SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM
636 Phelan Avenue
San Jose, California 95112
287-2290

HOURS
WEEKDAYS - 10 - 4:30
SATURDAY - 12 - 4:30
SUNDAY - 12 - 4:30

EDITORIAL STAFF
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Something New in Los Altos

After considerable effort by the Los Altos City Historical Commission, "History House" will open its doors on December 1, 1977. The museum is the former home of the J. Gilbert Smith family, who settled in Los Altos in the early 1900s. The surrounding property was used for the cultivation of apricots until recently when the last members of the family of orchardists died. The museum is part of the Los Altos Civic Center and will house documents historic to Los Altos. The museum is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. It is located at 51 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos (415 - 945-9427).

President's Report

It was a pleasure seeing so many Association members at the Dedication and Picnic in the Park. Thank you to the Special Events Committee, Penny Lowe and Marty Lion, for their work at both functions. There were also many new faces, indicating that the general public is becoming aware of Historic San Jose. The Association Board of Directors feels this is necessary for our continued growth. Consequently, money for this fiscal year has been budgeted for a Public Relations Consultant. This position has been filled by Mr. Fred Ross. Mr. Ross did some promotion work for the Association during the past spring. Though his efforts, Historic San Jose has been featured in Sunset Magazine and local newspapers. The Board feels his work will be a valuable asset in promoting the Association and Historic San Jose.

The Association extends a thank you to Ann Whitehall and Don DeMars for their time and effort putting together the Association's membership publication — Santa Clara Valley: Images of the Past. The book is well done and has been enjoyed by all Association members. If you have not yet purchased your membership renewal or new membership, I urge you to do so. Please remember, your membership is what helps the Association continue its work within the museum complex.

The next Association Board of Directors meeting will be on January 25, 1978, at 12:00 noon. The Board will be discussing the next membership publication, fund-raising activities, membership promotions and social functions. This meeting is open to Association members that wish to attend. Please phone the Museum office for further information. Also available to our general membership is an Educational Lecture Series sponsored by the Association. The next lecture date is January 10, 1978, at 3:00 p.m. The topic will be San Jose's Chinese Community, presented by Gloria Hom, Instructor of History, Mission College. (Please read the article in this newsletter about the complete lecture series.)

Volunteers are still needed to help support the docent program, the gift shop and other volunteer programs at the Museum. If you are interested, please telephone the Museum office.

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Party and wish to extend to all members a Happy Holiday Season.

Jean Jensen, President

Museum Director's Report

Visitation Increases. The Museum's visitation figures benefited from increased news coverage in the last five months, affecting a 100% increase over last year's totals (5,286 vs. 10,287). With articles in PSGA's Progress News, a spot on CBS MWTW Evening Show, and various newspaper articles, more people are becoming aware of the Museum. To identify how our visitors became aware of Historic San Jose, we are handling out survey cards to each group or individual who comes to the Museum.

Kiwanis Club Donates Labor Funds. The Kiwanis Club of San Jose has approved a donation of $950 and the labor necessary to construct a pathway system connecting the Umbarger House to the Museum's existing street system. Working with Finn Jensen, a member of both the Association and the Kiwanis Club, members of the Museum staff will assist in the design and construction of the much-needed walkways.

The 1870 Umbarger House, opened in September, exhibits furniture and other artifacts from the Victorian era.
Shades of Yesteryear

How savvy are you about the sights and sounds that have echoed through the Santa Clara Valley? See if you are victim of "futuristic tunnel vision" (looking only ahead) by answering the questions below.

True or False

The Costaenos were monogamists?
How many of the following scenes were customary in Pueblo de San José?
Men playing cards and sipping brandy
Visits to the Mayor for repeated school hockey offenders.
True or False

Over 90% of the Valley's population used to be involved in Santa Clara agriculture?
During the 1850s, the state government paid to plant mulberry trees to encourage the silk industry in the Santa Clara Valley?

The answers to these questions and many tantalizing bits of gossip and information about our Valley ancestors have all been presented as part of the Museum's Educational Lecture Series for Docents and Museum Association Members. If you have found yourself to be a victim of "futuristic tunnel vision," please join us for more thrilling tales of yesteryear in the months ahead.

LECTURE SERIES FOR 1978

Tuesday, January 10th at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 8th at 2:00 p.m.
19th Century Victorian Decorative Arts — William C. Podrasky, Professor of Art, San Jose State University.

Tuesday, March 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4th at 2:00 p.m.
Turn of the Century Mass Transit: Cycling — Clyde Arluckke.

Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m.
San Jose enters a new century — Lynn Vermillion.

77-78 Association Members
The Board of Directors would like to thank those who have joined the association for 1977-78 and the '77-association membership mailing list will be even longer.

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Caulfe
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald D. Charge
Mr. & Mrs. Alphonse Nunziata
Mr. & Mrs. Allen H. Joanett
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Church
Miss Elizabeth J. Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. C. T. Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Ashmar
Mr. & Mrs. R. T. Kirk
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Kirk
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Kostler
Mr. & Mrs. Armand Kundo
Mr. & Mrs. Jack LaMotte
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Marie
Mr. & Mrs. Richard G. Lean
Mr. & Mrs. D. C. Ledyard
Mrs. John de la Garza
Mrs. Jay Skillman
Mrs. John M. Isherwood
Mr. & Mrs. Hugo D. Erlandson, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Draper
Mr. W. C. Shenran
Mr. & Mrs. John Dow
Mrs. Mary Lou Lyon
Mr. & Mrs. R. F. Turek
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald J. Twist
Miss Leona U. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Frank F. Turek
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph E. Woods
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald F. Valfy
Miss Lorraine Vermillion
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Vest Jr.
Miss Alice M. Verleker
Mr. & Mrs. Cerillo C. Vicker
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph B. Wilto
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Vogel
Mr. Forrest E. Von Donsten
Mr. & Mrs. Helen J. Walker
Mr. & Mrs. William Wells
Mr. & Mrs. William R. Well
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Whitl
Mr. & Mrs. William W. Wiens
Mr. & Mrs. Madeleine J. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Kathleen A. Younger
Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Zabiach
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick L. Zolezzi
Diane Holme
Richard H. Snyder
Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Chinchar
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Tanner

Tues. - Fri., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m., Sat., Sun., 1-4:45 p.m.

By The Way News

The firm moved to San Jose in 1907 from Half Moon Bay where its founder, Robert L. Knapp, produced his patented "eddyhill" plow that allowed a farmer to plow furrows on the side of a hill. With this invention, farmers could plow and plant fields that were previously considered unirtable. Knapp, an inventor as well as a blacksmith, also patented an improved wagon brake and a large power-beam hammer used with shears blades to cut the metal "blanks" for his plowshears. His products were sold throughout the United States with a large market in Hawaii. His descendants, Horace G. and Robert L. Knapp, vowed the company when it was located at 550 West Santa Clara Street. In 1934 the business moved to a location on South First Street, and finally to a site at 15 Margaret Street.

A replica of the South First Street building is being built for the Museum, which will house this significant collection for which we are indebted to Mr. Knapp.

Donald O. DeMers, Jr.
Director

Who's At The Museum

Mignon Gibson came to the Historical Museum through the Art World, receiving a double major in Studio Art and Art History from San José State University.

At the Museum since 1974 as a Museum Technician, the first person to be hired in the job classification within the City.

Her diverse jobs have included layout and design work on the recently completed Pacific Hotel logo, and the layout work on the exhibit layout for the Empire Firehouse. Mignon also works on the Museum's accessioning cataloging program.

Born into a military family, Mignon has traveled and lived in Europe where her father worked as a Nuclear Physicist with the U.S. Army.

Mignon's interests away from work include managing the Victorian Apartment House where she resides, horseback riding, and the careful feeding and nurturing of two pet white rats!