the people who were involved? My special interest was, of course, in the legal arena. Farrell fanned the flames of my curiosity with his reference on page 274 to District Attorney Fred L. Thomas’ (no kin) being “less than one year away from a bid for reelection — something he wanted badly.” Was there opposition at that election? Was the lynching an issue?

An inspection of microfilm of the San Jose Mercury News indicates prior to the primary election of August 1934 leads me to venture answers. Yes, the election was contested, and, no, the lynching — at least on the surface — was not an issue.

The challenger was Earl G. Girvin, a University of California and Boalt Hall Law School graduate who had seen action with the U.S. Army in the front lines during World War I. Here is Girvin’s ad that appeared in the Mercury on Sunday, August 25, 1934:

ELECT A FULL TIME DISTRICT ATTORNEY

EARL R. GIRVIN

For the Following Reasons

1. He will abolish private business for private fees in the District Attorney’s office, and will devote all of the time to the people’s business. This will unquestionably bring increased efficiency and economy.
2. He will speed up criminal prosecutions which for many years have been notoriously sluggish in our county.
3. He will personally appear in court and take active charge of the People’s case in every major criminal trial. This is the present incumbent HAS NOT DONE.
4. He will give the Sheriff’s office 100% cooperation in the PROSECUTION, DETECTION AND SUPPRESSION of crime.
5. He has demonstrated his courage and aggressiveness as special prosecutor in the Sanfilippo murder trials.
6. He will protect the rights of the Defendant as well as those of the People.
7. He is absolutely free from boss control or factional influence.

“GIRVIN FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY” CLUB

Referring to Girvin’s first campaign “reason,” members of the District Attorney’s office were allowed to maintain small private practices on the side until after World War II. This was very likely out of airing economic necessity. Take a look at the very last “reason,” number 7. Was this in effect an accusation that Thomas was, in Farrell’s words, under “the long shadow” of political kingpin Louis Oates?

The sale of the Mercury carried the final results of the election: Thomas 24,798; Girvin 18,588.

Thomas, who did not run for office again, passed away in 1938. Girvin later left San Jose, but I have been unable to find out more, except that he died in Contra Costa County in 1966.

Judge Mark Thomas Jr.
Advisory Board

SAN JOSE ATHLETIC CLUB
PLAN AN EVENT
IN HISTORY

Built in 1924 as a Scottish Rite Temple, the San Jose Athletic Club is available for catered events.

Enjoy this neo-classic historical site - the decor is unique, incorporating Art Deco and Egyptian styles.

Make some history of your own in one of downtown San Jose’s beautiful historical landmarks - the San Jose Athletic Club. Call the Catering Office at (408) 292-1281.

HOTEL REMINISCENCES

In response to our appeal for memories of the Hotel Saint Claire in the last issue of the Association News, we heard from Mr. James Lyndon, an San Jose history member who resides in Los Gatos.

Mr. Lyndon’s detailed memories of the Hotel have been forwarded to the San Jose Athletic Club management where they will be included in the memorabilia being assembled for the grand opening party on September 20.

Mr. Lyndon graduated from Horace Mann Grammar School, Roosevelt Junior High, and San Jose High School when it was on Washington Square. He graduated from San Jose State College (now University) and is now in the process of writing the history of San Jose as he knew it in the 1920s. He retired in 1977 from Valley Medical Center, Social Services Department, after twenty years of service at that institution and has since written a history of the old County Hospital.

James Lyndon is now eighty eyes of age, living in Los Gatos with his sister, Anna Claire Lyndon Baker, a retired ceramic artist. They are the last of the family of James H. Lyndon, an early Sheriff of Santa Clara County and Mayor and postmaster of Los Gatos. Their grand uncle, John W. Lyndon, was the founder of the Hotel Lyndon in Los Gatos.

In 1935 Mr. Lyndon worked as a model for Kerpenheimer Clothing. He modeled on Friday nights in the Pompeian Court of the old Montgomery Hotel, which was a popular spot for the college students of both San Jose State and the University of Santa Clara. He was also employed as front office clerk and convention host in 1938 for the Hotel Saint Claire. He recalls that the hotel at that time was in its heyday and many prominent people had permanent residence there. Often movie stars stayed there, as did ballet companies and musical artists when playing at the old Civic Auditorium and Montgomery Theatre across the street.

In excerpts from his remembrances, James recalls people who worked there and his father watched the rating of the Eagle Brewery, a large red brick building on the site of the Hotel Saint Claire.

As first assistant hotel manager he worked for John McEnery, the father of Tom McEnery, former mayor of San Jose. John McEnery later became owner of both Vendome and El Camino hotels on West Santa Clara Street. John McEnery was succeeded by Ray Dwyer, of baseball fame, as assistant manager.

When the Saint Claire opened there was a fountain which sat alone in the courtyard on large flagstones. A beautiful open courtyard in the atrium contained only the fountain (with gold fish) and tropical plants (like banana trees) along the border. White tables and parasols were arranged throughout the patio. Several years later the patio and courtyard were covered over and a dance floor was built. Carmel Dragon's orchestra, later of Hollywood Bowl Fame, played for the dances in the ballroom. The front lobby had a new wainscoted selling alcove, cigar and novelty gifts. In the center of the lobby was a large, round-red cushioned seat, and the marble floored walkway led past the alcove that looked out on San Carlos Street: a flower shop, barber shop, travel agency and gift shop.

During World War II there was a second-floor bar popular with the military officers. The big main lounge had a beautiful fireplace and big bay windows looking out at Market Street. The lounge was then closed to the public and used as a private club for the University of Santa Clara Alumni.

Below is a list of Hotel Saint Claire personnel, as Mr. Lyndon remembers them from 1936-1937:

Owner, Manager
William Newcom
Assistant Manager
Ray Dwyer
Steward
John Musso
Auditor
Kay Earborn
Bookkeeper
Martha Smith
Menu Printer
Doris Gentile
Payroll Clerk
Kay Earborn
Front Office Clerk
James Lyndon

Ben Andries
Rey Starkey
Walter Shoff
Phone Operators
Margaret Starkey
Olive Schroeder
Bell Boys
Walter Burton
Dick Johnson
Larry Bastian
Captain Ken
Coffee Shop Hoster
Maude Danneville
Coffee Shop Relief
Rita Demarco
Verna Osterloh
Waitresses
Fernie Nicholas
Mildred Hard
Waiters
Jim Visca
True Stemmel
Chief
Clem Lyndon
Bar Tender
Tony
Housekeeper
Anna Shaw
The San Jose Historical Museum Association is pleased to announce the selection of A Postcard History of San Jose as the 1993 premium publication for Association members. A Postcard History of San Jose was written by Leonard McKay, well-known local historian and businessman, and the late Nestor (Wally) Wahlberg. The book features over 260 picture postcards of scenes throughout San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley. The postcards were drawn from the private collections of the authors, as well as the collection of William J. Sullivan.

A Postcard History of San Jose will be 168 pages in length and 8 1/2 x 11 in size. It will be hardbound and will contain three sections of postcards in full color. This special book will be available to all new and returning members of the San Jose Historical Museum Association at the start of our 1993 membership campaign which begins in November 1992.

Funding for this publication was provided, in part, by Mr. Leonard McKay, the Stella B. Gross Charitable Trust, the IBM Corporation, and the Souris Reuss Academy of San Jose State University.

Membership renewal information will be sent to all current members of the Association in early November. Memberships in 1993 will begin at $35 for individuals and senior citizens, and $45 for families. All 1993 members will receive the postcard premium book as well as a subscription to the Association News, free admission to the Museum during regular hours, invitations to special events and a 10% discount in the Museum Gift Shops and Vintage Reflections costume shop.

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Rompe Bakery, Inc.
Royal Coach Tours
San Jose Blue Print Service & Supply Co.
San Jose Construction Company
San Jose National Bank
San Jose Water Company
Sobrado Development Companies
Stapleton - Spence Packing Co.
Sterne's Luggage
Table Top Meetings
Thelen, Marnin, Johnson & Bridges
John C. Ulrich & Associates
United Insurance Centers, Inc.
Valley View Packing
Western Sales Engineering
Western States Oil
Willow Glen Travel Agency
Winchester Mystery House
Richard Zlatkovich, Architect

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Chabbe & Son Inc.
General Electric
I.B.M.
Macy's
Tandy Corp.
TRW Systems
Westinghouse

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Santa Clara County Community Foundation
Stella B. Gross Trust Fund
Bourriress Academy, SJHS

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Kelley Park Rangers present
An Old Fashioned Summer Campfire
September 12, 7 PM

The Park Rangers will be having a campfire in the Kelley Park Amphitheater on Saturday, September 12, at 7 PM. The theme of the campfire will be the original inhabitants of the Coyote Creek region. The event will include songs, games, stories, discussions, and of course, roasting marshmallows over an open fire.

Please bring a flashlight and dress appropriately. The campfire is appropriate for all ages. There is no fee for the campfire, but there will be a parking fee for Kelley Park until 6:15 PM.

For additional information, call 277-5254.
HISTORIC FOOTNOTES OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY

by Jack Douglas

CAMP ALMADEN: OUR CCC OUTPOST

It has been almost 60 years since President Franklin D. Roosevelt launched his campaign to bring the nation out of the Great Depression. Among the alphabet soup of New Deal programs: NRA, WPA, TVA, PWA, etc, the CCC or Civilian Conservation Corps is, possibly, the most fondly remembered. In its relatively short life (1933-1940) over 3,000,000 young men were given an opportunity to work, improve their general education, learn discipline, acquire practical job skills and travel to other parts of the country. As President Roosevelt put it in a speech delivered on July 17, 1933: "Through you the nation will graduate a fine group of strong men, clean living, trained to self discipline and, above all, willing and proud to work for the joy of working. Putting to work millions of unemployed, unskilled and sometimes undernourished youth was the most obvious advantage of the CCC, but built into it was a welfare program to help the families of the enrollees. Each enrollee earned $30 a month, $25 of which was automatically sent to his parents.

The CCC camps were managed by the U.S. Army. Enrollees were formed into companies of approximately 200 men and were put under the supervision of military officers, usually a Captain assisted by a Lieutenant. Work was done under the supervision of the U.S. Forest Service and other conservation efforts were placed under the California Division of Forestry.

The Clara County camp (project 234) was established at Inspiration Point on Mt. Madonna in June of 1933. Although it offered beautiful views of the Santa Clara Valley, the water supply was not adequate to service a camp of over 250 people. The camp was moved to a new site in January 1936. These replacements were the men of company 739 from Missouri who would remain until October 1937. Camp routines and programs were established during their relatively long occupation. Under the command of Lieutenant J.G. Buddin the camp became a real community with its own school, library, athletic teams, clubs and a drama group that wrote and produced plays. Friedrich Kessler, San Jose artist and resident after his CCC discharge, was recruited out of art school to be the company artist. His main function was to document life in the camp and to present a record for officials in Washington. As camp artist he was responsible for doing the graphics for their award-winning camp newspaper, The Mt. Madonna Miner, which was acclaimed by none other than Eleanor Roosevelt.

The company was kept very busy during the fall of '36 fighting grass and forest fires from Mt. Hamilton to Aptos and the Pacheco Pass. The worst, that dry season, was near the Gilroy Hot Springs where 100,000 acres burned for 10 days before it was controlled. Besides the fire duty, the men spent whole weeks working out of base or "spike" camps at Mt. Madonna, Smith Creek, Aptos and Hollister where they built fire lookout towers, cleared fire trails, installed telephone lines and constructed ranger stations. After the fire season was over they had time for trips to Mt. Diablo, for the San Francisco Opera and for the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Almaden locals such as Connie Perham took the boys to their hearts and frequently attended the camp movies, plays and other social activities. San Jose groups - the Junior Chamber of Commerce for example - hosted social functions. One such, a dance at St. Joseph's School with music supplied by the WPA orchestra, was less than a success due to the awkwardness of the boys.

Several men from this company took employment in the San Jose area when they were discharged (two years was the maximum enlistment). They included, in addition to Friedrich Kessler, Robert Boston, Willibar Duke, Robert Pope and Donald Wood. One wonders if they, or any others, are still living in the area.

English Town in center.

Note: Friedrich Kessler has allowed San Jose State Library, Special Collections to make copies of his many Camp Almaden photos, artworks and newspapers, which added to the existing material in our collection and material from other CCC alumni will become a major source of information on the 75th anniv. of Mt. Madonna. The collection is not complete and further contribution could be added to the collection, please call the author at (408) 924-2715.

at Camp Almaden until November 1939 when they were transferred to Camp Rancho Solis near Gilroy in order to make way for the resumption of mercury production for the coming war effort. The spike camp at Inspiration Point on Mt. Madonna was turned over to the Boy Scouts.

The war and the need for workers of all kinds signaled the end of the CCC, but the boys who became men in its ranks have not forgotten what was for many a peak experience in their lives.

On Saturday, October 19, the local chapter of the National Association of CCC Alumni will dedicate a monument to the organization on Mt. Madonna. The National Association of CCC Alumni who supervised the construction of the monument, this monument includes a plaque and the original camp flagpole. It is made of local stone and the bricks from the old Englishtown store.

The CCC alumni in conjunction with the New Almaden Park Association are having a pleasant day celebration after the unveiling of the monument and it is hoped that everyone who has memories of Camp Almaden will come and share them for the record.

Mine Hill Schoolhouse

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Artwork and photos in this article are from the collection of Friedrich Kessler.

English Town in center.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SET FOR OCTOBER 27

On Tuesday, October 27, 1992, a short General Membership meeting will be held at 12:00 noon prior to the regular Board of Directors meeting in the Pacific Hotel meeting room. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the following changes to our Museum Association By-Laws and to present the Slate of Candidates for the 1993 Board of Directors.

It is necessary to revise our By-Laws at this time to remain consistent with State laws governing non-profit corporations and to be workable for our growing and changing organization.

If a majority of the membership present at the General Meeting approves the By-Laws changes, they will take effect immediately. Anyone with questions or concerns regarding the By-Laws should contact a Board member directly or call the Museum Association staff at 287-2290.

Only those items of the By-Laws which contain proposed changes have been cited below. Anyone wishing a complete copy of the existing By-Laws should contact the Association staff.

Proposed By-Laws Revisions

Additions appear in italics. Deletions are underlined.

Article II - Name

The purpose of the Association shall be to support the San Jose Historical Museum through Association membership, fundraising, educational, and volunteer services, to assist in the development and completion of the Master Plan, to promote the image of the Museum in the community, and to promote the preservation of the Santa Clara Valley's heritage.

1992 DATES TO REMEMBER

September 29 Garden Party Benefit 1 - 6 PM Hotel Sainte Claire

September 26 and October 17 Family Collections Workshop 9 AM - Noon Empire Firehouse

October 2 Bus trip to Muir House 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Leaving from Phelan Avenue

October 4 Free Museum Day 12 Noon - 6 PM Museum Grounds

October 5, 12, and 19 Lecture Series 7 - 9 PM Pacific Hotel

SLATE OF CANDIDATES 1993 BOARD OF DIRECTORS - SJHMA

Gerry DeYoung ........... President
Joseph Meliah .......... Vice President
Victor Gianncono ......... Secretary
Craig Minerweiser ........ Treasurer
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Laurie Fernandez ..... Public Relations
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V. Robert Garza .......... Member-at-Large
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Ken Pedro ................... Member-at-Large
Mary Redd .................. Member-at-Large
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