HISTORIC PORTRAIT RESTORED THROUGH ENDOWMENT FUND

The San Jose Historical Museum Association announces the acquisition of a historically significant painting from the Santa Clara County Law Library. "Wait a minute! What is the Historical Museum doing with art and/or with the Law Library?" that's the story—it goes back a few years. Among the effects of early San Jose attorney and judge John Healey Moore (1825-1908) was a portrait, measuring 4 x 5 feet and mounted on heavy gold frame. It is a portrait of a man sitting in his home on The Alamedas and Schiele in his home. The portrait is unsigned and the artist is unknown. The portrait is unsigned and the artist is unknown. Years after Moore's death, Superior Court Judge William F. James (1875-1966), who served on the court from 1933-1963, obtained the portrait from Moore's heirs. James in turn donated the painting to the County and on February 19, 1961, it was hung in the chambers of Superior Court Judge (later appellate justice) Byron Saltan. In due course the painting found its way to the Santa Clara County Law Library, formerly housed in the courthouse at Market and St. James streets in San Jose and since 1985 at the rear of North First and Bascom streets. Continued on page 8.

1991 LECTURE SERIES

Thursday, January 24, 1991, will be the first in a series of lecture programs that will be offered to Association Members and guests during the year. They will be held in the meeting room of the Pacific Hotel. The Gift Shop will be open a half hour before and after the lectures.

The cost is $2.00 for Association Members and $5.00 for non-members. If you are a $50 or above 1991 Association Member, please contact Earlene Shields (287-2290) for your two passes to the lecture of your choice.

Thursday, January 24, 1991
7:30 p.m.
Pacific Hotel
San Jose and Its Cathedral
by Marjorie Pierce

A presentation will be given by Marjorie Pierce, author of San Jose and Its Cathedral. She will speak on the history of the pueblo that now emerged as the technology center of the world. Interwoven with the City's history is the drama of its four St. Joseph's churches that have been built on the same site. The book will be available for purchase in the Museum Gift Shop.

Marjorie Pierce was for many years a columnist for the San Jose Mercury News and is also the author of East of the Guadalupe. See photo on page 6.

Please make reservations by phoning the Museum at 287-2290. Entrance to the Museum will be through the Phelan Avenue Gate.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
1400 SENTER ROAD
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95113

ADDRESSES CORRECTION REQUESTED

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**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Looking Forward to 1991

In 1991 many major projects will be completed and new directions for the future will emerge as the result of the PLAN FOR THE PAST will begin to show results.

Currently construction is underway for Ng Shing Gong, a replica of San Fran 1886 Chinese Temple. This project is a gift of the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project (CHCP) and will house artifacts from the history of the Chinese in San Jose and Santa Clara County. Also well underway are the plans for the restoration of the DeAnza Hotel. This project is being coordinated by the Museum Association utilizing both Federal and City funds. When completed it will house the Museum's permanent collections and also provide exhibit space for the Museum costume-textile collection.

Also at the development stages are the street and infrastructure system, the restoration of the Markham House, plans for additional trolley track, the acquisition of a major Victorian landscaped of the north entrance including the Gordon House and Master Plan update with storage study.

New programs that are a result of the City Council approved PLAN FOR THE PAST include an Oral History Program and the development of a San Jose History Program for the schools in conjunction with the County Office of Education.

While many new projects and programs are being developed, the Historical Museum will continue to improve its existing facilities and services. Public tours, scheduled tours, research activities, collections services, facility and volunteer opportunities and current exhibits will all continue to improve throughout 1991.

As we start a new year I hope that all of you take the time to view your membership cards and renew your membership to the San Jose Historical Museum Association and plan to participate in some of the activities offered by the Association. With the continued growth of the Historical Museum there are many reasons to make repeat visits. With construction occurring at this time we anticipate that some of the activities and events, there will always be something new and to see.

I want to thank everyone for making 1990 a great year and I look forward to 1991 being just as wonderful. Thank you.

Mignon Gibson
Museum Director

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**FROM THE EDITOR**

As 1991 begins we wish to welcome new members to the Board of Directors of the Museum Association and thank them for their willingness to commit themselves to helping us reach our goals. Representing Vintage Reflections, our costume shop, is Colleen Kelly who has been an active volunteer in the program for several years. The volunteers who are members of our Auxiliary will be represented by John Cochran, a volunteer himself, who has been active in collection care. Charles Walton will be the liaison to the Docent Council, as Council President. In fact, this year Lady Edward Davila will join the Board as a Member-at-Large.

The Development Council will also gain new members, including John Walsh and Martin Mieger, who will bring to the group expertise in the field of construction and historic restoration.

The Association has a wide selection of activities and programs planned for the membership in 1991 and I urge you to take full advantage of all that is offered. If you don't see the type of event or program you wish to see, please let us know. We would welcome your suggestions.

Throughout the new year the Museum Association will continue to support the Western Development Foundation's project, Leslie and work as Local Arrangement Chairperson, and Sarah and Nancy's participation in a case study presentation of the American Historical Association. Leslie is a member of Western Registrars, a committee of the American Association of Museums (AAM). She, in turn, translates the information into successful collections records management.

I have just returned from an intensive three-week Seminar for Historical Administration (SHA) conducted at Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. I competed for a place at SHA, and received full scholarship to attend. The City of San Jose approved my request for release time.

Kathleen Muller
Administrator

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**ARCHIVES**

Open Saturdays:
January 12 and 26, February 9 and 23, and March 9 and 23, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Please call Archives for an appointment (287-2890).

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**IN THE COLLECTIONS**

Continuing professional education is an on-going activity for the Historical Museum collections staff. Collections curators including myself, Sarah Nunez, Nancy Valley and Archivist Leslie Masona are involved in activities that enhance our individual knowledge and add to our ability to perform our jobs. The San Jose Historical Museum.

Leslie and I are working with a new organization, Heritage Council of Santa Clara County to develop a Regional Network of volunteers to support our work and expand our community support for the Museum and the preservation of our local history. As supporting members of the Historical Society, you make these efforts possible. Thank you for your interest and involvement.

Kathleen Muller
Administrator

---

**President’s Message**

I love this time of year, when our thoughts turn to others and how we can bring joy to them. We bury ourselves with past preparations and begin busting about for gifts just to see a smile on someone’s face. Little thought goes into what we will receive (although someone else out there is doing the same for us).

As in the past year, we have heard that everyone at the San Jose Historical Museum has a gift for giving.” Each person donates so much time, effort and money for a common cause: PASSING YESTERDAY FORWARD TO TOMORROW. What a challenge we have!”

The gifts of us all have been received in this effort and we are all counting the cost. It is an overwhelming task to take care of the children of tomorrow. The gifts each one of us has received in this effort are countless. The joyful times of tomorrow.

aren’t we fortunate to have found this common cause, made wonderful friends, and participated in this joyous gift. WHO SAWS WE CAN’T HAVE IT ALL?

Patricia Borba McDonald
Association President

**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

"Memories are made of this ..."

Remember the 50th anniversary invocation of Aunt Grace and Uncle John you received this year? The announcement of the reopening of the DeAnza Hotel? The scads of election material in the fall of 1990? The pamphlet on water saving?

At this time of year we attempt to begin everything anew. All the ‘good stuff’ information received in the last year is evaluated and often thrown out. Some items survive because of sentiment. This is the original form of how we have unlimited space to keep everything.

In the Archives we try to preserve a few transitional pieces because, while they do not give the full documentation of a time or place, they augment the written records.

The formal term given to these items is “ephemera.” According to the dictionary, ephemera is "printed matter of passing interest, such as handbills or postcards." In our collection we have advertising handouts, receipts, menus, advertisements, photograph albums, call sheets, menu cards, postcards, scrapbooks and even a few old sports tickets.

These items were often common at the time of production and distribution, but currently are almost nonexistent. For example, the booklet and newspaper reports of the City of San Jose’s Centennial, The Advantages of the City of San Jose, California, as a Manufacturing Center, cannot be found anywhere; yet, it must have been mass-produced to invite and encourage development in the Santa Clara Valley. An item we take for granted may be in the future the rare piece that truly represents our time.

In addition to collecting historic items, the Archives gathers materials for the future. We have been asked to keep on file and invite the community to contribute materials for this year. Postcards, theater and sports programs, greeting cards, announcements of local calendars, fair ribbons, etc. are all documentary indications of our culture. We need to save a sample of these items in the future for the future generations. Please share the best with us — but hold the junk mail!

Leslie Masona Archivist

---

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1991 LECTURE SERIES

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

1991 LECTURE SERIES

HISTORIC PORTRAIT

ENDOWMENT FUND

RESTORED THROUGH

HISTORIC PORTRAIT

ENDOWMENT FUND

PHILANTHROPY

SHARING THE HISTORICAL
MOMENTS OF SAN JOSE

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Associate member of the San Jose Historical Museum Association

Published by the San Jose Historical Museum Association

Vol. 3, No. 1

January 1991
IN THE COLLECTIONS
continued from page 2

The seminar covered such areas of concern as mission statements, legal issues, professional ethics, personal issues, financial issues, leadership, time management, interpretive programming and evaluation, cultural diversity, preservation and/or restoration, and issues and trends in American society.

Involvement in professional organizational work, conferences and seminars also provides the opportunity to improve and refine professional growth. The experiences furnish us with the means for self-assessment, pursuit of that growth. Our participation in conferences, workshops and seminars also allows us the opportunity for dialogue with our peers and provides us with a common set of concepts and vocabulary necessary for our continuing communication. Continuing professional education also enables us to better meet the demands of the San Jose Historical Museum, a growing institution that is starting to include many off-site facilities and new programs.

Milla Rios-Samaniego
Curator

MUSEUM AUXILIARY

Welcome to the Trolley Barn

The new year brings the Trolley Barn into the Museum organization and, as a corollary, will join their ranks the volunteers with the Museum Auxiliary. As a practical matter the change is expected to cause few ripples, since the Trolley volunteers have always been more than eager to extend their help to all visitors and the many thousands of restoration work being performed in the facility. Representation of this group on the Auxiliary Board is expected to add to the breadth of experience available to guide activities of the organization.

From the point of view of the Museum, this addition will add a whole new facet to the history of San Jose which is being preserved. Existing exhibits related to domestic homes, farming, and the professions. Now this exhibit will permit the preservation and display of machinery used in local shops which supported farming and early industry in the San Jose area.

Equal importance to the artifacts are the volunteers with their skills as machinists, pattern makers, wood workers, painters, and mechanic. They will be able to assist with the restoration and reconstruction of mechanical and electrical equipment which are a part of the heritage the San Jose Historical Museum seeks to preserve and explain.

John Cochran
Auxiliary President

MUSEUM STAFF

Mignon Gibson Director
Office
Pat Poore Senior Steno
Joanne Kondo Clerk/Typist
Archives
Leslie Manmaga Archivist
Rita Johnson Steno II
Education
Virginia Beck Curator of Education
Dorothy Ramirez Typist Clerk II
D. Cortinda Dawley (p/t) Educational Project
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Volunteers
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Nancy Freeman (p/t) Volunteer Projects Coordinator
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Milla Rios-Samaniego Curator
Sarah Heigle Nurse Steno
Nancy Valley Curator
Trolley Barn
Fred Bennett . Master Car Builder
Dick Furman (p/t) Trolley Barn Supervisor

ASSOCIATION STAFF

Kathleen Muller Administrative Assistant
Administrative Services
Carolous Harder Bookkeeper
Fund Raising Member Coordinator
Pauline Bruni Costume Shop Manager
Shops
Toni Evans Manager
Anita Kasuba Scheduler/Supervisor
Margaretta Spomer (p/t) Shop Supervisor

DOCENT REPORT

The following is a futuristic look at the Museum from the viewpoint of a long-tim and very active volunteer, Docent Council President Charles Walton.

New Year's Dreaming

A trolley car from downtown stopped in the middle of the wide, busy Phelan Avenue, changing its bell and waiting to turn into the Museum gate. The year was 2015 A.D. I couldn't see this, like you see things in a dream. The scene from where I stood alongside the Pacific Hotel had many additions. Beyond the Chinese Temple was the Statehouse and behind it were commercial buildings facing the Dashaway Stable.

A glance of the other side showed more changes beyond the Plaza: homes and a schoolhouse. Scribbling wheels of the trolley-turning returned my attention to its arrival with passengers. The happy crowd, either costumes of carrying dress bags, disembarked at Market Street. As they scattered in different directions, they chatted about lunch and the ride back downtown. So many headed up Market that I moved with them to see where they were going.

I couldn't believe my eyes! The whole block across Market Street from the Pacific Hotel was filled with two-story Victorian Buildings with old-fashioned light bulbs. New painting in their windows: Hardware Store, Music Store, Pharmacy, Ladies Ready-to-Wear, Cafe, Sporting Goods, Housewares, Haberdashery.

Interpreters and craftsmen were unlocking doors and turning on lights, even in the upstairs rooms whose windows proclaimed Law Offices, Insurance, Optometrists, and such. I stopped a passersby who explained that professions, trade associations or unions had provided the exhibits and often their volunteers took turns interpreting.

“They've done it! San Jose has done it!” Inwardly I exulted. A surge of pride started down around my ankle bones and wellied upwards. The city fathers had held to their resolutions. Association, staff and volunteers—the whole community had responded to the challenges. The Museum Master Plan was being achieved, even surpassed!

Then as one can do in a dream, I was looking down on the whole Museum area. Our Market and Santa Clara Streets had certainly become the main intersection. At the creek end of Market was a fine, big building, and Santa Clara ran from the Fruitbarn under the Tower and almost to Phelan Avenue, where the warehouses and staff parking lot now stand.

The scene began to fade but not my reactions to it. Think of the education programs they must have at the museum! Think of the quickening of spirit throughout the entire community as it began to achieve these goals. Think of the cooperation it takes to create and staff so many buildings. Indeed, the city has lived up to the highest aspirations of its pioneers. Our construction had built from the strengths of past generations to help improve on the future.

The San Jose Historical Museum was living up to its potential.

Charles Walton
Docent Council President

DOCENT TRAINING ON NEW SCHEDULE FOR 1991

The 1991 Docent training program will truly have something for everyone: evening lectures and Monday or Saturday in-gallery instruction. In an effort to reach more employed volunteers but still keep the non-employed volunteer core, Docent training will occur on seven evenings, March through May. Attendees may park on the Museum grounds and are encouraged to bring a spouse, friend, or relative.

Docent trainees will then have their choice of in-gallery days: Monday or Saturday mornings. Training begins Saturday, March 2, and extends to the end of May. The specific evening for the lectures is yet to be determined.

Individuals interested in becoming Docents are invited to one of two Get-Acquainted Coffees at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 9, or 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 14, in the meeting room of the Empire Firehouse on the Museum grounds. At that time information will be presented on the Museum, the Docent Council, and the training program. Anyone wishing to attend a coffee or to receive a packet of information should call the Curator of Education. Virginia Beck, at the Museum (408) 227-2290 or (408) 227-4017.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Virginia Beck
Curator of Education
GRACE NOTES —
Being echoes of the local music scene, discovered while looking up something else...

Local music publishers, and branches of larger West Coast firms, were mostly located on South First and Second Streets. They issued their own journals of interest and advertisement in the 1880s and 1890s. Here are some gems culled from the Museum's Archives:

- from Sherman & Hyde's Musical Review (March, 1877):
  Last Wednesday morning, Mr. Morton of San Jose sold two Weber pianos, a Standard Organ, and a very fine guitar, all before luncheon.
  - from the Musical Circular of Wylie B. Allen (March, 1880; the store was next to the Post Office, then located in the Hensley House on Santa Clara at 2nd St.
  - More people came to the recital of Prof. King's pupils, at the College of the Pacific Conservatory (up town on the Alameda, now Bellarmine Prep), than there were spectators to take them home — the transport system should be more alert and responsive to such demands.
  - editorial headline in the same issue:
    WHY CAN'T WE HAVE A NORMAL MUSI- CAL DEPARTMENT?
    - The San Jose Normal School, later Teachers College, was the nucleus of today's San Jose State University; its Music Department is the solo survivor of four major music conservatories operating downtown from 1876 through the mid-1920s.
    - from the Musical Journal of the Music Hall Store (C. H. Maddox, prop; September, 1882):
      There are 125,000 music lovers in the United States. [San Jose's city directories from 1865 to 1893 listed about 50-60 each year.]

In the same issue:
- A Miss Griesowd (Bret Harte's niece) has won the first prize for song, and a second for operatic singing, at the Paris Conservatoire competition, the first occasion on which first prize for singing had been taken by an English-speaking pupil.
- also in that issue, a portent of things to come:
  Music performed in Harrisburg, by the aid of appliances for transmitting sound and advertisement in Philadelphia, a distance of some 105 miles. The notes were said to be perfectly distinct, even to those who stood 55 feet from the receiver.

One of the first publications printed in San Francisco after the great earthquake and fire of 1906 was the new San Francisco Magazine, "dedicated to the development of the State of California and the rebuilding of a new and greater San Francisco." The first issue, called the Salomon der Number in imitation of the salamander which emerges from the mud and thrives after forest fires, observed the local street scene:

Then, too, there is music. In some way a piano was saved from a ruined mansion on Nob Hill. Every night there was a crowd around it, and in some houses, the people were nổiing their strange melody is going on day and night.

In the back pages of a song collection of that era is an advertisement by the Ruff Organ Co. of St. Louis, presenting a new instrument "guaranteed to be dust and mouse-proof."

continued on page 5
GRACE NOTES
—
continued from page 4

San Jose continued to be a major stop on the network music recital circuits through the 1920s
and 30s; our Archives contain recital programs
of many artists well-known at the time, and some
who became even more famous. They include
Percy Grainger, composer of “Country Gardens,”
a very young Arthur Rubinstein, and the equally
young Myra Hess, English pianist at age 21. She
ended her days in London by staunchly play-
ing liaison concerts in a local church during
the Blitz in 1940-42. Mischa Elman was a violi-
nist favorite, as was Ephrem Zimbaltis, Sr. He
was born and raised in San Jose; his son is the
actor! A modern counterpart to Zimbaltis might
be Yoehudi Menuhin, who spent childhood sum-
mers in Alma and has occasionally returned to
concerts in the South Bay.

Anne Louise Heigho
Auxiliary Volunteer

BOOK REVIEW
By Bill Chivers, former Boy Scout
SCOUTING IN THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY
The Seventy-Year Adventure

Thousands of present and former Santa Clara
County Boy Scouts and their families will want
to read a tremendously informative new book about
the history of the Santa Clara County Council of
Boy Scouts of America that has just been published.
It is called Scouting in the Santa Clara Valley:
The Seventy-Year Adventure. This history is dedi-
cated to Scouts, both volunteer and professional,
who have worked in a unique partnership since 1920
to give meaningful programs of scouting to the youth
of our county.

It takes many people to put together such a book
as this, but the main credit should go to James P.
Strebeck, who in 1987 took on the tremendous task
of heading a group to publish this comprehensive
history of our local scouting council. Marii Bennett,
a professional editor and author from Los Gatos,
was engaged to take the seventy years of accumulat-
ated material, condense it and put it in narrative form
for the book. In 1987, Marii published her own pic-
torial history of Los Gatos, Saratoga and Monte
Sereno called Images of Long Ago. In addition,
a well-known veteran printer and publisher volun-
teer to oversee publishing the book. Leonard
McKay, a former Boy Scout, retired from his local
publishing and printing career, has produced many
history books. The book was printed by our local
Rosicrucian Press.

In recent years scouting has changed from teach-
ing boys about the care of horses and Indian dances
and rope tying. Today, Scouts are taught to reduce
the ‘impact of the outdoors’ and cleanup on the
environment. They are taught about drug and child
abuse, and to be kinder to the environment. The Scout
Oath has never changed, and most Scouts will remember it all
their lives — “On my honor, I will do my best,” etc.

This wonderful 214-page hardcover book has 18
pages listing Santa Clara County Eagle Scout recipi-
ents from 1921 to 1989, almost 4,000 names. To
qualify for Eagle Scout, Scouting’s highest rank,
the Scout must have earned 21 merit badges, be
accepted by a council advisor, and have found
a group of people who will help him forge six months as a Life
Scout in a leadership position. This book has
pictures of some of Santa Clara County’s Scouting bene-
factors and has ten pages of index with over one
hundred Scout Troops listed.

This gem of a book is a must for all Scouts and
Scouts-to-be. Every history buff will want it in
his library, and it is now available in the Gift Shop
of the Santa Clara Historical Museum for $24.95 plus
tax. A big thank you goes to our Santa Clara Coun-
ty Council-Boy Scouts of America for publishing
this book.

This photo of the Holmes Brothers and their Stanley Steamer appears in Yosemite’s Yester-
day, written by Hank Johnson. The photo was by A.T. Bowers, a pioneer Yosemite photogra-
pher, who took the photo in July, 1900. (Yosemite Research Library Collection)

HAPPY NEW YEAR YOSEMITE

Long vanished are quiet days known to the native inhabitants of Yosemite Valley prior to its discov-
ery by the outside world in 1851. An Act of Congress made Yosemite a National Park in October
of 1890, and in the one hundred years since, the congestion and road difficulties have not been solved.

In this article from the "Signposts" column that appeared in the San Jose Mercury News several
years ago, it seems the old-timers might have thought, "So what is new?"

For more than a dozen years after two San Jose
brothers drove an auto into Yosemite in 1900,
auto traffic was barred from the valley.

Although the stagecoach era was coming to a
close by 1907 when the Yosemite Valley Railroad
was completed to El Portal, stage continued to
transport train passengers on into the valley for
a number of years.

Carl P. Russell, park superintendent from 1947
to 1952 and author of the book, "100 Years in
Yosemite," notes regulations in effect in the early
1900s concerning bicycles and teams of horses
indicated "to what extent noisy automobiles were
regarded as a menace." Cyclists were required to
stop beside the road when meeting a team, keep-
ing themselves between the bike and the horses,
and if they wished to pass and the driver indicat-
ed the bike would frighten the horses, cyclists
must walk and push the bike.

No automobiles or motorcycles were permitted
in the valley until 1913, but Arthur and Frank
Holmes of San Jose were there.

The brothers, owners of San Jose Hardware in
San Jose for many years, made the trip in a Stan-
ley Steamer in July 1900 and had their picture
taken in the park.

In an interview on Yosemite’s diamond anni-
versary in 1926, Arthur Holmes commented that in
1900 not only were automobiles far from perfect,
there were no gas stations “and good-natured
horse and mule drivers were scarce.”

The Holmes brothers traveled by way of
Pacheco Pass and Madera to Baywood (north of
Mariposa) and then “over the mountainous road
to Ahwahnee” on to Wawona and the valley
floor in three days.

Between Firebaugh and Madera “the sand was
so thick we had to get on our hands and knees
and scrape it from under our wheels.”

At Raymond, they loaded as many cans of gaso-
line as possible into the car and went on to
Ahwahnee, “a beginning station for stage horses
and eating place,” where they spent the first
night.

Continuing on the next morning, they were
warned to be on the lookout for stages on the
narrow road, so Arthur would run ahead on the
sharp curves to warn them.

“1 met a stage in a cut and ran forward waving
my arms and shouting to stop them. They drew
up in a cloud of dust, the driver profoundly
telling me his opinion of my art. It seems the stage
had been held up in that identical spot the week
before, and naturally the drivers were a bit ner-
vous of unknown men wigwagging stop signals.”

That night, the pioneer motorists made
Wawona, and the third night they were at the
Sentinal Hotel owned by the Washburn brothers,
who also owned the toll road and stage line.

Registering at the hotel, they boasted “all the
way from San Jose by auto.”

Sons of the first principal of the State Normal
School in San Francisco that became San Jose
State University, Frank and Arthur Holmes were
prominent San Jose businessmen for many years.
On the occasion of Yosemite’s 75th discovery
birthday in 1926, Arthur Holmes drove in the
official caravan which opened the new all-year
highway into the park from Merced through
Mariposa and Bricelout.

At that time, two other San Jose men — Les
King and Phil Niederauer of Granger Motor Co. —
drove a Whippet, America’s first European-type
car, from San Jose over the new road and back
via the Big Oak Flat Road to prove it could be
done in a day. The round trip, reported in the
local press, took 8 hours and required only 16 gal-
Ions of gas at 22 cents a gallon.

So today, despite gasoline costing over $1.32
gallon, Yosemite can still count on San Joseans
guiding their automobiles over mountainous roads
in order to be dwarfed by awesome granite cliffs
in order to celebrate another Happy New Year.

Patricia Loomis

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As a part of the public art program of the Fine Arts Commission, commemorative art that reflects San Jose's heritage and culture is now being evaluated as a part of an Art in Public Places Ordinance. The PLAN FOR THE PAST stresses the need for events, celebrations, art and promotions to help instill community identity and pride in our cultural and ethnic diversity.

The City Administration is currently developing the 1991-92 Operating and Capital Budgets, and the Historic Landmarks Commission strongly urges support of continued operating funding for PLAN FOR THE PAST programs. In addition to the programs noted above, this year's funding includes an additional staff person in the Planning Department to provide support to historic preservation planning programs, and the first phase of a comprehensive update to the Historic Resources Inventory. The Commission also appreciates efforts made by the Redevelopment Agency in prioritizing historic preservation projects in the downtown during this last year, which includes the soon to be realized renovation of the California Fox theater. The Historic Landmarks Commission firmly believes that continued focus by our city planners on preservation issues will complement the educational programs of the Museum, and will reinforce our awareness of San Jose's unique character.

**Landmarks Commission Meetings**

The Historic Landmarks Commission meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month in Room 204 in City Hall at 7:00 p.m. The January 1991 meeting will be held on the second Wednesday, January 9, due to the holiday season. All are welcome to attend.

Franklin Maggi, President
Historic Landmarks Commission

---

**MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES**

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If you are employed by one of these firms, we urge you to obtain the appropriate form from your employer and send it to us with your 1991 matching gift. You can send it to the San Jose Historical Museum Association, Attn: Corporate Donations. Your gift to the San Jose Historical Museum Association will then be increased at no additional expense to you. Your donation to our Endowment Fund and Special Projects Fund may also be matched.

The I.R.S. requires charitable organizations to notify donors that only certain portions of donations are tax deductible or eligible for corporate match. This year the amount above $15.00 of your membership may be claimed. All of your donations to the Endowment and Special Projects Funds will be matched.

Please help us take advantage of this generous corporate support available in our current membership campaign to support the Museum. Check with your employer today to see if a match for your donations to the Museum Association is possible.

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HISTORICAL FOOTNOTES OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY

by Jack Douglas

ANDREW CARNEGIE AND HIS LIBRARIES

Now that we are approaching the centenary of the first Carnegie library buildings it seems an appropriate time to remember Andrew Carnegie and his contribution to the free public library movement in the United States.

Carnegie amassed a huge fortune (some said at the expense of his workers) by building the cartel which later became U.S. Steel. A Scottish immigrant who started out as a laborer, he was the embodiment of the Horatio Alger rags to riches hero. Through the Carnegie Foundation he distributed his wealth to a number of varied institutions worldwide. However, he is given the most recognition for the over $41 million he contributed for the building of 1,549 library buildings, 1,412 of which were in the United States.

His up-by-the-bootstraps philosophy of self-reliance was reflected in his support of libraries: "I think it fruitful in the extreme, because it helps only those that help themselves, because it does not sap the foundation of manly independence, because it does not pauperize, because it strengthens a hand to the aspiring and places a ladder upon which they can only ascend by doing the climbing themselves. This is not a charity, this is not philanthropy, it is the people themselves helping themselves by trusting themselves."

The communities receiving library grants had to guarantee that they would assess themselves enough to stock, maintain and service each library. The amount awarded was based upon the population of the community. Grants in California ran on the average of $32,000 (1900) to over $700,000 for the San Francisco library system.

The first Carnegie library grant given in California was to the city of San Diego in 1899 for $60,000. In all, 142 buildings in 121 communities were funded in California until 1917 when the program ended. By then practically every town and hamlet had its monument to culture and western civilization. In most cases local architects were selected, the exception being the plans for some of the smaller cities which were picked up by the firm of William Weeks.

Although the Carnegie people did not control architectural planning, there was a similarity in the layout of many of these structures. No matter what the size, and some were quite small, they presented a facade of solidity. The arrangement and use of space inside was not always, however, the most efficient.

San Jose was not long in submitting its application for funds. In February 1901, O.H. Hale, local proprietor of the Hale's department store chain, wrote Mr. Carnegie: The city of San Jose, California, contains a population of 35 to 30 thousand, and is essentially a city of homes, schools and churches. The Free Library is at present located on the second floor of the City Hall building directly over the Police Court and jail. Our people are exceedingly anxious to secure a new library and will furnish a free site in a small park in close proximity to the new Post Office Building. (Presumably Plaza Park.) The Mayor and Common Council are willing to pass an ordinance fixing the tax levy at a rate that will produce a revenue of 5 to 8 thousand dollars per annum for permanent maintenance. Will you kindly advise us if you are favorably inclined to donate to our city the sum of $60,000 for this purpose.

The funds were granted and William Binder was selected to draw up the plans. (Binder and his partner E.M. Curtis, under the employ of developer T.S. Montgomery, would shortly change the face of downtown San Jose with their designs for the Twobyt Building, the Civic Auditorium and many theaters, hotels and churches.)

The Plaza Park site was scrawped when the mayor convinced the state to give back a corner of Washington Square (part of the Normal School property) at 4th and San Fernando Streets.

The laying of the cornerstone took place on Sunday, February 17, 1902. The cornerstone of Elks Lodge 2nd and Santa Clara Streets consisting of all 200 local Elks, each carrying an American flag. Also included was the Fifth Regimental Band, a platoon of police, members of the Common Council, library trustees and other city and county dignitaries. The ceremony was almost entirely an Elks affair including speeches and prayers by the Exalted Ruler Joseph R. Patton

Common Council finally left the decision of the inscription up to the architect. Binder, himself an Elk who was probably sorry he had ever invited them to the party, finally settled for the simple inscription "AD 1902." Curtis rewrote his contract, added $550 to the bill and installed the second cornerstone with only the workmen present.

The handsome, copper domed, neoclassical library was opened on June 1, 1902. The location in the park near the college and San Jose High must have been appealing, but the activity on the S.P. tracks which ran down 4th Street must have been disconcerting to the readers.

The 1906 earthquake caused damage to a number of Carnegie libraries and the foundation granted funds to some cities for repairs, but San Jose was rejected. Rejection came again in 1921 when the librarian requested funds to add more rooms. As Mr. Woods, the librarian, put it: The building erected by Mr. Carnegie's gift in 1902 has become entirely inadequate to serve a population which has grown from 21,000 in 1900 to 40,000 in 1920.

The rapid growth of many California cities made most of the Carnegie buildings obsolete. By the 1930s many had been converted to other municipal uses. San Jose's was abandoned in 1937 when the library was moved to the vacated post office building at San Fernando and Market Streets (now the San Jose Art Museum). The solid little building was reputedly sold to the college for $55,000 and was converted into the student union. The "library" was almost entirely Elks affair including speeches and prayers by the Exalted Ruler Joseph R. Patton

Andrew Carnegie 1837-1919

Postcard courtesy of Jack Douglas

Chaplain Southgate. The orator of the day was attorney and past exalted ruler Jack Hatch. (Hatch would single-handedly acquire a Carnegie grant for the city of East San Jose in 1907. See May 1983 issue of San Jose Historical Museum Association News.)

At the conclusion of Hatch's lengthy address, Exalted Ruler Patton installed the cornerstone with its sealed box of items meant for the eyes of generations yet unborn. Included were recent copies of the local papers and numerous Elks Club documents. To top off their contribution the cornerstone was engraved "Placed by the San Jose Lodge, No. 522 B.F.O.E. at the request of the Mayor and Common Council."

Everyone went home that day believing that they had witnessed a memorable event. And indeed they had, for the next day a storm of protest arose which might compare with the recent debates over the statue of Captain Phantom. The Post's Union, made up of most of the city's clergy, was infuriated over the manner in which the Elks had taken over the program. They objected to the holding of such an event on the Sabbath, they were infuriated at the Insinuation of their insignia on the inscription, and they were appalled that no date or reference to Carnegie was included. It was, they said, "an insult to the sanity of the building."

To complicate the matter even more, the contractor, F.A. Curtis, removed the granite block, claiming that it was not included in his contract which had specified a plain sandstone block. While locked away in the contractor's tool shed the offending stone was mysteriously defaced. The to make way, appropriately enough if not aesthetically enough, for an addition to the college library. According to a recent study by Watsonville historian Betty Lewis, 33 California Carnegie buildings still function as libraries; 55 have been demolished and the rest have been converted to other uses. Many, such as the one in Gilroy, have been turned into museums.

It is difficult to measure the impact of Carnegie's gifts on the overall improvement of our citizens' cultural lives, but they allowed communities to take their libraries and the Forty back of the city halls and rented quarters and make them into visible symbols of pride. For this we are in debt. (Note) In recognition of their importance, the State Office of Historic Preservation is processing an application for listing the Carnegie Buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.

(408) 970-9242
2400 Lafayette Street
San Jose, CA 95105

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Whig party candidate, he was elected as Santa Clara County Attorney. He was re-elected in 1851, 1852 and 1853, by which time the office had been renamed District Attorney.

On April 30, 1857, Moore was named Treasurer of the City of San Jose, which by now had not only incorporated but reincorporated.

In September 1857, Moore was elected County Judge. Moore remained in office for only one four-year term and did not run for re-election.

On September 4, 1867, he was elected to the California State Assembly. In 1868 Moore was one of the incorporators of the San Jose and Santa Clara Railroad Company which completed a horse railroad between the two communities in 1869.

The remainder of John Moore's long career was spent in private practice. After a number of years with the firm of Moore, Laine, Demas & Lieb (later Moore, Laine & Johnston), Moore practiced in association with his son, Howell Moore.

John Henley Moore was also president of the old San Jose Savings Bank for many years.

We wish to thank all who played a part in saving and restoring this historically important portrait, in particular Judge John Herilby and the Trustees of the Law Library.

In addition, the many members of the community who have contributed to the Museum Association's Endowment Fund over the past several years should be acknowledged for their contributions which make the acquisition of new objects for the Museum's collections possible.

Judge Mark Thomas, Jr., Advisory Board

Volunteer Spotlight: On you!

Rejuvenate yourself and give something positive back to the community by becoming a valuable volunteer at the Museum.

There's a spot for you! Phone Volunteer Coordinator Dulce Janzen at 287-2290 or send this coupon in and we will contact you!

Name
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Please mail to: San Jose Historical Museum, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95121. And thank you for your much needed involvement and support.

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Dates to Remember

January 24, 1991
Lecture Series Begins
Margaret Pierce
Pacific Bell
7:30 p.m.

Endowment Fund Donations

During the months of November and December, 1990, contributions were made to the Museum Association's Endowment Fund/Special Projects Fund in honor of the following individuals:

In Memoriam
Billie Bernice Lewis
Patrick McCue
Don McGee
Vern Minter
Dorene Muradzik
Donna Gottsleben Oakes, M.D.

In Honor
Anne Louise Halsebrock
Ernie and Emily Renzel
Harvest Fair Winners

Birth of
Matthew and Meghan Beamer

Birthday of
Toni Evans
Benjamin Senior

Christmas Greetings to
Eleanor Sweigert Blaack
Shirley and Norman Gates
Gen and Ollie Opligto
Rich and Sharon Reynolds

Happy New Year to
Bob and Ellen Baron
The Peckler Family

Wedding of
Ann and Charles Walton

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 95121. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the person.