Civil War Memorial, Living History Days Highlight Museum Activities

Two major events will kick off a summer full of activities at the San Jose Historical Museum. The Civil War Memorial, scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, May 28-30, and Living History Days, June 25-26, will both take visitors into the past with their re-enactments of 19th century life.

The Museum, in conjunction with the National Civil War Association, will present the first ever “Civil War Memorial” on the Museum grounds. Visitors will walk through recreated, authentic “Confederate Union and Civilian Camps,” and twice daily view staged Civil War battle re-enactments. This view into the past depicts an episode in American history that became a turning point in the pursuit of freedom and individual rights.

Over 2,000 costumed participants from all over the western United States will converge upon the Museum’s historic district and lower agricultural area to stage the event.

Added enhancements include guided camp tours, a Grand Battalion March, and an 1863 Ladies Fashion Show on Saturday. A re-enactment of an 1860s wedding and procession will be featured on Sunday. On Monday, Memorial Day will be celebrated with a ceremonial Memorial Day service.

Members of the National Civil War Association spare little in bringing 1863 back to life. Tents are made of wool and white canvas and cooking is done over open campfires. Even in the warm “California sun” soldiers wear authentic wood uniforms and women are corseted and dressed in their hoop skirts. The re-enactors convey an accurate picture of the conditions that were experienced during this important time in American history.

Plan to spend the day and enjoy the special food and the many sites and sounds that will accompany the Civil War Memorial. This year, the Times Newspaper Group will sponsor the event and will feature many stories and photos from the weekend. Hours on Saturday and Sunday are 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., and Monday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Admission prices are $6 for adults, $5 for seniors, and $4 for youth (4-17). Children under 3 are free.

Back by popular demand, the Historical Museum will feature Living History Days June 25 and 26. This exciting two-day event will focus on historic San Jose and “bring the Museum’s Historic District’s streets and exhibits to life with over 25 volunteers. There will be artisan demonstrations, agricultural exhibits, trolley car rides, children’s hands-on activities, antique cars, multiracial displays, an “old fashioned parade,” mountain men, costumes and dancing.

Living History Days started in 1979, and with the exception of 1992 when street improvements forced its cancellation, the event has been held every summer since. Families traditionally have enjoyed Living History Days because it includes attractions for all ages.

This year’s sponsors include KNTV-The San Jose News Channel, KSBY radio, the San Jose Mercury News, and new this year, Lucky Food Stores.

Come join the fun in costume, or come as you are. Living History Days hours are 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Admissions are $6 for adults, $5 for seniors, and $4 for youth (4-17). Children under 3 are admitted free.

Both events will be a rewarding experience for everyone involved. Look for more upcoming events at the San Jose Historical Museum this summer.

(See related photo, p. 3 and story, p. 6)

Hayes Mansion Tour and Luncheon

WHEN: Thursday, June 9, 1994
WHO: Association Members & their guests
TIME: 11:00 A.M.
COST: Members $25, Non-Members $30

Join us for a special tour of the newly-restored Hayes Mansion. It is opening to the public June 5 as a conference center, so we will be one of the first groups to see the restored Mansion rooms, the conferenceing facilities, and the landscaped grounds. A unique public/private partnership between the City of San Jose and the Renaissance Conference Center has made this restoration project a successful venture.

The present mansion was built in 1905 by Mary Hayes Chynoweth as a residence for herself and her two sons J.O. Hayes and E.A. Hayes and their families. The original family home, a Queen Anne Victorian, was destroyed by fire in 1899. Determined that the new house would not suffer the same fate, Mrs. Chynoweth instructed her architect to make the structure “fire proof.” He did, and so we are able to enjoy this wonderful 64 room, 41,000 square foot mansion today.

Mrs. Hayes’ two sons were prominent in local, state, and national politics (E.A. Hayes served in the United States Congress) and they owned what is now the Mercury News. Both men lived in the house until their deaths in 1942 and 1948. The mansion was sold by the family in 1954.

We will meet at the Hayes Renaissance Conference Center at 11:00 A.M. (there is plenty of free parking) and start with a tour of the Mansion. After the tour we will enjoy a buffet lunch in the new conference center dining room. Association member Nancy Newlin will give a talk on her soon-to-be published book, The Gem of Edenvale, the story of the Hayes family, the Mansion’s architect George Page.

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SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
1806 Senter Road
SAN JOSE, CA 95113-2689

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
Director's Report

Thank You to All Our Volunteers

National Volunteer Week was April 17-23 this year. The City of San Jose, in cooperation with a program they started and designed to coordinate and manage city-wide volunteer efforts in the support of those municipal services provided by the city, nominated the San Jose Historical Museum Association, the Docent program, and auxiliary activities. She was recognized at a City Council meeting on April 19. Starting at the Historical Museum, Laurel now serves her sixth year on the Board of the Museum Association. She has served as both the membership chair and public relations chair. Laurel has a high level of energy, is bursting with creative ideas, and is known for finishing what she starts.

Laurel has brought an enhanced level of public awareness to the Historical Museum due to her publicity efforts, and, in addition to the many major newspaper feature stories she secured, she was instrumental in acquiring a full-page spread on the Historical Museum in the PG&E Spotlight Newsletter that appeared in March. She also joined the Board in California. To many, Laurel is known for her efforts with the donation doll drawing that raised approximately $3,500 annually as part of the Victoria Christian Church's Mission In Action, which has helped to start a volunteer Garden Club in support of the Historical Museum grounds maintenance.

Laurel has been the face of the Museum because she represents the spirit and commitment of all of the Historical Museum volunteers. Please join me in congratulating Laurel and thanking her for making us all look good as a programmer. She has much interest and so many special touches to the Historical Museum program.

Laurel is only one of the 500 Historical Museum volunteers who annually donate over 75,000 hours of volunteer service. The Historical Museum is alive and growing due to the many efforts of our volunteers who do almost every job at the Museum. Each volunteer is very special and valuable. All of our lives are enriched by volunteers who make the Historical Museum vibrant and growing. I’d like to thank all of you who contribute in many special ways.

Don’t Miss These Exciting Times at the Museum

Memorial Day weekend in May will be the first time that the National Civil War Association will join forces with the Historical Museum in developing an outstanding event. This is a wonderful opportunity that we should be very different than the Living History Days that will be held again in June. Come out and enjoy the Historical Museum; bring your friends and family and help us to have a good time while raising funds in a special way. These events help balance the Historical Museum budget with all profits applied back to the Historical Museum. For the next year we hope to develop many new activities that will bring life to our grounds and celebrate history.

Migran Gibson
Museum Director

From the Editor

Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Opening: A Beginning

During the month of April we hosted a series of three events for our members and the general public to celebrate the opening of the Peralta Adobe and the Fallon House. Victoria Sivjan brought very positive reaction to seeing both the Fallon House and the Adobe was very flattering to the many people who worked so hard to restore and furnish these historic period houses. We now have the setting to interpret the early periods of San Jose’s history.

This is just the beginning! The next phase of our work begins now, as we develop the programs that make that history come alive.

Our very dedicated core of fine volunteers at the site will need to be expanded; educational programs will be developed; living history demonstrations will continue to be recruited; the site needs to be promoted as a destination for visitors and to groups interested in renting the grounds for special events. Over the next few months we will also be constructing the introductory exhibit in the cellar of the Fallon House and completing the accompanying introductory video. A Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Advisory Board has been developed to assist the Association’s Board of Directors in developing programs and policies for managing the complex.

And so it continues to be a very exciting time for everyone involved in the development of this project. We would welcome your participation. There are so many ways to contribute and so much personal satisfaction to be derived by becoming involved in a community project such as this. Please consider joining us as a volunteer at the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site.

Kathleen Muller
Administrator

President’s Message

April was a hectic and exciting month for our Association. We were pleased to participate in Museum Month for the first time. We were able to make arrangements to have the citizens of San Jose the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site to enjoy. And, we successfully conducted an enjoyable fundraiser at the Peralta-Fallon site.

Kathy Muller and her capable staff are most responsible for making all of this happen. But, you the members of this Association are also accountable. Without your financial, volunteer and emotional support, I don’t believe we have an Association, let alone such a successful one.

I know that you all appreciate your involvement with the Association, that is why our renewal rate for memberships is so high "historically." However, these past few months has seen a slower rate of renewals than normal. We are in jeopardy of falling short of our membership goal of 2,400 for the year. We need your help. Call a friend, a business associate or a relative and introduce them to our Association. May is probably the best month to show off our two sites. Bring someone to the Museum or to the Peralta-Fallon site and show them the rewards of a membership.

The last time I was in Santa Fe, I decided to do a little checking into how the Museum of New Mexico is operated, especially the volunteer side of it. I have been a member of the Santa Fe Museum’s Foundation for several years, and a good friend is a volunteer in the History Museum’s Library, but for some time I had not followed its operations. I suppose that serving on the Auxiliary Board and beginning to learn how our Museum operates gave me a shove in that direction. I know what I expected to learn, but I thought that I would visit the museum and investigate myself. Accordingly, I asked for and received an interview with the Volunteer Coordinator.

First of all, I have to point out some of the disimilarities of the Museum of New Mexico’s History Museum and the San Jose Historical Museum. New Mexico’s museum is a state-funded and operated organization; we are city-funded and operated. Santa Fe is a one-building operation (although the library is in a separate wing); San Jose’s has a living history museum, with many buildings in a sizable park setting. Santa Fe’s museum is in the Palace of the Governors, right on the Plaza; ours is not in the heart of town.

However, there are also some similarities. Both are history museums. Both own and display historical artifacts and both have textile collections. About a year ago, Santa Fe displayed the wedding dress of Laura Derrick, daughter of a prominent family who was married in the early 1840s. The exhibit also displayed an invitation to the wedding and a photograph of the newly-married couple with the bride wearing the dress on display. This information is an example of social history. I have been told that our museum has similar groups of items, unfortunately, the proper space for displaying them is not available.

All in all, the museums are not that different. Where they really differ is in their volunteer staff. The production of their latest class doubled their docent staff to thirty-three. In contrast, San Jose has a staff of two hundred and ten active docents, with a training class of thirty. San Fe’s auxiliary staff, at last count, totaled eleven, as opposed to San Jose’s almost two hundred. Santa Fe’s history library has one and one-half permanent staff and three volunteers; our Archives has one full-time staff person, and a monthly average of six volunteer staff members. I admit that none of this is revolutionary or unexpected, or even new. No museum can function without volunteers, and I have been told many times that the San Jose Historical Museum is unique in its dependence on volunteers. But seeing and hearing this first-hand really brought it home. I think that we should all take pride in our accomplishment.

Auxiliary Report

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From the Archives

T

he California Gold Rush was a watershed in the development of our history; as author J.S. Halliday so aptly stated, "the world rushed in," and California experienced phenomenal change, growth, and cultural exchanges.

The recent series of lectures in San Jose, entitled "Many Cultures - One Nation," sponsored by the Smithsonian Associates Program, focused on the diverse state of California and the expansion of our concept of "history."

The question arises, "Whose history is it?" and "What is history?" These are issues more and more critical as we focus on our personal histories; i.e. the neighborhood, the ethnic group, the family, and the individual. The kick off of the Schindler's List curriculum project points out the need to learn about historical facts, as well as the importance of recognizing fundamental concerns. The personalization of history is garnered through the sharing of experience and the memories of individuals.

How do we "mine" for these nuggets in the mass of data and experience available? What are we looking for? For one, we need to reassess our view-point of history, searching for commonality as well as variances. The current jargon - diversity, multi-culturalism, pluralism, etc. - has and will continue to change. However, the concept of the inclusion of everyone in our version of California's history is one mandated by the reality of the Twenty-First Century.

When the New Almaden Mine in south Santa Clara County first opened, it was not successful because it was being mined for silver. Later, when elmbar has become the primary ore, it became one of the world's richest mines. So, too, with our history, sometimes we have been mining for the wrong ore, but need to prospect for something else that will yield great rewards.

Leslie Masunaga
Archivist

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Jeanne Kondo............................Clerk/Typist
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Virginia Beck.............................Curator of Education
Fawna Ferguson........................Volunteer Support
Carol Provenzano....................Volunteer Support
Al Spivak...............................Volunteer Support
Wood Rehling...........................Volunteer Projects
Monte Duran............................Museum Events
Sarah Nelligan Nunez...............Curator
Nancy Valley............................Curator
Fred Bennett...........................Trolley Barn Manager

ASSOCIATION STAFF

Kathleen Muller........................Administrator
Barbara Johnson.........................Development Director
Judy Stabile.............................Peralta-Fallon Director
Judith Tomson..........................Administrative Assistant
Dan Bingham............................Public Relations & Programs
Carol Ouellette........................Bookkeeper
Margaret Anderson.....................Membership Secretary
Toni Evans...............................Shops Manager
Susan Miller............................Shops Scheduler/Supervisor
Kindra Donald........................Shops Supervisor
Jill Peterson............................Vintage Reflections Manager

"Wash Day" was developed by volunteer under the direction of the Museum curators. It will be on display until August 1994. Scheduled to follow is an exhibit using items from a collection of scale models to illustrate the story of the Stephen-Townsend-Murphy party.

San Jose Woman's Club Celebrates Centennial

The San Jose Woman's Club will celebrate 100 years old (1894-1994) this year. To celebrate the event, a centennial gala will be held on Saturday, June 4 at the San Jose Woman's Clubhouse. The feature of the day will be the presentation of the Goodwill "Elegance of Yesterday" show. Authentic gowns from the years 1860 through 1950 will be modeled. The gala will start at 7 p.m. The San Jose Woman's Clubhouse is located at 75 S. Eleventh St. in San Jose. A reception will follow the show.

Tickets are $25 and can be obtained by calling Jeanice Owens, Chairman of the Centennial Gala, at (408) 294-8749.

In the Collections

"The one privilege of rich and poor alike is clean clothes."

S

o begins a 1925 pamphlet, "Approved Methods for Home Laundering." In April, the San Jose Historical Museum began celebrating this homely task in a special exhibit, "Wash Day," displayed in the Pacific Hotel Lobby and Main Exhibit. "Wash Day" presents a selection of display items from the museum's collection ranging from the simple washboard to early versions of the electric washing machine.

The exhibit spans almost 100 years from the days of the Gold Rush to the early 20th century and depicts an obvious trend away from manual effort towards more and more efficient "labor-saving" devices. A copper boiler, hand-made washboard, and heavy flatirons testify to hours of back-breaking labor in a hot kitchen in the 1850s-60s. Sardirons with detachable handles represent the first laundry day improvement. By the end of the century, self-heating irons appear using a variety of fuels. Examples displayed include coal, kerosene and alcohol irons. In the early part of this century, as homes became equipped with gas and electricity, gas and electric irons appear.

The first step towards today's washing machines is represented by the hand agitator, which resembles a plunger. The first washing machines were cranked by hand. Two examples are displayed, one with a rotary agitator and one a rocker style, both c. 1900. An early example of a motorized washing machine is also shown. This machine was manufactured for G.M. Hansen & Co. of San Jose. Electric washing machines first appeared around 1920. The "Easy" model has an unusual agitator of three copper balls. The "Maytag" has a rotary agitator in the same basic form as used today.

For those who couldn't or wouldn't do their own laundry, San Jose's commercial laundries stepped in. San Jose's oldest laundry was the Troy Steam Laundry founded in 1894 at 722 Almaden Ave. Other early laundries were the Red Star Laundry and the National Steam Laundry. The Troy Laundry handled items from as far away as Watsonville and Gilroy. Customers shipped their dirty laundry via Southern Pacific to San Jose. It was picked up by oxcart and wagon at the depot on Market St., cleaned and returned via the same route. The New Almaden stage dropped off laundry from the miners and some laundry was even brought down from Lick Observatory. Troy Laundry used in 1964, but the building remained. When it was finally demolished in 1988, one of the commercial washing machines, a sleeve presser, and a laundry bin were acquired by the Museum. Advertisements, bills, stationary and other ephemera associated with Troy Laundry and other San Jose laundries are held in the Museum Archives. Selected materials have been photocopied to enhance the "Wash Day" exhibit.

Vintage Reflections Hat-Making Class

Learn to make historical hats in a three-part hat-making class taught by Costume Shop Manager Julie Peterson.

Classes run June 4, 10, and July 9, all 12:30-3:30 p.m. in the Pacific Hotel Meeting Room on the San Jose Historical Museum grounds, 1600 Senter Rd., San Jose. The cost is $39 for Museum Association Members and $40 for non-members. Hat making supplies will be available for purchase at the Vintage Reflections Boutique. Harry and sign up now as space and time are limited. Call 993-8136 for more information.

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The Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site was officially opened to the public with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 15, led by Mayor Susan Hammer and assisted by Jean Barrett and Javier Salazar. The 150 guests in attendance enjoyed a festive event with volunteers in costume, live entertainment, food, decorations, and tours of the two historic homes.

Food for the ceremony was provided by Fred’s Coffee Roasting Company. Music at the Peralta Adobe was provided by Johnny “Guitar” Gutierrez and the Fallon House piano was played by Susan Bingham. Balloons With a Twist donated, in part, a colorful balloon arch which stretched across W. St. John Street, joining the two sites together and providing an impressive backdrop for the ceremony.

On Sunday, April 17, approximately 200 guests attended the Association’s Fundraiser, highlighted by live entertainment, food, and tours. At the Peralta Adobe, guests dined on food provided by local San Pedro Square merchants and enjoyed beer donated by the Tied House. Johnny “Guitar” Gutierrez provided original music, and Arte Flamenco de San Jose live music and dance numbers.

The Fallon House grounds featured the music of Silverwood, who provided background music, and guests strolling through the tranquil gardens enjoying coffee, desserts and wines. The lovely Victorian table settings and flower arrangements were designed by Linda Herschbach and her mother, Evelyn Usovich. Inside the house, Chris Stoth played original Victorian background music while costumed volunteers guided visitors through the fifteen-room mansion.

All of the decorations, entertainment, food, and costumes added to the ambiance and character of the day’s events.

The public Grand Opening on April 23 turned out nearly 500 visitors despite heavy rains. Costumed volunteers facilitated tours of the two homes, and Johnny “Guitar” Gutierrez and the Aztlán Academy survived the wet conditions to provide music and dance.

On the Adobe grounds, volunteers baked bread and tortillas, cooked stew, and churned butter while assisting visitors avoid samplings. Visitors were also welcome to participate in the making of authentic Mexican paper flowers with Maria de la Luc Ugalde. Quilt making was demonstrated by Marlene Wilner.

An added attraction to all three events was the opening of the new gift shop, The City Store, which was fully stocked with books, paper goods, and gifts.

The San Jose Historical Museum Association would like to take this opportunity to thank all volunteers and participants involved in all of the Peralta Adobe and Fallon House opening events.

Endowment Fund DONATIONS

From February 22, 1994 through April 26, 1994, the Endowment Fund of the San Jose Historical Museum received the following donations:

In Memoriam:
- Lucille Pearl
- Sandra Livingston
- Grace Chiechi
- Allen Curtis

Gift From:
- Orchard Supply Hardware
  Larry and Karen Smith

In Honor of:
- O’Brien’s Volunteers

In Celebration of:
- Peter Daly’s Birthday

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 95112-2599. A letter will be sent.

THANK YOU TO:

Participating Restaurants:
- Hamburger Mary’s
- Peggy Sue’s
- Yanks
- Tied House
- Fred’s Coffee Roasting Co.
- Sizzler
- St Peter, Casa Castillo, and caterers Ron & Starre Furbeck.

Wine:
- Mira Noin Vinyards

Best: Tied House

Music and Entertainment:
- Susan Bingham, Chris Stoth
- Johnny “Guitar” Gutierrez, Silverwood, Arte Flamenco de San Jose, and Javier Salazar & the Aztlán Academy.

Event Coordinators:
- Earline Shields, Phyllis Daunton
- Volunteers and Other Participants:
  - Hana Strah, Rio Felmson, Marjorie Wilser, Cynthia Barnes, Ann & Mike Hearty, Tona Duncan, Bev Blochke, Franklin Maggi, Lori Garcia, Charlotte Carter, Jack Douglas, Ed Young,
  - Brian Laidet, Brian Laidet, Angela Edwards, Tony Young, Tony Young,
  - Sara Usovich, Maria de la Luc Ugalde, Margaret Andrade, Julie Peterson, Laurel Persus, Yvonne Head, Louise Updike, Robert Shields, Jack & Eric Dunstan,
  - John & Jean Thomsen, Fran Mosk, Evelyn Cannon,
  - Christy Riggins, and A-Z Nursery for the loan of plants.

Association’s Special Events Committee:
- Pam Allison, Chair, Susan DeYoung, Jean Barrett, Linda Herschbach.

Association Staff:
- Kathy Muller, Judy Stabile, Barbara Johnson, Tina Evans, Judi Henderson, Dan Bingham, Carol Ouellette, Margaret Anderson, Julie Peterson, Krista Donald, Susan Miller and the SHMA Board of Directors.

So many people participated in the Grand Opening events that we may have missed recognizing you. Please call the Association office and let us know. We thank you all and want you to know how much you are appreciated.

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- Wonderland Housing
- Richard Zemelko, Architect
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- Bradbury Foundation
- Brecourt Alcany, KSUSU
- The Valley Foundation
PLANNING AHEAD
Remembering SJHMA in Your Estate Planning

"Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from praise, but from doing something worthwhile."
—Sir Winifred Grenfell (1865-1940)

Provisions in Your Will

Including a provision in your will, insurance policy or living trust for The San Jose Historical Museum Association allows you to make a substantial contribution to the Museum with lasting impact. Shown below is some sample language to use should you choose to include SJHMA in your Estate Planning:

"I give, devise, and bequest to the San Jose Historical Museum Association, located at 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112, ___% of my estate; OR $ ___ dollar amount of gift or description of property; OR ___% of the residual of my estate."

You should consult your legal advisor about the best way to provide for SJHMA in your Estate Planning. If you choose to include SJHMA in your Gift and Estate Giving Plans, please let us know so we may acknowledge your generosity. Call Barbara Johnson, Development Director at SJHMA for further information at (408) 287-2290.

The Need for an Estate Plan

Estate planning is not just for the very rich. The more modest one’s estate, the greater the need to arrange for its careful handling and disposition. There is also a tendency to overlook the extent of what one owns. In addition to securities, a person’s worldly possessions include other assets, including: equity in a home, personal and group life insurance, deferred employee benefits, the value of a business, or real estate investments. The first step in every estate plan is the preparation of an inventory of personal data. This inventory includes the current value of all your assets, how they are owned, your liabilities, and names and addresses of intended estate beneficiaries. This also is the time to indicate those charitable institutions that are to receive a bequest in your will.

Without a plan, your loved ones are forced to pick up the pieces of a confused financial puzzle when illness strikes or an accident occurs. The toll in added grief and expense is immeasurable. We urge you to take the first step to activate your plans for your loved ones a special cause now. NOTE: This message is not intended as legal advice; for this, please see your attorney or legal advisor.

ATTENTION: Apple Computer Employees

We are in search of Museum Association members who are employees of Apple Computer. If you are an Apple employee, you can provide matching funds to the San Jose Historical Museum Association. All you need to do is look up matching grants information on your Hotlinks Computer System to find out what you need to do to start the process. This is just another way you can show your support of the Museum Association. Should you need further information from the Association, please call us at 287-2290. Thank you for your help.

Thank you Mohler, Nixon & Williams

The Association would like to thank the accountancy corporation of Mohler, Nixon & Williams for its 1993 in-kind contribution. Mohler, Nixon & Williams conducted the annual audit of the Association’s financial statements and prepared the income tax returns for last year. As part of that effort, the firm donated many of the required hours. Their contribution is greatly appreciated.

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 elements. 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) 299-1281.

A Civil War Encampment With San Jose Ties

General Henry M. Naglee (seated in center) left his estate to San Jose to serve in the Union Army during the Civil War. He led a brigade in the Peninsula Campaign and was wounded at the battle of Fair Oaks in May 1862. General Naglee is shown here with cavalry general George Stoneman (seated at right) and Stoneman’s staff during the spring of 1862. General Stoneman would later become Governor of California. Text courtesy of Jack Douglas. Photo Courtesy of SJNU Library Special Collections.
Confederate Raiders in San Jose

By Jack Douglas

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Californians were divided by their loyalties to the states from which they came. California, after much debate, had been admitted to the Union as a "free" state in 1850, so it was only natural that its established government supported the preservation of the Union.

Nevertheless, there were many in California who championed the Confederate cause. San Jose and Santa Clara County had a number of these "Copperheads" who met in secret societies known as the Knights of the Golden Circle. The local chapter might have been just another ineffective group of grumblers but had Confederate captain Rufus Ingram arrived on the scene in early 1864, Ingram was a well-educated, sophisticated Southern and a natural leader. He had ridden with Quantrill's guerrilla raiders when they invaded Lawrence, Kansas, killing all the men in town and burning 185 buildings. After this massacre Ingram had fled to Mexico where he met San Jose Jim Baker, who was traveling east to join the Confederacy. Ingram, who had a brother in San Jose, convinced Baker to return to California and help recruit soldiers for the South.

Captain Ingram's Partisan Rangers

Ingram managed to recruit about twenty local men into his "Partisan Rangers." They included farmers, carpenters, a blacksmith, and a former sheriff. Tom Poole, one-time sheriff of Monterey County, had earlier been arrested for treasonous activities in San Francisco but was released after paying a fine and signing an oath of loyalty (one he obviously did not intend to keep). Ingram chose Poole to be his lieutenant.

Another prominent rebel was George Cross, who had come to California with Fremont and participated in the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846. Jim Grant, the only criminal in the band, was more interested in satisfying his personal thirst for women and liquor than in the high ideals of the Confederacy.

The activities of the Knights were unknown to Santa Clara Sheriff John Hicks Adams, one of the West's most noted lawmen. His deputy R.P. Hall spied on a meeting in the hills near Saratoga and later wrote about it for the San Francisco Post. His gun accidentally went off while he watched and panicked the assembled Knights who ran off in all directions. Adams felt that he had no recourse but to keep tabs on the rebels until they broke the law.

Ingram needed cash to outfit his company for the ride east to join the Confederacy. When he couldn't raise the necessary amount he concocted a plan to rob shipments of silver being sent from the Comstock Lode in Nevada. Ingram, Baker and Grant rode to Placerville to reconnoiter the operation. While there, Grant got drunk and attempted to order some locals into the gang. This spoiled Ingram's plans, so the gang returned to Santa Clara County where they held up at the ranch of Preston Hodges, east of San Jose.

San Jose Threatened

Frustrated in his efforts, Ingram next decided that the gang would raid San Jose, loot what they could in the name of the Confederacy and hightail it to the south via Mexico. Once again, Jim Grant turned out to be a liability. He fought with George Cross over the favors of a girl named Katie, and the wounded Cross confided his escape plans to a local farmer. The sheriff soon got the word and prepared for the raiders. Ingram, who found out that the sheriff was waiting for them, decided not to walk into the ambush. Thus was San Jose spared what might have been another Lawrence, Kansas massacre.

Placerville Robbery

Ingram now decided to go back to his original plan to rob the stages coming from the Comstock. On the morning of June 22, 1864, the gang, consisting of Ingram, Poole, Baker, John Bouldeware, John Clendenning and Al Glasyb, led the Hodges ranch. For Placerville. Posing as prospectors, they took rooms at Somerset House, thirteen miles south of Placerville.

On the morning of June 23rd they held up two stage coaches carrying a combined treasure of over $27,000, much of it in gold and silver bars. Ingram informed the people in one of the coaches that he was a Confederate officer and that the proceeds were to be used for the Southern war effort, and he gave the driver an official receipt. A plucky seventeen-year-old girl passenger asked the Captain if he had a flag and demanded to see it. She cajoled and bullied the poor desperado, hoping that they might give information that could lead to their capture.

As they had planned, the gang buried most of the booty nearby, then they nonchalantly rode back to Somerset House. The local sheriff was soon notified and a posse set out. Two deputies were sent south to check the trail for signs of fresh hoof prints. They found some leading to Somerset House, followed them and inadvertently walked in on the gang. In the shootout that followed, one deputy was killed and the other left for dead. Tom Poole had part of his face shot away. Thinking he would die, the gang took his guns and abandoned him.

This gang eluded the posse and on July 2nd rested at a mountain top camp near Railroad Flat. During the night their lookout spotted a group of riders heading for the camp. Thinking it was the sheriff and not having time to saddle their horses, Ingram and his men ran off on foot. The riders were actually a gang of horse thieves who also frequented the campsite. They must have been surprised and glad to find a welcome fire, supplies and a group of horses waiting for them. It took the dispirited rebels a week to make their way back to Hodges' ranch.

Meanwhile, Poole, recovering from his wound in Placerville, was back in full confession, telling the local sheriff where the loot was buried and the men were who had deserted him. Back in San Jose, Sheriff Adams knew that in all likelihood the gang would return to the area. He didn't have to wait long.

Shotout on Almaden Road

Knowing that he dare not go back to reclaim the buried treasure, Ingram's fertile brain hatched another scheme to finance the gang's exploits. He had heard that the New Almaden Mines payroll was to be delivered from San Jose on July 15th. The night before, Ingram, Baker, Bouldeware, Glasyb and Clendenning arrived at the ranch of Edward Hill on Almaden Road. They made some excuse about waiting for a friend, and Hill allowed them to stay in a cottage nearby. The over-confident rebels, thinking Hill was friendly toward the South, told him about their plans to rob the stage. Hill passed the word to a neighbor who went directly to Sheriff Adams.

A posse including Adams, deputy sheriffs J.M. Brownlee, G.W. Reynolds and Fred Morris, City Marshall J.C. Potter, Constable Robert Scott, A. Bowman and three others surrounded the gang's cottage. The rebels came out shooting when Adams demanded that they surrender.

In the fight that ensued Adams was shot point-blank by Clendenning, but the ball struck his watch and glanced off. John Bouldeware and Clendenning were mortally wounded. Al Glasyb, whose gun jammed, decided to surrender. Captain Ingram and George Baker escaped into the hills never to be seen again.

The Finale

Before he died, Clendenning confessed, implicating Hodges and a number of other Copperheads. Al Glasyb turned state's evidence in the killing of the deputy at Somerset House. This left only Tom Poole to stand trial. Poole's defense was that he was a Confederate soldier and should be treated as an ordinary prisoner of war. The civil authorities did not see it that way and Poole was sentenced to hang. A number of his Monterey friends exhorted the Governor to commute the sentence, but Poole was hanged in Placerville five months after the war had ended.

The rest of the conspirators faced charges of treason, but after a series of trials or mistrials, all the defendants were released. With the coming of peace Californians wanted to bury the past and get on with their lives.

50 Years Ago: San Jose During the Great Depression

In 1934 San Jose was a large agricultural community in the middle of the Santa Clara Valley. There were over 6,000 farms with more than four million trees including prunes, cherries, apricots, peaches, pears, walnuts, almonds, and walnuts. Since Prohibition had ended in 1933, wineries were once again in full production. There were also many farmers and those associated with the agriculture of the area. Even with this agricultural activity, the income of farmers had declined from an average of $9,055 in 1930 to $7,965 in 1934, which meant an annual loss of $1,090, or 12.3%.

Food Machinery Corporation (FMC) on West Julian Street and other heavy industries were beginning to develop in the region and San Jose was gradually changing its emphasis from agriculture to industrialization. It was apparent that in spite of the depression, “The Garden City” was steadily growing and had a population of 61,973. Unemployment was still high at 21.7% and was influencing the local economy. Women began entering the work force to supplement family income and grew from 22% of the work force in 1930 to 23.4% in 1934. Industrial workers took 20% pay cuts resulting in an average hourly wage of 53 cents and annual wages of $1,120. Farm workers had to settle for daily wages of $1.90 or less and many families were living on one wage. The immigration of workers to the Santa Clara Valley came from all over the state seeking work.

Local restaurants, San Joseans could buy a hamburger for 15 cents and a cup of coffee or a glass of Coca-Cola for a nickel. In Safeway and Piggy Wiggly stores, consumers could purchase eggs for seven cents, milk for 2 cents a quart, cigarette rettes for $1.09, a loaf of bread for a dime, four bottles of beer for twenty-nine cents, and a pound of hamburger for seven cents. A gallon of gasoline sold for a dime, and a house cost approximately $5,972. Car buyers could find brand new Pontiacs for $715 or a Buick for $795.

Local evidence of FDR’s “New Deal” was the now new CCC Camps in Almaden where many enrollees worked and lived, and the construction of the new post office building on First and St. John streets built by the WPA. Charles Bishop (1934-36) was the newly elected supervisor and John Newton Black (1916-44) was the veteran Chief of Police. Chief Black had been involved in local law enforcement since 1902.

Since 1921, KQW was San Jose’s only local radio station. The “Amos & Andy Show,” “The Lone Ranger,” and the “Catholic Hour” were some of the most popular radio shows. The Daily Spartan began publishing at San Jose State Teachers College in 1934. San Jose Junior College was growing and providing excellent education for its students. San Jose High School, Notre Dame High School and Bellarmine College Preparatory were the only three high schools in San Jose.

The San Jose Mercury-Herald and The Evening News offered editorials such as Alphonse T. Allard and Alex Raymond’s Flash Gordon for the first time. The headlines detailed FDR’s “Alphabet Soup” legislation and the Civil Works Administration, under Harry Hopkins, which employed four million people and expended $950 million.

Movie fans could temporarily escape the rigors of the Depression by paying 15 cents to see Walt Disney’s first cartoon feature, “Donald Duck.” Frank Capra’s “It Happened One Night,” starring Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert, or “Stand Up and Cheer,” starring Shirley Temple. San Jose had five large movie theaters, including the California, Mission, Victory, American, and Patric.

Fifty years ago, times were hard throughout the United States, but most of San Jose’s citizens had hope for better times.
SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Kelley Park
1600 Senter Road
San Jose, CA 95112

TOURS OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

HOURS
10 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Monday – Friday
Noon - 4:30 P.M. Saturday and Sunday

ADMISSION

Adults $4.00
Children (6-17 years) $2.00
Seniors $3.00

PERALTA-FALLOON SITE
Corner of San Pedro & W. St. John Streets
San Jose, CA 95110
(408) 993-8182

HOURS
11 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Thursday-Sunday
(Wednesdays are reserved for pre-arranged groups)

ADMISSION

Adults $6.00
Seniors $5.00
Youth (6-18) $3.00

Hayes Mansion Tour
(Continued from Page 1)
and the people who have contributed to the man-
sion’s survival. We will conclude the outing with a
walk through the landscaped Mansion grounds. For
those interested, Edenvale Garden Park (part of the
original Hayes estate and the site of the former
Frontier Village Amusement Park) is directly across
the street and is open to the public.

Reservations for the tour are limited and refunds
will be made only if there is a waiting list. 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 SJHMA,
1650 Senter Rd, SJ, CA 95112-2599. Attn: Jodi
Henderson. Directions to the Hayes Mansion will be
sent to you as your confirmation.

IN SAN JOSE,
WE THINK THOSE
THAT WORK 25 YEARS
(AND EVEN MORE)
DESERVE SOMETHING
REALLY SPECIAL.
So we’re throwing them
a party. And you’re invited.

Mayor Susan Hammer will present special commendations
to San Jose companies who have helped to preserve our city’s business history
for 75 years or more.

A special cocktail reception will follow in honor of the many companies
that have contributed to the heritage of the Valley for 25 years or more.
Sponsored by the San Jose Historical Museum Association and
San Jose Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

Thursday, May 19, 1994
5:00-7:00pm
San Jose Historical Museum
1600 Senter Road, San Jose.
Admission $5, with no host bar.

So come, exchange stories with your fellow business “historians”
as you tour our wonderful museum. And discover what “living history” is all about.

HAYES MANSION TOUR & LUNCH

NAME______________________________
ADDRESS______________________________
# OF RESERVATIONS__________________________

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 15
Preservation Week Closing Reception
10:00 - 1:00 PM
Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site

May 28-30
Civil War Memorial Encampment
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
San Jose Historical Museum

June 4
Vintage Reflections Hat-Making Class
12:30 - 3:30 PM
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room

June 9
Hayes Mansion Tour and Luncheon
11:00 AM
Meet at Hayes Renaissance Conference Center

June 18
Vintage Reflections Hat-Making Class
12:30 - 3:30 PM
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room

June 25-26
Living History Days
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
San Jose Historical Museum Grounds

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Mr./Mrs./Miss______________________________

Mailing Address _______________________________________

Zip + 4 ____________________ (Bus.) Phone __________

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Gift of:

$1,000 Mission Circle
$500 Pueblo Circle
$250 Tower Circle
$100 Century Circle
$50* Contributor Circle
$45 Family
$35 Individual
$35 Senior Citizens (1 or 2)

Please check one of the following:

1. I will include $5.00 for mailing of my book. 2. pick up my book at the Museum. 3. NOT be obtaining my 1994 book.

Please check one of the following:

$55 Donation

*Help us if you can! Membership of $55 or more enables us to cover more than the costs of our membership programs.

If you are employed by a matching gift company, please obtain the appropriate form from your employer. Unsure? Give us the name of your employer and we will check for you.

Your gift may then be doubled—even tripled—at no expense to you. Make checks payable to: SJHMA, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112-2599