Winter Lecture Series

Mark your new 1996 calendar for three Thursday evenings in January and February, and plan to join us for a series of lectures on a variety of topics. The programs will be presented by three individuals who volunteer their time and talent for the Museum by serving on various Association Boards. Jack Douglas serves on the Association's Advisory Board; Magda Madriz is an active member of the Museum Association Board of Directors; and Russ Skowronek has contributed his expertise on the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Advisory Board for the past two years.

The programs will be held either in the Meeting Room of the Pacific Hotel or at the Firehouse beginning at 7:30 PM. Admission to each lecture will be $2.00 for Association members and $3.00 for the general public to help offset our costs. If you are a 1996 member of the Association at the $50.00 level or above, please inform the Membership Coordinator when you make your reservation. You are entitled to two free passes to the lecture of your choice.

Please make reservations by calling 277-3780. Entrance to the Museum will be through the Phelan Avenue gate.

January 25
Jack Douglas: General Naglee

Many of you may know Jack Douglas as the Archivist at SJH, as the author of Historical Footnotes of Santa Clara Valley, for his service on the Landmarks Commission, or his years of involvement here at the Museum. But did you know that he has spent countless hours researching the fascinating life of General Henry M. Naglee and enjoys interpreting the Naglee story in character? Come hear General Naglee tell of his adventures "in person" through Jack Douglas' presentation.

February 8
Magda Madriz: Introduction to the newly renovated Palace of the Legion of Honor

Magda Madriz holds a B.A. in Art History from the University of Pavia, Italy. She serves on the Fine Arts Commission for the City of San Jose, teaches art history classes at numerous locations, and in addition to actively serving on the Board of the San Jose Historical Museum Association, she has for several years been a docent at the San Jose Museum of Art. Magda's presentation will include slides of works on display at the Palace of the Legion of Honor and will provide an excellent background for those who will be touring the recently renovated museum with the Association on February 16.

February 22
Russell Skowronek: Spanish Colonialism with a focus on the San Francisco Bay Area

Russ Skowronek is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Sociology, Santa Clara University. He has done extensive research in Spanish colonization in Spain, the southeastern United States, the Philippines, as well as locally. Dr. Skowronek will present an overview of Spanish Colonialism as it is manifested in archaeological sites he has studied, with special attention on the San Francisco Bay Area's place in the Spanish colonial world. This evening will help us appreciate the significance of our own Peralta Adobe.

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This Issue of The Association News

E. N. Richmond Trust

Is Sponsored By:

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
1890 SIESTER ROAD
SAN JOSE, CA 95112-3589

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
DICTOR'S REPORT

The San Jose Historical Museum is the site of many activities with a busy facility usage program. Facility usage programs' goals have included one large public event each month during the nice weather season from April through October. This is complemented by picnics, weddings, meeting room uses and special facility uses that can include conferences, touring car clubs, commercial filmings or seminars.

One-half of the Historical Museum's annual attendance is scheduled in advance by the groups' needs. In charge of the facility usage program and the master calendar of all Museum activities is Monte Duran, Museum Events Coordinator. Monte has been with the Historical Society since 1986. He came to us after serving in the same capacity at the San Jose Museum of Art where he had the pleasure of working for five years under a variety of different executive directors. Monte is still remembered for developing or supporting such classic events as the Headress Ball, the Wine Auction, the annual Museum of Art theme party, and special exhibit openings including Babin and The American Cowboy.

At the Historical Museum, in an average year, he coordinates 42 events, 597 meetings, 26 promotional activities, 19 partnership events and 2 commercial filmings. 1995 will be remembered for the annual Folklife and Food Show, the Civil War Memorial, Hands-On History, Chinese Summer Festival, Chile Pepper Festival, the Air Systems Car Show and Victorian Christmas. In addition, he has participated on the site by the Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee (COMPAC) for their annual barbecue, Norman Mineta for his last Mineta for Congress Committee annual picnic, the Santa Clara County Office of Education Teacher In-Service training day held for over 1,000 teachers, the ground-breaking for the Portuguese Heritage Society of California (PHSC) Imperio Project, the trolley volunteers' recognition dinner hosted by the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation (CTRC), the two annual Rotary Club of San Jose barbecues and many other activities.

Monte Duran works with a wide variety of individuals on facilities that help facilitate the Museum. He focuses on logistics requirements, the long hours needed to ensure proper setup and cleanup, publicity, insurance, efforts to support campfires, fireworks or firecrackers, vendors, equine, equine supplies, performances by Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, security, public safety and other elements. One of his biggest challenges is arranging parking that is compatible with the Kelley Park usage and serves the Historical Museum needs. If you’d like to schedule that on the Historical Museum calendar for 1996, contact Monte Duran at the Museum. Plan to visit the Historical Museum in 1996 where we will again have a busy and comprehensive calendar. ~ Mignon Gibson, Museum Director

FROM THE EDITOR

Each January we have the pleasure of welcoming several new members to the Board of Directors of the San Jose Historical Museum Association, as well as the opportunity to thank those members of the Board who have completed their terms.

Joining the Board for the first time in 1996 are Roy Bigge, Marge Chiechi, Jerry Engles, Alleen Thompson, Richard Sachen, Elaine Schultz and Sherry Simmons — an outstanding group of community leaders who will bring fresh ideas and new perspectives to the Museum. We are so pleased that they have generously agreed to serve on the Association Board. They will be joining returning members of the Board for an all-day planning retreat in early January.

Completing their service on the Board in December were Pam Allison, Jan Berliner, Sunny Caggott, David Crowley, Gerry DeYoung, Vic Giacalone, Margie McGregor, Craig Mineweaver, Gloria Stern and Toon. Many of these people have served the Museum for numerous years and in various capacities. They have given readily of their time and talents to organize and staff special events, serve on the Core Committee and the Stabilization Board, serve on the Master Plan, lobby City officials on behalf of the Museum, raise funds, and provide leadership and visibility for the Historical Museum in the community. I cannot thank them enough for what they have done on behalf of the Museum. Their dedication and commitment to the growth and success of this institution will benefit our community for years to come.

~ Kathleen Miller, SJHMA Executive Director

DOCENT'S REPORT

1996 — A New Beginning

A new year is more than a change of calendar; it’s a new beginning — or at least it can be for those who are willing to seize the opportunity. Volunteers are being offered opportunities to guide the Museum in new directions during the coming year, and the success of these endeavors will depend on the support of the Board, auxiliary volunteers and Association members to be creative and receptive to change.

A willingness for renewal or change does not imply that very little was accomplished last year. On the contrary, docents and other volunteers have a lot to be proud of. Docents and Auxiliary volunteers logged an average of 3700 hours a month in giving tours and various duties at the Museum. Docents expanded the number of presentations of Westminster Hall, the Indian School Kit, Victorian School Kit, and the Downtown Walking Tours.

1995 was also an important year because it laid the groundwork for a number of important programs and structural changes to reach fruition in 1996. The Stabilization Board is beginning its work to bring the City.

The Museum will be settled this year. Judging from the responses, the merger of the Docent and Auxiliary groups could be finalized by June. The new education program, Women in Innovation: 1860-1900 will debut in March. The Portuguese Imperio is scheduled to open in 1996; the exterior of the Markham House has been painted, and the final allocation of the Beech-Nut property will be announced soon.

1996 can be a fresh beginning for volunteers and Association members at the Museum. In these first days of a new year, what better resolution could we make than to become more deeply committed to carrying out the mission of the Museum.

~ Richard Sachen, Docent Board President
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**AUXILIARY REPORT**

Happy New Year to all San Jose Historical Museum Association members from the Auxiliary Board and the 238 Auxiliary Volunteers.

Throughout 1995 I have attempted to outline and explain the services and support provided to the Museum by the Auxiliary Volunteers. In summary, the 238 volunteers work in nine service areas plus helping out in the office and assisting in special events and activities.

The service areas are the Archives, Collections (including Care and Preservation), Garden Club, Holiday Decorations and Restorations, Vintage Reflections, O’Brien’s, Printer’s Guild and the City Store at the Museum.

Do we have too many volunteers and are we looking for new volunteers? The answer is NO and YES. As in any volunteer group we have turnover, although the volunteer longevity at the Museum is one of the best around. We still welcome new volunteers throughout the year. For those of you reading the Association News who have been thinking about some place to volunteer, the San Jose Historical Museum is a great place to start.

I believe 1996 will be an exciting year of change at the Museum. Early in the year the two volunteer groups (Docents and Docents’ Auxiliary) will decide if they want to merge into a single Volunteer group. The work of the San Jose Historical Museum Stabilization Board should proceed at a faster pace now that this introductory, informational, and background meetings have been held. With the introduction of some new educational programs at the San Jose Historical Museum and the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Site, and the continuation of the existing well-proven educational programs at both locations, 1996 should be an outstanding year.

— Dean Helm, Auxiliary President

**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

Fast Forward

"It is the season not only of holidays but for the specter of January, the double-faced mythological figure of gates and doorways who looks backwards and forwards. Every January is a time of rethinking what we have accomplished as well as what we might foresee and plan for the future.

For the Archives as well as the Museum 1995 was a challenging year, and planning not only for the immediate new year but for the next millennium, is often daunting. As an archival facility for the community, we are trying to collect for the future, preserve the past, and make accessible all the historical information of the area.

Some of the challenges we face include the wealth of information available, the issues of control and access, the variety of formats in which material is presented, the decline of personal documentation, and the nitty-gritty, basic storage of material.

In what way are we facing these challenges? Basically, with new attitudes, including sharing of information and partnerships, awareness of access issues, staying attuned to technological, and management and maintenance of information through oral history, journals, and other non-tech means, and researching alternative means of storing materials.

The next century promises to be as exciting as the 20th has been. These next few years in archives should provide an opportunity to prepare an historical database for the new millennium.

— Leslie Masunaga, Archivist

**WHAT DO YOUR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS SUPPORT?**

Each year we ask you to renew your membership in the San Jose Historical Museum Association so we can support the Museum in a variety of ways. Among other things, your membership dollars enable the Association to:

- Maintain a highly visible level of community support for the Museum
- Build an Endowment to meet the Museum’s long-term needs
- Publish books, videos, and a bimonthly newspaper to promote our local history
- Advocate on behalf of the Museum for funding, staff, programs, and facilities
- Provide service through the operation of O’Brien’s Ice Cream Parlor, Vintage Reflections, Docents, and the City Store at the Museum and Peralta – Fallon House
- Organize and sponsor the City’s annual Founders Week celebration
- Manage and staff all operations at the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House, including educational programs, exhibits, and events
- Restore historic structures, including (since 1986) the Chiciqui House, Stevens Ranch Fruit Barn, Zanker House, DeLuz House and Garage, and Markham House.
- Organize lectures, bus trips, special events for Museum supporters
- Provide expertise to advise on the future physical development of the Museum site
- Sponsor an annual recognition luncheon for all Museum volunteers
- Sponsor programs for Schallenberger Elementary School through the San Jose Unified School District’s Adopt-A-School Program

The Museum would be a poorer place without the support of the San Jose Historical Museum Association, and you, as a member. Your contributions, through membership, sponsorships, and participation in special events, truly make a difference in what we are able to provide. Please help us by renewing your membership today, at the highest level possible, and encourage your friends to become members as well. In 1996, The San Jose Historical Museum will prosper with strong support from a community who cares to see its history preserved.

**STABILIZATION BOARD PROGRESS REPORT**

The Mayor and City Council authorized the creation of the San Jose Historical Museum Stabilization Board in order to maintain Museum day-to-day operations while developing new mission, strategic, and transition plans for the eventual transfer of Museum programming and operations to a non-profit entity.

The Mayor and Council also created the position of Interim Executive Museum Director to facilitate day-to-day interaction between the Museum and Association staff during this transition process. The Interim Executive Museum Director was given the authority to make immediate operational and programmatic changes to the Museum subject to the approval of the Stabilization Board.

A twenty-three member Stabilization Board, appointed by the Mayor and Council, has begun holding bi-monthly meetings in conjunction with the Interim Executive Director of the San Jose Historical Museum, Deputy City Manager Adriana M. Garza. Five meetings have been held to date, resulting in gradual progress. The focus of the Stabilization Board has been to educate themselves about Museum operations and programming, select personnel to support the goals of developing new mission, strategic, and transition plans.

To date, two individuals have been selected to work on Museum issues. A personnel facilitator has been hired to work with City and Association staff. An initial day-long joint session held on November 20, 1995, for the purpose of identifying next steps. A second facilitator was appointed on November 21, 1995, for the purpose of organizing and coordinating efforts.

A part-time analyst has been hired to assist the Interim Executive Director conduct research and advise the Board on analytical issues. The staff analyst has begun looking into Museum finances, started a salary survey of comparable Museums, conducted a Request for Proposals process to select a facilitator for the Stabilization Board, and served on-site at the Museum as the liaison between the Stabilization Board and the Interim Executive Director.

A museum technical advisor has been selected in order to begin the work of evaluating Museum archives and collections, and the associated programs and activities. This individual is expected to begin duties in mid-December, pending approval of an employment contract.

The Stabilization Board has also evaluated facilitator candidates to assist the Board develop a mission statement and strategic plan. The Stabilization Board reviewed RFPs and selected a facilitator at its December 13, 1995 meeting for an interview/presentation to be held in January. It is expected that the new facilitator will begin work with the Stabilization Board as soon as a contract can be negotiated and approved no later than February. The Stabilization Board emphasized the need for the strategic planning process to involve the public in development of the future of the San Jose Historical Museum.

To date, Stabilization Board members have toured Museum archives and collections, received presentations on the Museum background and master plan, and have been informed regarding contracts currently under negotiation. There are plans to hold the January 10, 1996 meeting at the Peralta/Fallon site so that the Stabilization Board can tour the facilities and receive a presentation on its history.

The Stabilization Board plans to continue its schedule of bi-monthly meetings through February. Critical issues to be addressed include the hiring of a permanent Executive Museum Director, pre-arrangement of the transfer of Museum archives and collections to the Beechum site, and further education with regard to existing Museum programs and activities.

Once the Stabilization Board facilitator begins the strategic planning process, the twenty-three member Board will begin to adopt smaller sub-committees to debate critical issues during the next five months. Each sub-committee, working with the guidance of the facilitator, will begin initial work products to be submitted to the broader public for review and comment. Based on public reaction and input, Mission and Strategic Plans will be modified and finalized for review and recommendation by the Stabilization Board to the City Council.

The next meeting of the Stabilization Board will be held at the Fallon House on January 10, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. Additions meetings are scheduled on January 24, February 7 and 21, 1996. The public is welcome to attend.

— Adriana M. Garza  
Interim Executive Director
We are children of this Valley
Copyright Pamela Anne Caselli Olivero 1995

We are children of this Valley
of the golden hills dotted with oaks
of the marshes lined with bulrushes
We bunted and gathered the abundant
riches around us
We lived with Mother Earth
We are Oblate
We are children of this Valley
We rode with Dechana and Portola
We came with wondering eyes to gaze
on this beautiful place
We brought padre and Christianity
We named this wonderful city
We are Spanish
We are children of this Valley
We rang the Mission bells
Fiestas and the rodeos were enjoyed by all
Ranches spread over our valley
Music reverberated throughout our town
We helped our pueblo grow
We are Mexican
We are children of this Valley
We came as fur traders and adventurers
We discovered the beauty of the land
We found gold in the foothills
riches in business
We brought Statehood
We are Americans
We are children of this Valley
We came to the Golden Mountain in search of wealth
We built the railroad
We toiled to please others
We rose from adversity
We are Chinese and Japanese
We are children of this Valley
We came bearing fruit - pears, apricots, cherries, mustard, ferns, amise
Wherever we went there were stories
We found our Valley of Hearts Delight
We are French and Italian
We are children of this Valley
We came to find a more peaceful life
To leave behind the fruit and cold
Industry was booming and we worked hard
for our children We helped our city grow
We are soldiers and sailors of World War II
We are children of this Valley
We came in terror to find a new home
We brought an infusion of culture,
A new reverence for education
And respect for bard work.
We are Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian
We are children of this Valley
Our bills are lined with houses
but the oaks still grow in our schoolyard
We are the grandchildren of our founders
We are the hope of our parents
We are children of this Valley
We are the future

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS
From October 25, 1995 to December 19, 1995, the Endowment Fund of the San Jose Historical Museum received the following donations:

In Memoriam:
Henry (Hank) Calloway
Susan B. Reed
Fred Merrick
Elaine Boeger
Kenneth M. Clydekendall
Edward Greening
Nancy Lajunesse
William Jung
Lori Peterson
Joanita P. Davidson

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 of acknowledgement will be sent to the person being honored or the family of the deceased.

MUSEUM STAFF
Mignon Gibson . . . . . . . Director
Wanda Foss . . . . . . . Senior Steno
Jeanie Kondo . . . . . . . Clerk/Typist
Leslie Manuha . . . . . . . Archivist
Virginia Beck . . . . . . . Curator of Education
Beverly Blochke . . . . . . . Volunteer Support (9/9)
Fawna Ferguson . . . . . . . Volunteer Support (9/9)
Carol Provenzano . . . . . . . Volunteer Support (9/9)
Maryanne Schrier . . . . . . . Volunteer Support (9/9)
Al Spivek . . . . . . . Volunteer Support (9/9)
Beverly Travecl . . . . . . . Volunteer Support (9/9)
Monte Diann . . . . . . . Museum Events
Sarah Heigho Nunes . . . . . . . Curator
Nancy Valley . . . . . . . Curator
Fred Bennett . . . . . . . Trolley Barn Manager

ASSOCIATION STAFF
Kathleen Muller . . . . . . . , Executive Director
Barbara Johnson . . . . . . . Development Director
Robert Pedretti . . . . . . . Peninsula-Fallon Site Director
Carol Ouellette . . . . . . . Bookkeeper
Jodi Henderson . . . . . . . Membership Coordinator
Toni Iranno . . . . . . . Shop Manager
Susan Miller . . . . . . . Shops Scheduler/Supervisor
Marge Lencricchia . . . . . . . Shops Supervisor
Judy Peck . . . . . . . Shops Supervisor
Julie Peterson . . . . . . . Vintage Reflections Manager

New Directional Signs led Visitors to Founders Day Ceremony
It is now much easier for visitors to find the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historical Site. Historical landmark signs have recently been installed on Guadalupe Parkway (Highway 87) directing visitors to the Peralta Adobe, California Historical Landmark No. 866.

The new signs were in place for the 218th anniversary celebration of the Founding of the Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe on November 29, 1995. Maggi Scura of KNTV was mistress of ceremonies for the program, which included remarks by Councilwoman Alice Woody; Camil Alonso-Vega, Consul General of Spain; and Fernando del Villar, Consul General of Mexico. The address was given by Joe Coto, Superintendent of the East Side Union High School District. Fourth and fifth grade students from Schallenberger Elementary School performed original poems, "We are the Children of this Valley", written by their teacher Pamela Olivero, and Arte Flamenco entertained. A beautiful birthday cake made by the pastry chef of the Fairmont Hotel was shared by the many people who attended the event on the Peralta grounds.

Sharing some "Inside Information"
A recent visitor to the Fallon House, Ruth Moeller, a Museum Association member who has donated numerous items to the San Jose Historical Museum collection, shared an interesting bit of information with docent Kay Edgar. In the master bedroom of the Fallon House is Ruth's grandmother's buried walnut American Renaissance Revival bedroom set. The set was a gift to her grandmother when she was married in 1876. As a child Ruth was shown a secret compartment of the dresser which she was invited to use to hide her special items from her parents. The hidden drawer was a special secret between herself and her grandmother. Stop by the Fallon House for a tour and ask to see the secret drawer. A Welcome Addition to Adobe Day Program
The Adobe Day school program has been enriched by the craftsmanship of volunteer Malcolm Chisholm. After building a sturdy support frame for the adobe, he used it in issuing a steer activity, Mac skillfully built a wooden yoke for carrying buckets of water. He used measurements taken from the yoke on display at the Ng Shing Gung Temple to fashion the yoke which will be used by students in the Adobe Day hands-on learning program.

Thanks to the Garden City Doll Club
The Civil War Family Historic Christmas decorations made by the Garden City Doll Club of Santa Clara Valley were greatly admired by the many visitors who came to the Fallon House during December. Many thanks to Frances Talley, Eleanor Giacalone, Jo Brown, Martha Cattich, Ann Duran, Judy Henderson, Marian Kehler, Sarah Markay, and Catherine Mason, members of the Doll Club, for their time and effort in making historically accurate decorations and for decorating the house in such a beautiful manner.

New Dolls Training to Begin
New docent training classes will begin in February for the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House. The training involves three two-hour introductory sessions. The sessions are scheduled for Saturdays, February 10, 17 and 24, 1996 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Fallon House. Please call 953-8141 for registration. Docents are especially needed for Wednesday through Friday. We are getting more requests for school groups than we can currently handle. Please consider training for school field trips to the Peralta Adobe and Fallon House, or for adult visits. We could really use your help.

* Robert Pedretti, Site Director
VINTAGE REFLECTIONS
SCHEDULE OF COSTUMING CLASSES IN NEW YEAR

In 1996, VINTAGE REFLECTIONS will be doing something new. The greatly expanded class schedule will include three tracks of classes: the 1860s (Civil War); the bustle era (1870s and 1880s); and late Victorian and Edwardian eras. Start in January, follow a track through the year, and you will have created an entire costume for yourself “from the skin out.” Follow all three class tracks and have three new costumes!

Some of the classes scheduled for 1996 include:
- Victorian lingerie (chemises, camisoles, drawers, and petticoats). This is the first step in creating the correct silhouette.
- French sewing and embroidery: Learn to embellish your period garments.
- Infrastructure: (bustles, hoops, and corsets). These garments are essential for the silhouette you are striving to achieve.
- Outer-wear: (skirts, jackets, blouses and bodices). Once you have all your under pinnings, it is time to start on the part of the costume that others will see.
- Accessories: (hats, parasols, reticules). These will round out your ensemble.
- Period movement, mannerisms and deportment: Provides the final touch. Learn more about how to manage unfamiliar garments and add polish to your impressions and vignettes.

We have not forgotten the male half of the population. New this year, will there be classes on shirts, vests, and ascots. Take one of the millinery classes to create the top hat or derby to “top off” your costume.

This year, so more people can attend, classes are scheduled to be held on Saturdays. Take an entire series of classes or pick and choose classes as your please. There will be a fee for all classes and they all require advanced sign-up. For details about fees, supplies, class times and locations, contact Judie Peterson at Vintage Reflections (408) 993-8136.

January - February Schedule of Classes (tentative):
1/13/96  French Heirloom Sewing 1/20/96 Drawers
1/27/96  Hats (Millinery) Session I  2/3/96 Chemises
2/10/96  Hats Session II  2/24/96 Hats Session III

Please be aware that dates are subject to change. For details about fees, supplies and class times, call (408) 993-8136.

Threshold to Confidence
School of Social Graces
Classes in etiquette for Young Ladies and Adults.
Mrs. William Barrett
(408) 257-5677

The RoseGarden
Because Some Things Are Timeless.
Long distinguished by its classic homes and tree-lined streets, The Rose Garden District has been home to San Jose’s leaders in business, politics and the arts since the 1930’s. For the first time in 40 years, new homes will be available in this prestigious neighborhood which offer 10 distinctive exterior styles and extensive customizing options.

These 4, 5 and 6 bedroom elegant family homes offer 2,300-2,850 square feet. Prices begin in the low-$400,000s.

The Sales Center is open daily from 10-5 just off the Alameda at Park and Naglee Avenues. Call 408-297-9173.
The unique organization, San Francisco's Bohemian Club, started out as a rowdy men's club in 1872, and it evolved into an elite group whose summer retreats on the Russian River attracted a wide array of movers and shakers from around the world. Presidents, potentates, industrialists and other men high up in the fields of education, the arts, world affairs and the military joined the club members for fireside chats, sing-alongs and bizarre theatricals. Over the years a number of men associated with our county have played important roles in the activities of this extraordinary organization.

Weaving Spiders, Come Not Here

Male organizations of many kinds seemed to flourish in the latter half of the 19th century. Men of all classes felt the need to find places away from home where they could drink, smoke, gamble and socialize with their peers. The Bohemian Club was founded by a group of working newspapermen who, though not practicing artists themselves, liked to pretend that they were “free spirits” similar to those in Henri Murger’s novel about the Bohemian artists in Paris.

The club constitution spelled out their aims: “The objects of the Club shall be the promotion of social and intellectual intercourse between journalists and other writers, artists, actors and musicians, professional or amateur, and such others not included in this list as may by reason of knowledge and appreciation of polite literature and the fine arts be deemed worthy of membership.”

Their motto: “Weaving spiders, come not here,” suggests that the members not bring their business or other worldly concerns past the front door.

Celebrating the Arts

The beginning ceremony of every encampment is an elaborate ritual called the “Cremation of Care;” after which the members and guests are free to revel in the activities that follow. From the earliest days the members presented skits or theatricals at their meetings. These became known as “links” (an old Scottish term for a frolic) which eventually evolved into full-blown pageants with music and dance that might involve several hundred of the membership in various capacities, including musicians, singers, actors and supernumeraries. To ensure that there is enough professional talent to create these spectacles, the club offers associate membership to musicians and other theatrical personnel.

It was through their artistic talents that many of our Santa Clara County men were drawn to the Bohemian Club’s activities.

James D. Phelan

James D. Phelan was the scion of a wealthy family that had connections in San Francisco and San Jose. Prior to assuming the responsibility of the family business and a political career, Phelan fancied himself a poet. He would be, throughout his life, a patron of the arts. He was only thirty when he became president of the Club in 1891, but his economic interests, taste and organizational ability set the tone that the Club has carried to the present.

He applied his literary talents to the writing of the text for the Grove Play of 1888. Titled The Convention, it had music supplied by Dr. H.J. Stewart. Esplandian, one of the oldest camps in the Bohemian Grove was named by Phelan after a Spanish romantic narrative by Garci Ordonez de Montalvo, who first coined the term “California.”

All through his years as Mayor of San Francisco and U.S. Senator, Phelan championed the activities of the Club. In 1920 he was expected to support a new series of outdoor pageants at Redwood State Park (Big Basin), but he discouraged their continuance because they appeared to compete with the plays at the Bohemian Grove. Not forgotten in the Senator’s will, the Club received some valuable sculptures by Auguste Rodin.

The Writers

Many California writers who had ties to Santa Clara County were welcomed into the Bohemian circle. These include: Ambrose Bierce, Jack London, George Sterling, Joaquin Miller and our own Charles Edwin Markham. Markham, who graduated from San Jose State Normal School and briefly edited a local newspaper, was middle-aged before the publication of his poem The Man with the Hoe catapulted him onto the world stage and into an honorary membership in the Bohemian Club.

The Musicians

The composer Edward E. Schneider was an associate member who enjoyed many seasons at the Bohemian Grove. Schneider attended the University of the Pacific Music Conservatory when it was still here in College Park. His piano teacher was E. Loui King who was to find our King Conservatory of Music. Schneider later studied in Germany with the great Xavier Scharwenka prior to settling in San Jose. He was professor of music at Mills College from 1901-1936. In his day he was a notable figure in American music. He composed a number of romantic tone poems which were given their premieres in San Francisco. His Legend of the

Sargasso Sea (1925) was performed in New York City and later in St. Louis. The San Francisco Mercury Herald reported that many great musicians from the Schneider home on Emory Street, including Rachmaninoff, Henry Hadley and Charles Wakefield Cadman. An all-purpose musician, Schneider was an invaluable asset to the Grove productions. He conducted their orchestra on many occasions.

An impressive array of performers of the club included Charles Edward Markham (1897), Apollo (1915) and Nanda (1928). The poet George Sterling was his collaborator in the Triumph of Bohemia.

More recently Dr. Forrest E. Baird, professor of music emeritus at San Jose State was a regular member of the Club orchestra’s brass section. He and a group of other San Joseans, including Harold Johnson, Tom Eagan, Allyn Ferguson and George Currin branched out and formed a jug band that became a big hit with the campers. Musicians all reside at the Tunerville Camp in the Grove; Dr. Baird remembers sharing his digs with some of the most prominent musicians of our time, including Jascha Heifitz and Benny Goodman.

U.S. President’s Retreat

Many U.S. Presidents have been guests at the Grove, but few were members. Former President Herbert Hoover, longtime resident of Stanford, became a member in 1913. Mr. Hoover took a great interest in the Club activities and seldom missed a summer on the Russian River. It became a traditional backdrop for his presidency at the final Lakeside Talk at the end of each season at the Grove.

The Grove Play Books

Every year the text of the Grove play of that season is printed in book form as a memento for the attendees. These books, designed and printed by renowned local printers such as the Grabhorn Brothers, John Henry Nash, Andrew Hoyem and Lawton Kennedy are fine examples of the printer’s art and highly valued by collectors. The San Jose State University Library, Special Collections has an extensive collection of these volumes which are going on exhibit in late January 1996 (Walshquist Library North, room 315, (408) 924-2715). The library is grateful to Dr. Hase Rodenbaugh for contributing his copies of the Grove Plays to our collection.

Edwin Markham (standing), Jack London beside Markham, George Sterling seated on ground. Photo by Gabriel Moulin 1915.

Edward E. Schneider, noted San Jose composer.
GARDEN CLUB UPDATE

MUSEUM GARDEN Club had quite a successful year in 1995. The pur-
pose of the Club is to assist Carla Morrison, staff gardener, in maintaining the
Museum grounds. Fifteen projects were devel-
oped and maintained in 1995 and over 1,500
hours were recorded by Garden Club volun-
teers. Produce and herbs from the garden
won numerous ribbons at the Santa Clara County Fair
last summer. The Garden Club projects were
entered into San Jose Beautiful’s Home Improvement
competition, where they came in second in the
landscape category under group projects.

1996 promises to be another exciting year for
the Garden Club. Newcomers are always welcome.
We will be holding a business meeting on
Wednesday, January 24, 10:30 - 11:30 AM
upstairs in the Firehouse. A garden maintenance
day will be held on Monday, January 15, 9:00 AM
to Noon (weather permitting). Please bring your
own garden gloves and tools. If you are a new-
comer planning to attend the business meeting
and/or the maintenance day, please call Laurel
Perusa (408) 354-7153.

Make a point of visiting our Museum in late
winter or early spring. San Jose Beautiful donat-
ed a tremendous number of daffodil bulbs to the
Museum last fall. They are sure to provide a
cheerful splash of color on the grounds.

New SCU Research Manuscripts Available

Three new research manuscripts are now
available for purchase in The City Store at the San Jose Historical
Museum and at the Peralta-Fallon
Historic Site. The manuscripts are
new additions to The Research Manuscript
Series on the Cultural and Natural History of
Santa Clara published by the Department of Anthro-
poology and Sociology, Santa Clara University.

The series now includes seven papers
written by students, in close collaboration with
University faculty and staff, and edited by Dr. Russell Skowronek, Assistant Professor in
the Department of Anthropology and Sociology. In
each manuscript, special emphasis is given to
documenting the ways in which changes in
the social world and changes in the natural world
are interrelated.

The latest title includes: Caring our Tunnel

Vision: The Representation of the Ohlone in the Bay Area Museums ($12.95) The Eberhard Privy: Archaeological and Historical Insights
into Santa Clara History ($15.95); and The Roots of Healing: Ethnomedical Adaptation of the Ohlone Indians ($12.95).

This series represents an important contri-
bution to published research on the early envi-
ronment of the Santa Clara Valley and the
impact of humans on the landscape. Background on the lifestyle of the Ohlone people may be of partic-
ular interest to docents at both the Museum and
the Peralta-Fallon Site, as well as the casual local
historian. For information on purchasing any or
all of the Manuscript Series by mail, please call
The City Store Manager at (408) 287-2290.

Museum Association members receive a 10% dis-
count on all purchases at both locations of The City Store.

We Buy and Sell California Paintings
We are buying and selling important examples by major California artists.
To receive a complete listing, please call the gallery.

In the Fairmont Hotel • 170 South Market Street • San Jose, CA 95113
TEL: (408) 993-1066 • FAX: (408) 993-0735

Bingham
GALLERY
The Palace of the Legion of Honor and the Musee Mecanique

WHEN: Friday, February 16, 1996
WHO: Association Members and their guests
HOW: Royal Coach bus leaving and returning to the Phelan Avenue Parking Lot
TIME: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
COST: $45.00 Members (Includes lunch) $50.00 Non-members (Includes lunch)

Closed since the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, San Francisco's Palace of the Legion of Honor has been renovated and seismically retrofitted and is once again open to the public. The "new" Legion kept the best of the old, utilized the most up-to-date earthquake-proofing techniques, and has even installed a long-pack-away 15th century Spanish ceiling. The World War I memorial has been cleaned up and expanded and now sparkles anew.

We will begin our day with a docent led tour of the Palace before it is open to the public. After the tour we will have free time to explore the museum further and visit the gift shop. Just before noon we will gather together and have brunch in the Legion's new terrace level cafe.

After brunch we will board the bus and drive a short distance to the Cliff House where we will visit the Musee Mecanique. The museum's collection of automata contains more than 300 coin-operated machines, some dating as far back as the 1860's. Also featured is Laughing Sal, who entertained visitors to Playland at the Beach from 1940 to 1972. The mechanical games are operational and should be fun to play (bring change).

Please join us for this special winter tour. Reservations for the trip are limited and refunds will be made only when there is a waiting list for the trip. Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association (SJHMA) and sent (along with the coupon below) to the SJHMA, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112-2599. Att: Judi Hendersen.

The Palace of the Legion of Honor

Name:
Address:
Phone:
No. of Reservations:

Please RSVP for this meeting: 0800 854-0490

If unable to attend, or for more information, please call the Association Office for a brochure at (408) 277-3780.

Founding members of the Museum Association gather at the Holiday Party in December.

this exciting itinerary:

Time: Thursday, January 18, 1996
5:00 PM or 7:00 PM.

Place: San Jose Historical Museum
Private Hotel Meeting Room
1600 Senter Road, San Jose, CA

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Mr/Mrs/Miss
Mailing Address

Zip + 4

(Res.) Phone

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

$1,000 Mission/Circle Gift of:
$500 Palace/Circle Please indicate method of payment: $ Check $ Cash
$250 Tower/Circle
$100 Century/Circle
$500 Committee/Circle
$43 Family/Greatgrandparents
$33 Individual
$33 Senior Citizens (16 and over)

Please check one of the following:
[ ] Dues Please discount by amount of your membership. [ ] Check
[ ] Dues [ ] VISA [ ] Mastercard [ ] Cash
[ ] Payment [ ] Expiration Date

Signature

*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. Unions.
Go to 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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 18, 1996
Rail & Sea Trip Presentation
3:00 PM and 7:00 PM.
Pacific Hotel

January 25, 1996
General Ngee Lee Presentation
7:30 PM
Pacific Hotel

February 8, 1996
Lecture on Palace of Legion of Honor
7:30 PM
Pacific Hotel

February 16, 1996
Bus Trip
8:00 A.M.
Phelan Avenue Parking Lot

February 22, 1996
Spanish Colonialism Lecture
7:30 PM
Empire Firehouse
EXHIBIT ON ITALIAN COMMUNITY AT
PERALTA - FALLON SITE

Opening Reception for Association Members & Guests
Thursday, February 15
$12.50 per person

The final section of the Introductory Exhibit in the Fallon House Cellar was completed in time for Founder’s Day on November 29, 1995. The small exhibit told the story of the Italian immigrants who came to live in the area around the turn of the 20th century. The exhibit included artifacts from the days when the Fallon House was The Italian Hotel and Restaurant and the Peralta Adobe housed Bacchio’s plumbing supplies. Photographs of both structures prior to restoration help the visitor understand the enormous efforts that have been made to preserve this historic site.

This new section of the exhibit was designed by Charles Peretti and Nish Shimogaki to complement the earlier portions of the exhibit previously installed in the Cellar. It was inspired by the generous assistance of the local Italian-American community.

All Association members are invited to come join us after work for an opportunity to see the new exhibit, enjoy some refreshments appropriate to the Italian theme, and visit with old friends. Please return the reservation coupon below or call the Association Office at 277-780 for more information.

X'll have a

Name
No. Attending X $12.50 per person = $.

Phone

Send reservations to SHABA, 1550 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112-2999
or call 277-780.

Reservation Deadline: February 7, 1996