

When Patricia Loomis, known as Pat to everyone, joined the San Jose News as a reporter in 1943, it wasn't a typical job for a woman, despite her degree in journalism from San Jose State College. "All the men were going off to war again," Loomis said, remembering how she got her start. "I got a job right away, and I was lucky all the way. I never had any feeling that I was held back because I was a woman. I got on the paper and stayed there for forty years, even after it merged and became the San Jose Mercury News. It was the only job I ever wanted, the only job I ever had."

Loomis started writing church notices, articles based on letters from soliders, reports on frost and weather for the farmers—whatever was needed. Eventually she was assigned to cover the police department, City Hall, and other more exciting beats. One of her favorite assignments involved being snuck into the projectionist's room at Civic Auditorium to overhear supposedly secret meetings. "They never did figure out how I did it," she chuckled.

But Loomis is best known for her much-loved weekly Signposts column, which she started towards the end of her career, in 1971, and continued for ten years until her retirement. "Over the years I'd write little articles about city and county anni-

MUSEUM INFORMATION

History **Park**

Kelley Park, 1650 Senter Road San José, CA 95112 408.287.2290, Fax 408.287.2291

Peralta Adobe-Fallon House Historic Site 175 W. St. John Street San José, CA 95110

408.993.8300, Fax 408.993.8088

Administrative Offices Pacific Hotel, History Park 1650 Senter Road San José, CA 95112 408.287.2290, Fax 408.287.2291

www.historysanjose.org

ADMISSION

Free public admission to History Park and the Peralta Adobe-Fallon House Historic Site.

HOURS

History Park & Gallery Tuesday – Sunday, 12 pm – 5 pm

Museum Store

Tuesday - Sunday, 12 pm - 5 pm

O'Brien's Café

Tuesday - Sunday, 12 pm - 5 pm

Peralta Adobe-Fallon House Historic Site

Saturday – Sunday, 12 pm – 5 pm

Research Library

By appointment. Call 408.918 1054

Administrative Office

Monday – Friday, 8am – 5 pm

GROUP TOURS

To schedule a custom tour for groups of 10 or more, please call 408 918.1055,

PROGRAMS

Public Programs History Makers, Portraits of the Past, Family Days

School Programs

All school programs must be reserved. Please call 408.918.1050.

RENTALS AND EVENTS

Call 408.918.1055 for information

HSJ LEADERSHIP

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Exciting Developments

by Alida Bray, Acting President & CEO

After serving History San José for over eight years, David Crosson has left the Museum to become the new Executive Director of the California Historical Society in San Francisco. The HSJ Board of Directors has given me the responsibility of serving as the Acting President and CEO for fiscal year 2006–2007. David hired me in June of 1998 as the Director of Collections and Exhibitions and I have been actively involved in the Museum ever since. As my husband Todd says about my work, "it's not a job, it's a lifestyle!" And it is a lifestyle I absolutely enjoy and feel privileged to take part in.

On behalf of the Board, Staff, Affiliates and Friends of the Museum, I want to thank David for his leadership in creating HSJ's mission, vision and operating principles. I also want to thank him for expanding the Affiliate base in History Park, and for his focus on making the collection available to the broadest possible audience. Everyone at History San José is committed to continuing this important work.

This will be an exciting year for HSJ in more ways than one. Exciting because we are one of only 11 institutions in the nation being awarded the prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities grant; exciting because we are expanding access to the Valley's history through a new cell-phone walking tour and through Label Legacy, our second on-line exhibit; exciting because we will open Speed City, a major new exhibit that is nationally significant to America's civil rights history; and exciting because HSJ staff, Affiliates and volunteers will continue to serve over 23,000 school students and teachers, as well as hundreds of thousands of other visitors, through a variety of public programs. As I write, with my office window open, I am enjoying music from the Samoan Festival, yet another new group of friends discovering History Park.

But some of the real excitement will come in watching the staff and Board raise funds to support all these great programs! In accord with our City contract, City support will decrease by over \$122,000 this fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. And although the economy is picking up, corporate support is still down. Raising additional funds to cover this loss will take a real grassroots effort. We need member support now more than ever. Please help assist the largest regional history collection in the state, and the only museum dedicated to preserving and sharing the important stories of the entire Santa Clara Valley.

I can already hear you asking, "How can I help?" Here are a few ideas: help us honor Pat Loomis by attending HSJ's Annual Fundraising Dinner on June 22; increase your membership level and/or buy a membership for a friend; use the enclosed remit envelope to make a tax-deductible donation; remember us in your will; call Development Director Barbara Johnson for more creative ideas and sponsorship opportunities (Barbara incidentally has been with the Museum for over 13 years!).

I look forward to an exciting and challenging year. And I want to take this opportunity to thank our members—both individual and corporate—for their generous and continued support of the Museum.



This issue of *The Exchange* is sponsored by Roem Development Corporation

The 1906 Earthquake in San José

by Jack Douglas



Garden City Implement Company & Home Union Building, 61 South Market Street, San José, 1906.

When they retired to bed on the evening of April 17, 1906, the residents of San José could never have imagined how their world would be changed on the following day. Alas, some of them would not see another sunrise.

A violent shake beginning at 5:12 a.m. and lasting just over a minute caused many of downtown San José's most prominent buildings to tumble down. The heavy stone facades of buildings such as the Dougherty on South Second, and the Native Son's building next door, fell into the street, leaving the tenants with a shocking wake-up experience. A number of churches were severely damaged, including the First Presbyterian on Third Street and St. Patrick's on Santa Clara Street.

Considering the heavy damage, it is surprising that only a dozen people were killed in San José. The early hour of the quake proved to be a blessing, for had citizens been at their workplaces or out on the downtown streets, hundreds might have been killed. Many local schools, including San José High, San José Normal and a number of public schools, would have been deathtraps, as was Agnews State Hospital where over 100 patients and staff were killed.

Even so, the deaths, however few, were uppermost in the minds of San José folks who prided themselves on knowing their neighbors, employees and customers in this small town.

Most of the deaths occurred in large buildings downtown. Thomas O'Toole, up from Gilroy for a luxurious evening at the Vendome, died when the hotel's recently constructed annex collapsed on him. The Phelan Building at the corner of First Street and El Dorado (now Post Street) was the location of a dramatic rescue effort. The multi-story building, which housed the Hobson Clothing Store on the first floor, and the dentistry and living quarters for Dr. Warren De Crowe on the second, was flattened, dropping Dr. and Mrs. DeCrowe and Miss Stone from their living quarters on the second floor to the lower floor. Still in their beds, they were unable to move. As the San José Herald reported: The rescue work in this instance showed up some real strong manliness, the numerous ones making up the volunteer force worked with all their power and determination within them to reach the crying women pinned down in a mass of lath and brick and rafters ... a lusty cheer went up when workers

brought out the women alive and not seriously injured. Sadly, this was not the case for Dr. DeCrowe, who perished in the rubble.

The San José Herald further reported: Local Chinatown is a scene of chaos. The buildings are all brick and are either razed to the ground or totally wrecked. A Japanese, Mow Low and his wife, were caught in the ruins and were instantly killed No other deaths in Chinatown were recorded.

THE RELIEF COMMITTEE

On Thursday, April 19th, there was a mass meeting to "take action for the public welfare in connection with the existing emergency." Held under the joint auspices of the Chamber of Commerce and the Merchant's Association, the Committee discussed ways to carry out Mayor Worswick's request that food and shelter be supplied to those in need. Joseph Ryland stated that food and water supplies were adequate. Henry Doerr said that he could bake 10,000 loaves of bread a day at five cents each. All agreed that price gouging would be thoroughly condemned.

Also discussed were rumors that great hordes of refugees from San Francisco were about to descend on San José. Some committee members said that they would be welcomed, while others, hearing that San Francisco jails had been emptied, were more fearful. It was agreed that government troops would be requested to back up the local militia which was on guard around the cordoned off central parts of the town. Apparently the locals didn't take their hometown militia seriously, for Mayor Worswick had to ask them not to "denounce our loyal citizen soldiers as 'tin soldiers.'"

Trinity Episcopal was soon set up as relief headquarters; the Unitarian Church became hospital headquarters. The Jewish Synagogue served as headquarters for the building committee.

Earthquake, continued on page 5

HISTORY SAN JOSÉ HAPPENINGS

Speed City: From Civil Rights to Black Power Project



Bud Winter coaching John Carlos and other San Jose State athletes, San Jose, 1967.

History San José is proud to announce the launch of the Speed City Project. Organized by HSJ, Speed City: From Civil Rights to Black Power, is an indepth examination of American sport in an era that spans the aftermath of World War II through America's tumultuous involvement in Vietnam. The exhibition and companion public programs focus on the San José State College (SJS) athletic program where numerous student athletes became globally recognized figures as the Civil Rights and Black Power movements reshaped American society.

Because of the large number of outstanding athletes in its track and field program, San José State College became synonymous with the name Speed City between 1956 and 1969. Coach Lloyd "Bud" Winter produced 37 world record holders, 102 NCAA All-Americans, 49 NCAA record holders, and 27 Olympians throughout his 35-year coaching career in San José. In 1968, his athletes won a record five

2006 PROJECT COMPONENTS

August 10

History Makers: Speed City: The Roots and the Legacy

October 15

Family Day: Athletes United

October 12

Members and VIP Exhibit Opening

track medals at the Olympic Games held in Mexico City—more than any other university. Two of those athletes, sprinters John Carlos and Tommie Smith, made headlines around the world with their "Black Power" protest on the winners' podium.

While the famous clenched fist protest of Carlos and Smith is a fitting tribute to this era, the activism that characterized the whole of the *Speed City* program actually began in the late 1950s. The story of social activism on SJS campus throughout the *Speed City* era has not yet been told. This exhibit explores why San José State College played such a central role affecting political and social change, and looks not only at the Black athletes, but at numerous athletes of color and at the Coaches who influenced them.

This is a local story of immense importance that is conspicuously absent from most, if not all, historical accounts of California and specifically the Santa Clara Valley. It is also important at the state and national level as we tend to think of the Civil Rights Movement as only taking place in the Southern States. Yet this story, along with the story of Cesar Chavez and others, make California pivotal in the history of the Civil Rights Movement. Please help History San José, and guest Curator and expert Urla Hill, bring this story to life for future generations to remember.

A Harvest of History Debuts Online

From 1914 to 1970 the Muirson Label Company of San José served a thriving fruit production industry that included orchards, canneries, can manufacturers and canning equipment companies. Muirson printed labels—beautiful works of art in their own right—for almost every canner and fruit grower in the Valley of Heart's Delight. Today on the site of the company's plant stands Cinnabar Commons, an affordable housing complex and park, but the story of Muirson lives on through a new online exhibit titled Label Legacy: The Muirson Label Company at www.historysanjose.org. HSJ wishes to thank our Label Legacy sponsor Cinnabar Commons, LP for funding this innovative project.





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Join Us for an Old-Fashioned Fourth of July

Do you find yourself longing for an old-fashioned Fourth of July picnic with barbecues, games, ice cream and fireworks?

The History San José Fourth of July members' picnic will fit the bill—even including the fireworks!

Join us on Tuesday, July 4, for a traditional evening of fun. We'll provide History Park—a lovely, gated area where children can play freely—along with lawns for frolicking, tables for picnicking, and grills for barbecuing. You bring your own table decorations, picnic dinners and beverages (wine and beer are allowed) and enjoy a lovely evening!

Grills will be available to cook your own meats or you can purchase a hamburger or hot dog plate. We'll also provide trolley rides and lots of traditional games and activities for children. O'Brien's Café will be open to sell ice cream and candy.

We'll cap off the evening by watching the fireworks after the San José Giants Baseball game, which are set off just across the street. It's the kind of evening you may remember from your childhood, and a great way to build your own children's memories of idyllic summer nights spent with family and friends.



July 4th Celebration at New Almaden, 1898.

Members, to reserve your space, send a \$15 check per group of six (payable to History San José) by June 21, 2006. You may also purchase advance tickets for a dinner plate of hamburger or hot dog (indicate preference), chips and drink for \$5 each with your reservation. RSVP 408.287.2290. Not a member? Now's a good time to join and take advantage of great activities like this one!



HONOR PAT LOOMIS

Honor Pat's contributions at "Valley of Heart's Delight" event on Thursday, June 22. Enjoy a summer evening on the grounds of History Park: wine tasting, hors d'ouevres, live music, live and silent auctions, and dinner. Tickets are \$100; proceeds benefit History San José education programs. Call 408.918.1053.

Signs of the Times, continued from cover

versaries, things like that, and the paper would always run them," she said. "Eventually I said I'd like to do a weekly historical column of some kind. There were all these streets named after people who were early timers here, and I thought it would be a good idea to research those and write up the stories."

Signposts was a natural extension of what she had been studying for years. Loomis had always been interested in regional history, and had been taking classes and going on road trips led by historian Clyde Arbuckle since 1949. "Clyde was a really neat guy," she said. "He was very dignified but had a wonderful sense of humor. He was my mentor and great friend, and he was probably more responsible for me becoming an historian than anyone else. When he told you that suchand-such a thing happened at a certain time, you could take his word for it. I tried to be like that when I wrote my Signposts columns."

Loomis retired from reporting in 1983, but continues to be just as active in her role as local historian and preservationist. "We've lost an awful lot of the old landmarks," she said, "and that's too bad. They're never going to come back. I'm concerned that there are many people in San José who aren't interested in the history."

For Loomis, of course, the history is what's key. "The research was more interesting than the writing," she said. "I went out and met people and loved hearing about their lives and the old days. I've had a wonderful career and a wonderful life. I wouldn't change a word."

JUNE - AUGUST

HSJ Annual Fundraising Event: Valley of Hearts Delight Thursday, June 22 5:30 – 9:30 pm History Park. \$100 per person

New Online Exhibit Debut! Label Legacy: The Muirson Label Company June 22

See article on page 4. www.historysanjose.org/labellegacy



Collage from Ralph Rambo's scrapbook, "The Secret of Reach Appeal".

Member's 4th of July Picnic

Tuesday, July 4
Begins at 6 pm
See page 6 for more information.
History Park. Members Only

Family Day History M?stery

Sunday, July 16 Noon – 5 pm

Look for clues to the history of a Chinese American family's heritage while exploring History Park History Park. Free

Digital Picnic and Open House Saturday, August 12

10 am to 5 pm History Park. Free and open to the public

Family Day

Take the Quake & Shake Challenge

Sunday, August 13 Noon – 5 pm

Test your knowledge of the history of earthquakes in the Bay Area and how to survive the next big quake

History Park. Free



San José State Judo Coach Yoshihiro Uchida (center) stands with (left to right) George Harris, Jim Bregman, and Spartans Paul Maruyama and Ben Knighthorse Campbell.

SPEED CITY: THE ROOTS AND THE LEGACY

San José State College earned the nickname "Speed City" thanks to the outstanding accomplishments of its ethnically diverse track and field teams from 1940 and 1969. This History Makers presentation will herald the October 13, 2006, opening of the exhibition Speed City: From Civil Rights to Black Power at History San José. Our panelists will be Ben Tucker, a member of San José State College's cross country and track and field teams during the 1960s; Yoshihiro Uchida, who has coached judo for the Spartans for 45 years and has led the team to 40 of 44 national championships; and Urla Hill, Guest Curator of the exhibition. Leigh Weimers, a graduate of the college during the Speed City era, will moderate. This free event is held at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Almaden Expressway and Blossom Hill Road, in San José from 7 to 9 pm. Be sure to arrive early for a good seat.

Volunteer Recognition

Thursday, August 17 5pm

History Park. Volunteers and their guests

ONGOING

It's Our Fault Too! The 1906
Earthquake in Santa Clara Valley
Through December 31, 2006
Tuesday through Sunday, 12 – 5 pm

Leonard and David McKay Gallery at the Pasetta House, History Park. Free

San José City Hall Exhibits

Silicon Valley A to Z

In Full View: Historic and Contemporary Panoramas

San José: Generations of Innovation and Diversity

Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

New San José City Hall, 200 East Santa Clara Street, Free

SAVE THE DATE

Family Day

Antique Autos in History Park

Sunday, September 10

Noon – 5 pm

See vintage cars, steam and gas engines at work, ride a trolley, enjoy demonstrations of early crafts.

Hosted by the Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford Club.

History Park. Free

UPCOMING

Exhibit Opening! Zorro Unmasked

Mexican Heritage Plaza







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WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU?

ZULU TELEPHONE WIRE BASKETS

The Zulu people of South Africa have woven with grass materials for centuries but their traditional

basketry had all but disappeared in the area of Elandskraal. A

group of local Zulu women trained the community on how to apply a traditional skill-to a contemporary medium—telephone wire. The lost art form of Zulu basketry in the region has been reincarnated in these vibrant creations.



WEEKENDS FOR TWO

From cozy cottages along the rugged coast of Big Sur to remote retreats in the state's northernmost reaches, Weekends for Two in Northern California guides you to the

region's fifty best spots for romantic escapes. Along with striking color photographs, each entry is described in detail, making it easy to pick the perfect getaway.



TIME TO INDULGE

For those wanting to abandon the stresses of

everyday life, Beautiful Spas and Hot Springs of California is the ideal guide to more than twenty relaxing escapes. Beautifully photographed and well written, this book helps readers locate the mud bath, body wrap or hot tub needed to pamper and rejuvenate.

COLORFUL TOTE BAGS

No matter what your destination, these raffia woven tote bags with drawstring

closures and leather accents are a great way to carry your guidebooks and other traveling escentials. These durable bags are available in various sizes and colors.



FUN PLACES TO GO

Fun Places To Go with Children in Northern California is your ticket to family fun. This terrific guide is packed with 350 entertaining, diverse, and kid-friendly activities plus all the specifics grown-ups need to get everyone there and back with minimum fuss.

THE FRUIT SERIES

Half Moon Bay artist Diane Putnam began her fruit paintings in 1970 and has shown her work in galleries and exhibits in Japan, Canada, Germany and New Zealand as well as the United States. The Fruit Series in the Museum Store were painted especially for History San Jose.



History San José would like to thank all of the sponsors who so generously funded HSJ research and conservation, programs and products, and events and exhibits for the 2006 Fiscal Year.

\$50,000 - \$100,000

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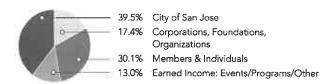
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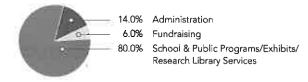
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Where Our Money Comes From



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www.historysanjose.org