FAREWELL MESSAGE

As I prepare to leave the San Jose Historical Museum after fourteen years of employment with the Museum Association, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many members of the Association I have come to know, and whose friendship I have enjoyed, over the years.

Cleaning out files and preparing to turn over my office gave me the occasion to review many of the projects, activities, and programs I’ve been involved with since 1982. What stands out as memorable in every instance is the people I had the privilege to work with. Many of you have become good friends and I will miss seeing you on a regular basis.

The Museum was a different place when I first became involved as a volunteer in 1980. Today there are many more buildings, hundreds of additional supporters, and the Museum is clearly headed for a bright future under nonprofit leadership and with continued City support. I am proud of the accomplishments of the San Jose Historical Museum Association in support of the Museum and grateful for the role I have been allowed to play as the Association’s Executive Director. No one could have ever asked to work with a better group of Board members, volunteers and staff.

I feel fortunate that my new position, as Executive Director of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens Corporation, will allow me to stay in touch with the local historic community and continue to work on a project which will be of lasting benefit to the citizens of San Jose and Santa Clara County.

Thank you all for your friendship and support over the years. I am leaving the Museum with many warm and lasting memories.

* KATHLEEN MULLER, SJHMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Tribute to Kathleen June 6, 1996
(Sung to the tune of "Swanee River")

Way back above Coyote Creek she
Came upon this scene,
Loving history — and tired of housework —
Entered our dear Kathleen.

It wasn’t enough to do the newsletter and
Work as a yeoman docent.
Taking over as the new director,
She knew she would be content.

Chorus
Fourteen years of City Hall and
Fourteen fickle Boards,
Keeping some on task and calming others
Often with few rewards.

Create a master plan, restore old buildings,
Save a canner,
Car shows, stable stamps, and school adoption,
Tours, lectures, mysteries.
Hotel openings, grants, and corporate members,
Beer tastings, Founders’ Day,
Victorian Christmas, Elsa de la Raza,
Her good works are here to stay.

Chorus
Not afraid of the big bad Wolf,
Dear Kathleen left her mark,
Soothing ego, playing "mom" and "beauty"
What fun working at a park!

Chorus
Though we love you, though we’ll miss you,
It’s come your time to roam.
In your office high above the Guadalupe,
Remember us old folks back home!

Written by Susan De Young

San Jose Historical Museum Night at the San Jose Giants
WHEN: Thursday, August 15, 1996, 6:00 PM
WHO: Association Members and their Guests
COST: $15.00 per person (children under 12 will receive a Giants Souvenir Program)
Turkey Mike’s famous barbecue is included

The San Jose Historical Museum has decided to visit our neighbors across the street. Please join us for a night of fun and fellowship as we root the home team to victory over the High Desert Mavericks. What could be more fun than watching a baseball game on a warm summer evening in an old-fashioned baseball park?

We will meet at Turkey Mike’s barbecue area at 6:00 PM and enjoy a dinner of Baby Back Pork Ribs, a Half Chicken or fish du jour, two side dishes and a beverage of your choice. The game begins at 7:15 and if 50 people sign up for San Jose Historical Museum Night at the Giants, we will all sit together in reserved seats. Parking is available at the Japanese Friendship Garden parking lot.

Reservations are not limited, but I do need a count by August 1, 1996. Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association (SJHMA) and sent (along with the coupon below and a SASE) to San Jose Historical Museum Association, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112-2599, attn: Judi Henderson.

Let’s be neighborly and show the San Jose Giants our team spirit!

Name: 
Address: 
Phone: 
# of reservations

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
1650 SENTER ROAD
SAN JOSE, CA 95112-2599

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

WILLYS PECK
14275 SARATOGA AVE
SARATOGA CA 95070-5930
D I R E C T O R’ S R E P O R T
Civil War Memorial Event A Great Success

I would like to thank the National Civil War Association for once again partnering with the Historical Museum to produce the Civil War Memorial Event. This activity brought over 8,000 visitors to our grounds and raised money to support many of our volunteer activities. The Memorial Services held were a touching tribute, and an opportunity to remember many of the wars and the individuals who fought in them.

As a test for a future activity, a flashlight tour was held of the camps on Saturday night and was a big success. About 40 members of the Association and Stabilization Boards visited with the men, women and children in their camps giving lesson plans and demonstrations in many of the details relating to the time. The Agriculture setting, the evening sky, the horses and all the reenactors made history come to life. During this event about 1,500 reenactors camped on our grounds in this part of our county’s history and to experience some of the atmosphere and conditions of these early days.

D o n ’ t M i s s T h e C h i n e s e S u m m e r F e s t i v a l

On Sunday, July 28, the Chinese Summer Festival will be held on the Museum’s grounds and sponsored by one of our partner organizations, the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project (CHCP). This event is in its fourth year and brings the largest single event attendance to our site with a record of over 10,000 visitors. Each year the event grows in a special way, so don’t miss this opportunity to come out and visit the Historical Museum. Thanks to CHCP, this event is underwritten and free to the public.

W e M a y H a v e A S c h o o l b o o k e e r
San Jose State University Education Alumni was approved on the June 11, 1996 City Council agenda and I sponsored a motion of San Jose and sponsor a one-room schoolhouse for our site.

The purpose of the San Jose Historical Museum Association is to support the San Jose Historical Museum through fundraising, educational, and volunteer services, to assist in the development and completion of the project to preserve the image of the Museum in the community, and to promote the preservation of the San Jose Community.

EDITOR: Judith Henderson
Layout by Digital Typography & Design
BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Steven M. Cox, Edward M. Garcia, Stephen Pohl, Jim duplex, Frank Wilsen, Patricia McDougald, Jim Zentner, Linda Dabney, Sarah Lum, Charles Ricks, Cheryl Jones
ADVISORY BOARD: Patricia McDonald, Dwight Bentel, Jim Berberick, Gerry DeYoung, Robert C. Doersch, Ken Bieger, Theron Ivey, Vic Gaceta, Ulises Gonzales, Gary Gant, Marjorie Bridge, Bruce Pohl, Ernie Bensel, Brian Scala, Jason Sasin, and Judy Mark Thomas
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: Jim Zentnerquist, Mary Sabin, Michael Bethke, Franklin Maggi, Nancy Martin, Ed Reynolds, Norma Trovinger, Rose Marie Tye
CONTRIBUTORS: Steven M. Cox, Jack Douglas, Patrice Ferguson, Rose Mary Two, Miglion Gibson, Dean Hills, Judy Henderson, Barbara Johnson, Kathleen Muller, Robert Pedrotti, Leece Penney, Juliet Peterson, Richard Sacken, Mary Anne Scherier, Nancy Vally

The San Jose Historical Museum Association is part of the Department of Conferences, Arts and Entertainment.

This project will include the moving and restoration of the Santa Ana Valley schoolhouse, and coordination in developing programs, curriculum and activities. This is a highly complex, detailed project, so details will be explained in the future as all comes together. The one building that the public regularly asks for is a schoolhouse and the San Jose Master Plan called for a county school and an urban school. This is a great opportunity to work with the University and the many teachers that have graduated from the Education Department.

Company In The Trolley Barn

The San Jose Historical Museum has gained a new staff member to help Fred Bennett, Vehicle Restoration Manager, and Al Spivak, Trolley Collection Manager, in his Michael Kerner. He has signed on for 8 hours a week to help develop the trolley rail extension from the Historical Museum to Happy Hollow Park and Zoo, providing an interior trolley track between the Museum and the rest of Kelley Park. Mike is well known for his skills as the artist who has provided railroad art for many companies locally and around the world. He has been President of the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad Corporation at Lake Vasconia in Los Gatos. He was publicly elected and served two terms as the Mayor of the City of Campbell where he was instrumental in the formation of Campbell’s Redevelopment Agency. Mike looks forward to helping our Trolley Barn team develop our program and in working with the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation (CTRC), one of the Historical Museum partner organizations. He will be a great asset and we welcome his expertise and willingness to help.

Mignon Gibson, Museum Director

P R E S I D E N T ’ S R E P O R T

In June the Association said goodbye to Kathy Muller as Executive Director. Kathy had been with the Association as an employee for fourteen years. For many of us, she was our first introduction to the Museum and a wonderful place. As Executive Director, Kathy was responsible for guiding the staff and helping the board. What made Kathy unique was her vision for the Association and the Museum, and her attention to details. On behalf of the membership, the Board, the past presidents and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kathy for an outstanding job. We will greatly miss her.

Now the good news! With Kathy’s departure we have the opportunity to name Barbara Johnson, Acting Executive Director/Development Director. Barbara has been with the Association for three years working as the Development Director. She will take over the day-to-day coordination of staff, oversee the operations of the Peralta/Fallon Historic Site and Vintage Reflections and provide support to the board. Judy Henderson was named Staff Development Director, serves as editor of the newsletter and develops the 1997 membership manual.

The Stabilization Board continues to make progress. The City Council did approve the Stabilization Board’s recommendations regarding the mission statement, vision statement, and three year goals and objectives at the Council meeting on May 21. The Council also agreed that the name of the board should be changed from Stabilization Board to Governing Board. The name change will take place in July. The Stabilization Board was successful in its attempt to retain, as resources, Marilyn Snyder, facilitator and Lucy Skestjeld, technical consultant, until 1998. The California Historical Resources Board extended the expiration for their contracts during the 1996-97 budget deliberations. Sometime in July the Board will hire an attorney, using funds from the budget established by the City Council for the Stabilization Board, to begin working on recommendations for the modifications to the Association’s bylaws.

As the Museum continues to move toward a for-profit, governing structure, it is important that Association members remain involved in the process. If you have any questions about the Board or the Governing Board, please contact us at the Association’s Advisory Board. Thanks to you all for your ongoing contributions to this organization.

President

FROM THE EDITOR

As I assume the role of editor of the Association’s newsletter, I am both excited and terrified. Excited, because these are dynamic times at the Museum and I am delighted to be part of the evolving process: terribled, because I am following in the footsteps of some very talented editors. I know that things will settle down into something manageable in the coming months, but for right now, I’m a mess!

I began my involvement at the Museum in 1980 as a docent (Kathy Muller and I were in the same docent training class). Following my all-too-short stint as a member of the Board (full-time), I became the Historic Landmarks Commission’s liaison to the Museum’s Development Council. My next Museum-related assignment was the most rewarding to date: staff to the Master Plan team. Under the leadership of Judy Stabile, I was given staff responsibility for her role as the City Council liaison to the Association. In that capacity, I attended most Association and Development Council meetings. Those years were ones in which I learned a lot and shared them all. After leaving the employ of the City Council, I was hired by the Association to help staff the Master Plan team. As that job was winding down, a permanent position became available with the Association and I was hired.

On a personal note, I am a native San Franciscan (third generation) and have lived in San Jose since 1969. I am a graduate of San Jose State University. My husband, Jim, is with IBM and also teaches the addictions course at San José City College. I have one grown daughter, Jill, who is an accountant in Portland, Oregon. We own a cabin in Tawnie Hart and spend as much time there as we can. We enjoy the company of Bailey, the cocker spaniel, lost her companion, Barnum, the golden retriever, in November.

Now that you know almost everything about me, let me know about you. I think it would be interesting to have a column in the newsletter dedicated to our staff, our volunteers and other members. I would also like to do a letter-to-the-editor column, so if you have any questions or comments regarding the Museum, please send them to me. I will try to answer the questions, and publish the most interesting responses.

See you in September.

Judith Henderson, Editor

V O L U N T E E R R E P O R T

On July 1, 1996, the San Jose Historical Museum volunteers entered a new era. The merging of the Docent and Auxiliary volunteer organizations into the San Jose Historical Museum Volunteers organizational structure, the volunteers are now operating under a new set of bylaws. The Stabilization Board is also entering the next phase of its change after receiving approval from the City Council, for its efforts to date. Included in the Council approval was a new name for the Stabilization Board, it will soon be called the Governing Board. Both the San Jose Historical Museum Volunteers bylaws, and the Stabilization Board structure identify committees
which will help expedite the work of both groups.

A review of the committees having similar functions indicates a strong correlation in the effort being pursued to support the Museum. These committees are:

- VOLUNTEER COUNCIL COMMITTEES
  - Program Development
  - Community Relations
  - Admission, Continuing Education, Service Review
  - Garden Club

- GOVERNING BOARD COMMITTEES
  - Program
  - Public Relations/Audience Development
  - Volunteer Development
  - Facilities/Site Development

These close relationships will afford the Volunteer Council and the Governing Board opportunities to work together and become a harmonious team in support of the Museum.

If you are asked to join one of these teams (committees) in the future, don’t hesitate to say yes. Your idea or opinion may be the one that solves a problem or provides the basis for a major step forward for the Museum. Just remember that every member of a team can contribute in some way to its success.

The Spring season closed with the enormously popular Civil War Memorial Days scheduled on the three days of the Memorial Day weekend. Volunteers from the Auxiliary, Docent and Association groups poured their efforts into a variety of activities from gate greeters, building interpreters, ice cream peddlers, to staffing O’Brien’s and The City Store. But work for the docents did not end with Memorial Day; for a part of the May vacation particularly Bay Area teachers scrambled to complete their field trips before the school term ended. All the education programs were filled to maximum capacity as throngs of spirited children filled the grounds and crammed into O’Brien’s for treats. Here again the volunteers met the challenges with good spirits and flexibility.

June was also a month for closure and socializing. On June 3 the Admissions Committee held a potluck dinner for the fifteen docent trainees who completed the rigorous docent training program. The new docents come from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences; and we are happy to welcome them into the volunteer community. On June 19 the joint staffs of the Museum, City, and Auxiliary, hosted a Volunteer Recognition Dinner at the Elks Lodge. It was a tangible way for the staffs to express their thanks to all the volunteers associated with the Museum and to let the volunteers know that they are not forgotten, but are valued for their special talents and gifts. This has always been a special occasion for volunteers because it is the one explicit event that conveys to volunteers that they are truly appreciated. The officers of the new SHM Volunteer Council were installed at this dinner. June closed with another potluck dinner for the outgoing members of the Docent and Auxiliary Boards and the newly elected members of the SHM Volunteer Council. The new Council will begin functioning on July 1; and we wish them a very successful and stressless year.

During the summer the area behind the stables will be alive with activity as members of the Western Ho education program (WHOA) will be constructing an alternate shed for Resting Up Camp storage. Thanks to the talents and expertise of Margie McIntyre, Rex Osborn, Martyn Cronin (widow of former WHOA docent, Ken Cronin) and the San Jose West Rotary, this new shed will become a reality. All expenses, material and labor are being covered by donations. Summer Day Camp for children will be headed by city staff member Jim Gregory. Interested parents may pick up flyers at the Museum. Volunteers are already brain-storming possible programs for the one room school house project that is still in the planning stages between the Museum and the San Jose State University Education Alumni Association. So besides the usual public tours and other activities, docents and other volunteer have and will continue to have a busy summer.

\[\text{John H Miss, Volunteer Council, President}\]

\[\text{Richard Sachen, Outgoing Docent President}\]

\[\text{IN THE COLLECTIONS}\]

For years we have dreamed of the possibility of a nearby facility for the collections programs. The unanticipated availability of the BeechNut property presented an opportunity to make that dream a reality. Thanks to the concerted efforts of many people, especially the members of the Development Council and the Association Board, that dream will soon become a reality.

The City of San Jose purchased the property to accomplish a number of things: the need for a centrally located services yard and enlarged and better facilities for General Services. At the same time Council directed that the Museum needs be included. Consequently, space has been allocated for Collections and Archives in the main building and in the wooden storage building closest to Senter Road.

Archives has been assigned 10,000 square feet on the second floor of the main building facing Senter Road. This will provide spaces for stacks, public research, collections processing and offices/administration. Collections has been assigned 22,000 square feet on the ground floor in the central portion of the building facing Senter Road and extending to the rear of the building where a large roll-up door will access a receiving area. There will be areas for isolating incoming donations, collections processing, storage, offices/administration and public research. With just a flight of stairs separating Collections and Archives, we will have the ability to create some common spaces such as a volunteer lounge.

There remain a number of tasks to be accomplished before we move. Currently the off-site warehouse is being inventoried and assessed for transport. The Curators are working with a trained group of volunteers to collect the information and enter the data into our computer database. To date about ninety percent of the items stored in the Museum’s parking lot and about one quarter of the space (but not number of objects) in the off-site warehouse have been inventoried. This is not very glamorous work but very necessary and will enable us to plan for the most efficient use of the space and coordinate the logistics of the move. The Archives will soon be beginning a similar process.

This is an outstanding opportunity for the Museum. It is exciting to be participating in creating the foundation that will launch our Museum into the 21st century. It is particularly gratifying to be able to envision the improved care and preservation of our citizens’ heritage when we are relocated to the facilities.

\[\text{Nancy Valby Curator}\]

\[\text{Sponsor Our Newsletter}\]

San Jose Historical Museum Association is seeking sponsorship for its six bi-monthly issues of the Association News. Through sponsorships and advertising, we are able to provide the Association News to our members, as well as the public and Museums. Organizations or companies interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter or purchasing advertising space should contact the Association offices at 277-3780.
By Rail and Sea

The group pictured above were guests on the By Rail and Sea trip to New Orleans, the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean. The trip was "the best ever" according to one well-traveled Association member. Look for more travel opportunities, co-sponsored by the Association and Lifelong Learning, in the future.

INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS

The San Jose Historical Museum Association would like to take this opportunity to recognize and acknowledge new individual memberships from November 1, 1995 to June 30, 1996. Thank you for joining our preservation team.


Thank you for your ongoing support. Our next newsletter's membership section will highlight individuals and business who have made significant contributions over the years. Look for your name!

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

From April 24, 1996 to June 25, 1996, the Endowment Fund of the San Jose Historical Museum Association received the following donations:

In Memoriam:
- Max Wissler
- Robert R. Bartlett
- Enrico (Rick) Benassi
- Candy Nelson
- William "Bill" Alderson
- Thomas J. Clarke, Jr.

In Honor of:
- Kathy Muller
- Marge Lentzich
- Nene Bronson
- On her birthday

Gifts to the San Jose Historical Museum Association in honor of 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 of acknowledgement will be sent to the person being honored or the family of the deceased.

Vintage Reflections Summer and Fall Classes

Summer is here, which means it's time to start planning for Victorian Christmas! Vintage Reflections is offering a range of classes this summer and fall that will be of great assistance in assembling your costume for this event.

July 13, August 3 and 17: Corsets
- Please note that this is the final corset class to be offered this year. We strongly recommend that you have a corset that fits you correctly and comfortably before taking the Bodice and Jacket classes.

July 20, August 10 and August 24: Skirts
- This class consists of three sessions: Research, Draping and Construction, and General Finishing.

September 14: Pattern Alteration
- Think of this class as the first class in the "Bodice Series." You must take this class before you have the equivalent skills before taking any of the bodice classes.

September 21: 1860's Bodices — Corsets recommended

September 21: Underdraws & Collars
- Two separate classes will be offered, one in the morning, the other in the afternoon.
- Underdraws and collars are the type of detail that add the final polished touch to an 1860's bodice. Come and learn about these little known, often ignored, but truly useful items of clothing.

September 28: 1870's & 1880's Bodices — Corsets recommended
- October 5: 1890's Blouses & Jackets — Corsets recommended

Upcoming classes this fall
- Advanced Hat Classes: Top Hats, Bonnets
- Embellishment: Ruching and Chinese Ball Buttons, Beading
- Male Costumes: Vests, Ascots
- Other: Care of Vintage Garments, Capelets

For information about any Vintage Reflections class, including fees, times, venues and materials, call Julie Peterson, Manager, at (408) 995-8156.

California Preservation Foundation Conference

The 21st annual California Preservation Foundation conference held in San Jose, May 30 - June 2nd went off without a hitch. No visual ones, anyway. Locally sponsored by the Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PACS) and chaired by PACS President, Ellen Garzoke, the conference was well-attended and showcased San Jose beautifully. The weather was perfect and the historic buildings, used as venues for sessions and events, shined. The host hotel, Hyatt Sainte Claire, exemplifies San Jose's commitment to historic preservation, and the 300 + guests enjoyed its ambiance. The courtyard of the hotel is one of the most pleasant outdoor spaces in the city.

The Peralta Adobe was the site of the opening night reception and the Historical Museum hosted the Friday night, 3-Minute Success Stories event. A good time was had by all who attend these parties.

The back wall of the firehouse was used as a screen for slides shown at the Museum event. Quite creative.

Three Minute Success Stories event. Photo by Frank Distro Photography.
Garden Club News

The grounds of the San Jose Historical Museum abound with bright color. Please plan to visit the Museum this summer to see first-hand the tender loving care volunteers of the Garden Club have given to the various gardens on the Museum grounds.

Bouquets of thanks to San Jose Beautiful!!! San Jose Beautiful granted the Garden Club funding for a gazania garden adjacent to the Gordon House. The gazanias were planted at the end of May and promise to dazzle visitors to the Museum in years to come.

The Serendipity Spinners have planted a weaver's garden at the Greenbelt House. This garden consists of plants such as cotton, indigo, soapwort and woad. The product of the plants is used by the Spinners in conjunction with their craft. The Serendipity Spinners have plans to expand the existing garden at a later date.

The Fruit Barn is ablaze with marigold. The gardens at the Pantera House and under the Firehouse stairwell are being expanded. The front and side gardens at the Umbarger House are being tended and the vegetable and herb garden behind the house will yield a bounty of produce this summer and fall. The garden at the Zander House is undergoing a major transition.

Our next maintenance day will be Monday, July 15. Participants should meet at the Bandstand at 9:00 AM for their assignments. The Garden Club business meeting will be on Wednesday, July 24, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM in the Hotel meeting room. Newcomers are always welcome. If you are interested in participating in a maintenance day or in attending the business meeting, please call Laurel Perusa (354-7153) or Mary Force (268-3692).

The Fourth Annual Chinese Summer Festival
Sunday, July 28, 1996

The Golden Dragon, Hearts Delight, was brought to life during the 1995 Festival's enchanting Eye-Dotting and Spinee-Tingling Ceremony under our Museum's very own Light Tower.

The Chinese Summer Festival returns to San Jose Historical Museum on this last Sunday of July from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

This year's event will feature villages of various themes such as arts and crafts, healing, agriculture, traditions and mystics. Visitors can visit each village to become immersed in the Chinese culture. A colorful shrimpming wedding procession will take place at the Traditions and Mystics Village, along with fortune-telling and folk games. Rare jewelry and exquisitely detailed Chinese costumes from five different dynasties will be on display to delight and amaze.

Four famous Chinese-American authors—Duncan Chin, Peter Leung, Ruthann Lum McCann and Connie Young Yu will participate in informative and educational lectures and slide show presentations about their heritage and experiences.

Be sure to attend the spectacular, and not to be missed, Dim-Sum Parade which includes the glittering Good Will ambassador of Chinese-American heritage. "Heart's Delight"' whose name was selected from a contest won by Sylvia Carrol was brought to life during the 1995 Festival. This year, in addition to the glorious dragon there will appear a new court of exquisite costumed sea creatures including the crab, lobster, clam, and fishes. As of the 1996 Festival, "Heart's Delight" will have traveled 25 times, over thousands of miles, reaching out and touching many communities with love and friendship.

Sample some delicious mouth watering food delicacies in the Food Court and watch local Chinese cooking masters create edible legacies such as the famous jook (a Chinese tamale).

The festival will celebrate with music and continuous cultural entertainment that will delight both traditional and modern music enthusiasts.

Children can participate in a treasure hunt around the Museum's grounds and create their own masterpieces through the "Hands-on" art activities. Children can craft one of the Dim Sum Parade creatures and join the parade!

The best part of the Fourth Annual Chinese Summer Festival is that it's FREE!!!!

The Festival is organized by the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project (CHCP), a non-profit educational organization. CHCP's mission is to promote and preserve the Chinese and Chinese-American culture. It was formed in 1987 to replicate the historical Ng Shing Gung, the cultural and religious center of San Jose's Chinatown of a bygone era. CHCP continues to educate the public through numerous community outreach activities, including the Chinese Summer Festival.

For more information contact: Rose-Marie Twu 735-9417 or Pawsina Fergson 277-4017.

The Hunt for Landmarks Commissioners

Would you like to find the San Jose City Historic Landmarks Commissioners or Commission Staff? If you once served on the Commission or staffed the Commission, please contact Leslie Musunaga in the Museum Archives (287-2290).

GE Foundation and IBM Matching Grant Program

Continue Support

The GE Foundation's "More Gift...More Givers" program recently presented the San Jose Historical Museum Association with a check for $1,780.00, matching contributions made during 1995 by GE employees and retirees. IBM's Matching Grants Program contributed $2,342.00 to the Association in 1996.

The Association would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank both companies for their community involvement, and gratefully acknowledge these generous corporate contributions. We would also like to thank our members whose individual donations made these matching funds possible.
CHARLES KELLOGG: THE NATURE SINGER

BY JACK DOUGLAS

Perhaps it is time to relate the story of one of the most colorful men to have ever lived in our Valley born with the ability to modulate his voice to ranges here-to-fore unknown, Charles Kellogg was a combination naturalist, teacher, artist, writer, inventor, poet, traveler, entertainer and backwoods philosopher.

Kellogg took part in the awakening of late 19th century Americans to the wonders of our natural environment, particularly in the West. He and the giants like John Muir and John Burroughs whom he knew well, helped to create the climate for the conservation movement and the development of our system of state and national parks.

Child of Nature

Born in Meadow Valley, Plumas County, young Charles, whose mother died while he was an infant, was raised among the Digger Indians and Chinese laborers on his father's ranch. In his teens he was sent east to stay with relatives and attend school. His real education came in tramp ing the trails of New England and in communicating with the birds and other creatures he found there. He soon could imitate the birds and they would respond in kind.

While he was in his early twenties a series of tests with a Helmholtz tuning fork were conducted on his voice that gave evidence that Kellogg's bird calls could create 45,000 vibrations per second. This is far above the normal 4,000 of the human voice and well beyond the 14,000 vibration range of the songbirds. Kellogg claimed that his remarkable powers were due to "a strange whim of nature," and that he was possibly the only man ever born with the throat of a bird. He said also that noted British throat specialists had discovered that, in addition to his ordinary human larynx, his vocal anatomy included a systole of half rings like the songbird's.

This astounding ability and his love of nature would set the course of his future life.

Traveling the Circuit

Charles Kellogg's peculiar ability to reproduce the songs of more than 5,000 birds made him a popular performer on the old Chautauqua lecture circuit. The outdoor settings of many of these performances were ideal for Kellogg to demonstrate his bird calls, especially when he got frequent replies from his non-paying avian audiences. In addition to demonstrating his unique vocal abilities, Kellogg would charm his audiences with tales of his youth in California and of his wilderness adventures.

After a decade on the Chautauqua circuit, Kellogg graduated to the vaudeville stage, performing in large cities and small towns. Using elaborate scenes to represent the outdoors, the folkway woodsman would wander onto the stage, act surprised to see the audience there, and capture them as if in a spell with his wondrous voice and home-spun philosophy. He displayed his talent in such exalted venues as London's Crystal Palace (before 20,000 spectators) and in the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City.

During his travels he met and married his wife Sarah, whom he lovingly called Sa'di. She was a real trouper who accompanied his act on the piano.

At Home in "Ever Ever Land"

After years of traveling, the Kelloggs decided to make their permanent home in California. For Charles the hillsides at the southern end of the Santa Clara Valley near Morgan Hill were ideal for his kind of rustic outdoor living. He called his new home "Ever Ever Land."

Here he exercised all his woodcraft skills to build a unique mountain cabin overlooking the valley. He combined the elements of fire and water by creating a small waterfall which cascaded down the rock studded fireplace and ran into a stream across the hearth. (He helped to put similar installations into the homes of his friends.)

During a trip to Hawaii the Kelloggs became acquainted with Kodak heiress Gertrude Strong Achilles. She was so charmed by the mystical naturalist and his description of his "Ever Ever Land" that she purchased a 5,000 acre spread in Morgan Hill in order to be his neighbor. The beautiful Spanish Revival mansion she built there in 1920 was called Fountain Oaks.

When he wasn't out nature singing or promoting Liberty Loan Drives or conservation movements or traveling to such places as Haiti or Fiji, Kellogg served as Mrs. Achilles' estate manager.

Kellogg added his talent to the "Forest Play" which was held at Big Basin Redwood Park in 1920. The purpose of the play was to raise money to help preserve redwood forests in Humboldt County. (See the Association News May 1966.)

Scientific Experiments

Physicists were intrigued by a voice which could be elevated so high that only certain animals could hear it. During an initial experiment Kellogg's highest whistle was broadcast via radio to a laboratory where the sound waves caused a 24 inch blue flame to waiver and go out. Radio station KGO heard about the experiments and talked Kellogg into a public demonstration of his vocal powers. He projected his voice during a well-publicized radio broadcast, and the laboratory workers at the University of California ten miles away were amazed by the results. During the broadcast he also demonstrated the sounds of certain birds and insects (some inaudible). Many listeners wrote or called in to report the strange behavior of their domestic birds and cats. Others held candles and matches in front of their radios and saw them flicker and go out as Kellogg demonstrated his inaudible high pitch.

Kellogg made a number of commercial phonograph recordings during his career. On one he sings with Alma Gluck the famous opera diva. Mr. Ron Gordon remembers attending an assembly at San Jose High in 1926 where Kellogg, at the

Before the K.G.O microphone at Oakland, California

close of his act, shattered a glass pitcher with the power of his inaudible high notes.

The Travel Log

In an inventive mood and needing a vehicle to carry his show around the country, Kellogg hit upon the idea of hollowing out a giant fallen Sequoia tree and mounting it on a truck chassis. This laborious task (it took three days just to saw through the log) occupied the naturalist for many months, but eventually it was hollowed out and installed on the truck with all the accoutrements of a modern mobile home. Perhaps making fun of the old Chautauqua "travelogues," the impish Kellogg dubbed his new touring vehicle "The Travel Log."

Beth Wyman, Morgan Hill historian, believes that the Travel Log may still be somewhere in the vicinity. It would be wonderful if the owners could donate it to a local museum.

Twilight Years

In 1929 Charles Kellogg put aside his other activities to publish his memoirs which he titled: Charles Kellogg the Nature Singer His Book. This richly illustrated volume, published by the Pacific Science Press in Morgan Hill, must now be something of a rarity.

In his later years Charles nursed his crippled wife, creating many pieces of furniture to alleviate her discomfort. They also raised their granddaughter Shannon. Kellogg died suddenly in his beloved Ever Ever Land at the age of 81 in September 1949.
MUSEUM MASTER PLAN WINS REGIONAL AWARD

The San Jose Historical Museum Master Plan, developed in 1994 by the San Jose Historical Museum Association under contract to the City of San Jose, has been awarded a Planning Project Award by the Northern California Chapter of the American Planners Association. The award was presented to the Master Plan Team at a banquet held at Fort Mason Officers' Club on June 28.

The Master Plan Team was chaired by Gerry DeYoung, AICP, and included Marvin Bargman, AIA; Steven M. Cox, AIA; Craig Minnemeyer, AIA; and staff members Mignon Gibson; Kathleen Muller; and Judi Henderson. Katherine Jensen served as liaison from the Department of Public Works, City of San Jose.

The Master Plan project consisted of analyzing and updating the existing Master Plan, originally created in 1972. The process included soliciting community input on the continued validity of the original vision, critiquing the actual development of the past twenty-five years, analyzing trends, and developing a working document to guide future physical growth. During the process, major studies of the Museum's archives and collection needs were completed and the consultant team visited seven other living history museums across the country to gain understanding of the relationship between the physical, programmatic, and operational elements of living history museums. In addition, an economic consultant was hired to analyze the Museum's potential for successful commercial elements and future capital funding.

The Museum's total acreage was divided into two major planning areas: the Historic District and the Agricultural Area. The Historic District was further divided into planning areas with established development guidelines. The case was made for the importance of proper storage facilities for the Museum's collections and archives, and development priorities were established to help guide the use of capital funds towards projects which further the Museum's mission, improve the infrastructure, and enhance the visitor experience.

The Master Plan was judged on its originality, over-all quality and comprehensiveness. It was further recognized as a unique document because of the public-private partnership which created it. The design professionals who were part of the consultant team volunteered their time to direct the master planning effort. This was seen as a creative example of how the community can benefit when volunteer and nonprofit expertise is used to stretch limited public funds.

The San Jose Historical Museum Master Plan was approved by the City Council in June 1995. It is now used by the Museum Association's Development Council and Museum staff as a tool for evaluating proposed new structures and other changes proposed for the physical site.

Thank you Rich!!!

BY JULIE PETERSON, VINTAGE REFLECTIONS MANAGER

O n behalf of Vintage Reflections and all its volunteers I would like publicly and profusely thank Rich Henderson for all his hard work and dedication. The vendor's cart has added color and atmosphere to special events and made them much more enjoyable for our volunteers. Carrying a heavy "T" pole loaded with items for sale, in the heat of "Living History Days" or the cold of "Victorian Christmas", was not something that the other volunteers looked forward to. We can not thank Rich enough for building the cart and the refinements he has added to it.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July – August 1996 Summer History Camp
July 28, 1996 Chinnese Summer Festival
August 4–11, 1996 Arts & Crafts Week
August 15, 1996 Historical Museum Night at San Jose Giants
SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Kelley Park
1600 Senter Road
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 287-2290

TOURS OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS
HOURS
10:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Monday - Friday
Noon - 4:30 P.M. Saturday and Sunday

ADMISSION
Adults $4.00
Children (4-17 years) $2.00
Seniors $3.00

PERALTA-FALLON SITE
Corner of San Pedro & W. St. John Streets
San Jose, CA 95110
(408) 593-8182

HOURS
11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Wednesday - Sunday

ADMISSION
Adults $6.00
Children (4-17 years) $3.00
Seniors $5.00

A New Learning Opportunity Opens Its Doors To Local School Children

On June 10, a kick-off of "local Women of Distinction 1860-1950" was featured at the San Jose Historical Museum. Students from Simonds Elementary School participated in various "hands on" activities structured to help students understand the important role that women played in the development of county resources. The role of women as teachers, doctors, lawyers, farmers, business people and volunteers was emphasized and particular women were introduced: Sarah Winchester, Sarah Knox Goodrich, Mary Hayes Clynoweth, Dr. Ethelasia Meade and Selma Clinder to name a few.

The curriculum and museum tour was designed by the San Jose Branch American Association of University Women's (AAUW) Women's History Project. "This is now the tangible outcome of two years of research by our committee," said Chris Hawkins, project director. We were most pleased with the award of a Community Action Grant from AAUW's Educational Foundation based in Washington, D.C. The Foundation recognized the importance of our activities and wished to offer school children an expanded view of history.

In the future, the curriculum guide and activities will be available for fourth grade teachers and students for a nominal fee at the San Jose Historical Museum.

THE CITY STORE
L.E. BOOKS
L# GIFTS
L# GREETING CARDS
San Jose Historical Museum
Kelley Park
Peralta-Fallon Site
175 W. St. John Street

Summer History Camp
There is still time to sign-up for Summer History Camp at the San Jose Historical Museum. Children, 3rd - 5th grade, are welcome. Each session is two weeks long (you can sign up for one week) and run Monday through Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM. The cost is $160.00 per two week session or $80.00 per week. The price includes a daily snack and a Friday Historical Food Experience. For registration information call Jim Gregan, Monday - Friday, 1-5 pm at (408) 287-2290.

Westward Ho!
Unique Museum Education Program Celebrates It's Sixth Year

The Museum's truly unique education program, Westward Ho!, celebrates it's sixth year. The Westward Ho! educational program is scheduled for fifth graders on Friday mornings. During the 1995-96 school year, the Westward Ho! activity traveled 40 classes, 2,000 miles across the plains, desert and mountains from Independence, Missouri to Sacramento, California. The three hour program consists of discussions, slides of the journey, donning costumes and loading and unloading a covered wagon. At Resting Up Camp the students make pioneer candy of dried fruit, churn butter and play with hoops and marbles and a board game reinforcing significant details of the journey. The experience culminates in discussion and songs.

After six years of serving over 8,000 fifth graders, this popular weekly program became worn, frayed and tattered. Museum volunteers worked all year replacing the broken and tattered parts. One item that was lost after six years of packing and unpacking into the covered wagon was the jar of Grandma's pickles from the General Store. It was dropped. Those pickles will be difficult to replace, but a number of other items have taken on a whole new look.

Every Friday the students don shirts or bonnets and aprons, and after 240 washings the 60 tattered costumes became first priority on the list of needs. Plans were made for a sewing day at the Museum. From 8:30AM until 4:30PM, the Hotel meeting room was bustling with activity as the volunteers cut out patterns, and assembled sewing kits. These kits were then distributed to many volunteers who generously agreed to sew the costumes and return them ready to use.

New slides were added to the collection for the introductory slide presentation portion of the program. The three sets of board game cards were replaced with fresh new sets. After noting the blue sky peeking through the wagon canvas, that, too, was replaced by an energetic crew of high school students doing a community service project.

The Westward Ho! experience utilizes the Hotel meeting room and the outdoor area behind and beside Dashaay Stables. In the past, the program had to be canceled and rescheduled if it rained. A Rainy Day Alternative was developed to complement the original program. A tarp was hung over the General Store front and students played checkers with wooden chips, Cat's Cradle, chicken necklace "jacks" and wagon stories, drawn from diaries of prairie children, were told. Because of the "Rainy Day Alternative", visiting classes learned that wagon trains rolled, rain or shine.

Westward Ho! is fresh, revitalized and ready to travel again. The only thing left to do is complete the Resting Up Camp shed (see Volunteer Council article). In the fall, hundreds of eager fifth graders will "cross the prairies, deserts and mountains" and gain a new understanding of the challenges some of our early settlers faced.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped make Westward Ho! the successful program it is, and to the volunteers who contributed their time and talent to the revitalization.

Sewing KIDS
San Jose Historical Museum Association News July 1996

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- FREE Museum Access for Member and Guest
- DISCOUNTS in The City Store
- FREE Newsletters
- FREE Admission to Members Only events

MEMBERSHIP DUES

- $50 Family Membership
- $100 Individual Membership
- $250 Tower Circle Membership
- $500 Pueblo Circle Membership
- $1,000 Mission Circle Membership

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please check one of the following:

I will ______ include $4.00 for mailing of my premium ______ pick up my premium at the Museum ______ NOT be obtaining my premium.

*Help us if you can! Memberships of $50 or more enable us to cover more than the costs of our membership program.
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