ASSOCIATION TO HOST AUTHORS PARTY

On Saturday, March 27, the Museum Association will host an Authors Party from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Pacific Hotel on the Museum grounds. The party will feature authors of books on Santa Clara Valley History.

You are invited to come and bring friends and family to meet your favorite authors. Purchase books in our Gift Shop the day of the event or bring copies you already own from home. The authors will be happy to visit with you and personally autograph copies of their books. Obie’s Ice Cream Parlor will serve complimentary ice cream as refreshment throughout the afternoon.

Among our special guests will be Clyde Arbuckle, Linda Larson Boston, Harry Farrell, Knud Rasmussen, Yvonne Jacobson, Betty Lewis, Leonard McKay, Willys Peak, John Spaniuling, Beth Wyman, and Connie Young Yu.

A special feature of the Authors Party will be a program of storytelling by Ruth Stotter. Ruth’s work may be familiar to you from the audio cassette, Tales from California History, which are available in our Gift Shop. Ruth has performed her original stories all over the world. She will entertain with a number of stories, including “Lucia and her Laoc Shawl,” beginning at 2:30 p.m. in the Firehouse Meeting Room.

Plan to visit the Museum on March 27 and enjoy a delightful afternoon with your favorite local authors. Call 277-3780 to let us know if you can come.

A flier listing the authors who will be present and other details of the event is inserted in this newsletter. Mark your calendar now for a pleasant afternoon where you are sure to meet old friends and enjoy interesting conversation.

SPRING IN THE NAPA VALLEY BUS TRIP

Robert Mondavi Winery
Sharpsteen Museum

WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1993
WHO: Association Members and their Guests
HOW: Royal Coach leaving and returning to the Japanese Friendship Garden Parking Lot
TIME: 8:00 AM DEPARTURE 6:30 PM RETURN
COST: $40 for Association Members
$45 for Non-members
LUNCH IS PROVIDED.

A springtime getaway to the beautiful Napa Valley awaits those of you who choose to join this bus trip on March 20. We will travel to Oakville and be the guests of Robert Mondavi Winery. Nina Wemyss of the Winery’s Department of Cultural Affairs will greet us. In her work with Robert Mondavi, Nina has actively researched history, art, antiques and the place of wine in civilization. She is the editor of Soul of the Vine – Wine in Literature and has a presentation prepared on California Wine History to share. This will be followed by complimentary wine and viewing of an art exhibit.

Then onward to downtown St. Helena, a quaint 1850s town with an old main street of pioneer businesses. Enjoy a delicious lunch in Showley’s 110-year-old building. Then, perhaps take a short walk over to the community park and bandstand, or peek into one of the stylish shops or get a snack at the local bakery.

Continuing on to Calistoga, a visit is planned with the docents of the Sharpsteen Museum who will focus on the history of the world famous Napa Valley. You won’t want to miss the Napa Valley at this lovely time of year.

To make your reservation, send in your check, payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association (SJEHMA) and include the reservation form below, as well as a stamped, self-addressed return envelope. Mail these to the attention of Carolyn Gagnon at the San Jose Historical Museum Association, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112-2699.

Refunds will be made only when there is a waiting list.

SPRING IN THE NAPA VALLEY BUS TOUR
SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1993
8:00 AM – 6:30 PM

Name:
________________________
Address:
________________________

Phone: ___________________ Number of Reservations: ___________________

Reservations Confirmation [ ]
Royal Coach Bus leaving from the JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN PARKING LOT

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
1650 SENTER ROAD
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95112-2699

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$ DIIGHT 95070
WILLYS PEAK
14275 SARATOGA AVE
SARATOGA CA
SARATOGA CA 95070-5930
Trolley Program Reduced

The Historical Museum program was reduced by a second position in an effort to cut operating expenses. M. Al Spivak, the Historic Vehicle Operations Supervisor, was the staff member assigned to work part time in conjunction with another employee for a perfect safety record in the trolley operations. He also supported the restoration activities and track installation work utilizing over 40 years of experience. We'll miss Al Spivak as a staff member and hope to have him return under special circumstances to conduct and support trolley operations training.

Focus on Activities to Increase Attendance and Revenue

The San Jose Historical Museum has a long history in the community and is a growing and developing institution. In the next few years greater emphasis will be placed on activities generating opportunities and activities. As we go through these difficult times of budget constraints, we need to rely on the Museum functions of collections management, preservation and research and more on over extension activities that bring large groups and visitors through the gate.

As a developing visitor destination attraction, the construction of a parking lot may be a higher priority to encourage greater membership and attendance at the San Jose Historical Museum. Our organization won't lose sight of our purpose and responsibilities as a Museum, but may have to rechannel our existing resources to insure increased revenues and additional sources of financial support for the Historical Museum.

There are a lot of exciting ideas being developed. The staff of the City of San Jose is working in conjunction with the San Jose Historical Museum Association to move forward on ways to help build the San Jose Bay Area Museum into a premier attraction. As a member of the Museum Association I would like to thank you for your past and continued support.

Mignon Gibson
Museum Director

FROM THE EDITOR

In light of the present economic situation and the possibility of additional cuts to come in the City's next operating budget, the Museum Association has been working to keep the Historical Museum and its programs as visible as possible and to be creative in planning for an uncertain future.

Laurel Perusa, our Board Member responsible for public relations, has pursued every available avenue for increasing the Museum's visibility. You may have noticed the increased frequency with which the Museum is featured in newspaper articles and listings, or heard our programs promoted on local radio and television. All of this new promotion has resulted in a surge of visitors and City Council comment that the Museum offers many worthwhile programs to serve the community. Laurel's P. R. efforts have been supported by other Board Members who are promoting our membership programs and planning special events.

The Association recently obtained funding from private foundations and is now in the process of hiring its first Development Director. This individual's primary responsibility will be to coordinate and enhance our fundraising capabilities.

We are looking to build on the strong base of membership which already exists to increase the Association's ability to support the Museum in the future.

We are also expanding our organization to undertake management of the Peralta Adobe - Fallon House complex because we see this as a means of supporting the work of the Historical Museum, as well. Not only will this coalesce give us the opportunity to develop programs interpreting earlier periods of San Jose's history, but we have the Association can use a presence in the downtown area to promote the Museum in Kelley Park.

And finally, the physical development of the Historical Museum will be the focus of a year-long study conducted by a team of four design professionals who are donating their time at the Museum Association's expense. The result of this study will be an updated master plan, including an economic development component, to guide development of the Historical Museum in the future.

Kathleen Muller
Executive Director

The purpose of the San Jose Historical Museum Association is to support the San Jose Historical Museum through membership, fundraising, educational and volunteer activities, and to provide the image of the Museum in the community.

Kathleen Muller
Executive Director

San Jose Historical Museum
San Jose State of California
Parks and Community Services

FOR SALE

A VICTORIAN COTTAGE CIRCA 1868
LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC LOS GATOS NEIGHBORHOOD
A 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with a family-sized kitchen with all of the original working fireplace and even some of the original fittings. A well-placed garden with a generous lot size, this listing is a value not to be missed. Call... (408) 952-7992

BEV KITCHEN

FOR SALE

1530 YARD COURT
SAN JOSE, CA 95113
(408) 236-0915

$290,000

FOX & CARRINGTON
HOMES & GARDENS

The SJIMA will be holding a Volunteer Work Day on the Museum grounds in early spring.

If you have skills in carpentry, painting, gardening or plumbing and you would like to help, please call Kathy Muller at 287-2290.

San Jose Historical Museum Association
1500 Senter Road
San Jose, California 95112-2850
(408) 287-2290

The San Jose Historical Museum is part of the City of San Jose Department of Recreation, Parks and Community Services.

The San Jose Historical Museum Association News is published by the San Jose Historical Museum Association and distributed free of charge to members of the San Jose Historical Museum Association including subscriptions to the News.

San Jose Historical Museum Association
1500 Senter Road
San Jose, California 95112-2850
(408) 287-2290

VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

President's Message

This is an extremely exciting time for the Association. With the agreement to operate the Peralta – Fallon complex in hand, we are now ready to embark on a new endeavor which will undoubtedly have a positive effect on the Association and its mission.

Needless to say many people have contributed to making this exciting project a reality. Special thanks to Board members Vic Giacalone and Steve Cox; staff members Kathy Muller, Carolyn Gagnon and Toni Evans; and Past President Patty McDonald.

It is with pleasure that I announce Judy Stabile has been hired by the Association to take the lead in assisting us with the formidable task of developing operational plans and interpretive programs for this brand new (actually really old) facility.

Judy has been associated with the Historical Museum since 1977, when she began as a docent and a volunteer in the archives. Using her previous experience as a librarian, she assisted in establishing a system for archival care. In 1979, Judy was appointed to the San Jose Historical Landmarks Commission. She was elected to the San Jose City Council in 1984, and served as liaison to the Historical Museum Association for the past six years. Since 1985 she has been a champion for the restoration of the Fallon House and convinced the Redevelopment Agency to purchase and restore it. As chair of the City's Plan for the Past, she was able to add funding for improvements to the Peralta Adobe.

Judy has personally known Judy for over ten years. We first met in 1980 when we were appointed to the Historic Landmarks Commission. She is now well known for her diligent work to help preserve San Jose's history and we are all very happy to have her on our team. Welcome aboard, Judy!

Gerry DeYoung
Association President

Gerry DeYoung
Association President
FROM THE ARCHIVES

Who, Who, Who?

Does the name Sarah Knox Goodrich ring a bell? Alice Parks? How about Henry Meade Bland, Sing Kee, Tiburcio Vasquez, or Edmonia Lewis? Mary Hayes Chynoweth or Eugene T. Sawyer?

Our Valley’s history is peppered with fascinating individuals who have added to its growth and culture. With each person, there is a string of dates and construction notices. Each person has contributed his or her bit to our history and people continue to remember the names of these personal histories, adding incrementally to our heritage. Through research in photographs, personal letters, and reminiscence programs, manuscripts and records, the people who came, settled and built the Santa Clara Valley come to life.

As part of a living history museum, we are trying to literally “enliven” our past. Through the re-creation of characters, historical folk come alive. More than dress-up and acting, this is a process involving research and study to encourage understanding of who these people were, what their motives and purposes were, and to link us to our own histories.

Last summer the California Council for the Humanities offered a “chauffeur” program wherein scholars took on the personae of historical characters, bringing them to life, conversing with the audience and then stepping back and giving a personal insight to the audience. This kind of presentation demands the intense study and understanding of each character. On a more generalized level student programs such as “Westward Ho!” and vignette programs bring the characters to life.

History as a living, breathing entity has an immediacy which no book can capture; but if not based on fact then it is only a cartoon of the past. For example, to recreate the character of General Henry Naglee, one would not only research the photographs of what he looked like, but read his journal and that of other personal writing to determine who he was, as well as to study other materials in order to put his self-image in perspective. The character which comes to life is then a fully realized human and not just a sketch.

A Special Free Workshop at the San Jose Historical Museum will be held on March 9, 1992, from 1 to 4 p.m. Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner will present a workshop on “Researching and Developing Historical Characters.” Dr. Wagner appeared here last summer at the chaussurique in the character of Matilda Gage. She will be presenting the character of Matilda Gage during March at different sites throughout the Valley. The workshop being offered is sponsored by the Santa Clara Humanities Coalition, a new group formed to foster the display of Valley interests for presentation. For more information and reservations, contact the Archives.

P.S. Did you really want to know who those folks were? Sarah Knox Goodrich, an accomplished woman, who among many other things built the Knox Goodrich Building and was a charter member of Santa Clara Women’s Club. Alice Parks was a leading suffragist in the area. Mary Meade Bland taught at San Jose Normal School and was the second post Indian King of California. Sing Kee was a Santa Clara laundry man and famous “weather prophet.” Tiburcio Vasquez was a notorious and raging gambler. Sarah Hayes Chynoweth was the matriarch of the Hayes family and the builder of the Hayes Mansion. Eugene T. Sawyer was a writer not responsible for an official history of Santa Clara Valley but also a writer of early Nick Carter adventure tales.

Leatrice Masunaga
Archivist

MUSEUM AUXILIARY

OPEN ARCHIVES:
The Archives are open on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
April 8 and 17 for public research.
Please call the Archives for an

DOCENT REPORT
Volunteer - Service $$$

The warm weather is upon us. Spring is in the air. March is a good month to step back, take a broader look, reassess and make any amendment whether we mean to stay at our gardens, considering a remodeling of our homes, or facing obstacles or change in our lives. The Museum is no different. The Museum has undergone a tremendous face lift with the infrastructure in place. Now we face internal reevaluation. Who are we? Should we stay the same? How do we make a difference? What is it about us that makes us so unique?

With the spring and warm weather comes the budding of trees, trimming and shaping of our roses, flowering of the Japanese Friendship Garden and the busiest season ever for school and group tours. Our docents and staff are invaluable assets to servicing our community and city. Those involved with the events in the Human Barn give of their time and energy in restoration projects. Archivists and curators research, educate, catalys and display mini-time capsules so appreciated by our visitors. But, times are changing and as the city is forced to tighten its reins still further, funds are scarce. We are faced with reduced staff and a challenge to restructure. What is our role in these changing times? As our staff.thins, how will we be able to balance services to our community, schools, and city? When key players are reduced or removed, how does that affect the service? How is the “unique” balance disrupted? How can we realign the balance without disturbing volunteer service?

The Museum increasingly faces the stress and pressures of making money in order to serve the needs of our community, continue our educational programs, and research our past. What is our worth? Do we have a higher priority bag at our doorstep? Do we need to consider paying a volunteer in order to guarantee service? How will we survive if we don’t consider change?

Synergism: The joint action of agents, when combined, increases each other’s effectiveness.

As volunteers, we need to be aware of change within our internal structure. As the volunteer staff grows, balance needs to be maintained. Be aware of the points of view within our structure. I encourage you to talk to one another. Talk to staff. Talk to our local politicians. Share your thoughts and concerns.

“The Museum is a very special place because the people are committed to the cause of preserving their community’s heritage,” says Nancy Valley, Curator.

Our Museum is made up of people: people who care in a very special way about our past. The Association and the Development Council and Board of Directors, the Auxiliary and the Docent Council volunteers and Museum staff together make the San Jose Historical Museum unique to this community. These are the people who are the fire and energy behind making the Museum a "living" place for our local community, our visiting tourists and families. The synergy has been the force behind the establishment of the San Jose Historical Museum. San Jose’s investment in this local resource is good for the community and economy.

Mary Ann Schiefer
Docent Council President

MUSEUM AUXILIARY

When you come to the Museum, plan to stop in O’Brien’s. Our ice cream and candy shop continues the special memories which needed to be sell-out features last year. Watch for them! It’s a great place to introduce your friends to the amiable, happy people who are Volunteer here and make our Museum come alive.

At times you may find the shop filled with school children. The Museum is a popular destination for school tours, and we often have groups of 30 to 60 children who want to sample our candy when they are here. Approximately 7,000 children come each year.

Everyone enjoys the milk shakes, malts, sodas, and floats — and ice cream sundaes — but seeing the fountain drinks made from syrup and carbonated water really surprises this generation brought up on canned sodas!

In the downtown area, we frequently have tourists from other states and other countries. When you “work” in O’Brien’s, it’s a real bonus having the opportunity to meet (after the school rush is over) with the interesting variety of customers we serve.

Doty Brottsnieder
Auxiliary President

IN THE COLLECTIONS

What does a Curator do?

According to the American Association of Museums (AAM), the functions of a museum are to collect, preserve, research, exhibit and interpret. Those functions are primarily the responsibility of the museum’s professional curators.

In addition to the formal duties of a museum, the Curator of tangible objects there would be nothing to preserve, research, exhibit or interpret. Without collections an institution is not a museum. Curators are charged with the responsibility for accounting and maintaining the objects in the collection.

The San Jose Historical Museum has a collection of approximately 500,000 objects with an estimate value of over $3 million. These collections are the foundation of the Museum. Without collections of tangible objects there would be nothing to preserve, research, exhibit or interpret. Without collections an institution is not a museum. Curators are charged with the responsibility for accounting and maintaining the objects in the collection.

Almost all collection-related tasks are received each month. Each call represents a person who is researching or learning about an object. Each potential donor must be treated with care and respect, the Museum can only accept those items which relate to the history of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley. In addition, each item is...
INTRODUCING TOM CUMPSTON

The sounds of blues and jazz from the downtown plaza are crowd-pleasing. Tapping their toes at these concerts are the Museum's dedicated music-loving, successful Membership Chairman for 1992 and 1993, Tom Cumpston, and his wife, Kris Kiehne.

Not everyone can be a San Josean with generations of history behind them, but that hasn’t held back the Cumpstons. Both have rapidly become involved with community groups and have found inclusion easy. Tom simply asked to be involved with the Historical Museum (and got his wish). Kris chose to support the Partners in Reading literacy tutorial program of the San Jose Library (with the substantial bonus of self-esteem development for adults). Now they both would think it strange if they did nothing to pitch in to make their community a better place.

It did, however, require a bit of an adjustment for the young couple to leave behind the bicycle and self-contained lifestyle which they experienced during the years Tom studied law at the University of California, Davis campus. Tom sold his car as soon as he moved there. Today, they thoroughly enjoy practicing environmental law and land use cases with Berleimer Cohen in downtown San Jose. He also is a Deputy City Attorney in Gilroy.

Tom’s settling down in San Jose has been a circular one. His father came during the wartime ‘40s to the Bay Area and later chose to relocate from Iowa. Tom was born at O’Connor Hospital in 1959 near his father’s childhood playground in San Mateo. After graduation from Aragon High, he went to Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri to get a degree in history. He gained experience in magazine publishing as well.

Tom took note that law offered constant variety, a challenge, and expanded his knowledge. He also worked with the League of Women Voters in Sacramento.

Managing the role of Membership Chairman for the San Jose Historical Museum Association seems to require a lot of energy and social finesse. If the strong growth experienced in 1993 is any indication of Tom’s efforts and the appeal of our programs to new members, then 1994 should also provide a growing membership base of which to be proud. Since another hobby of the Cumpstons is gardening and they like to make things grow, Tom hopes to do the same for our membership.

Tom’s secret is that he believes in the Museum’s potential. When he first visited our Museum, as a means to reacquaint himself with San Jose, he was impressed at the grassroots efforts that make things happen here.

The progress which has been demonstrated in the completion of the Ng Shing Gung, and setting out into new territory with the Peralta/Fallen operation, make Tom eager to be a spokesperson gathering new members to the Museum Association. He is hopeful that the Peralta/Fallen will capture the professional downtown community’s interest and further strengthen the attraction for Kelley Park.

Seeking local outings, Tom and Kris spend leisure time hiking in wooded places like Saratoga or Big Sur. And since Tom is a lefty and Kris is a “shugger,” the Cumpstons find themselves at first base and making a hit, respectively, with local softball league play.

It is, however, really important to know that Tom’s special love is cycling. So the next time you pass the helmeted, bent-over local windsing curve you will be kinder and very careful too – for it could be Tom – and his continued bounding energy in the Museum Association’s corner is needed for a long ride.

IN THE COLLECTIONS

Continued from page 3

Offered is evaluated for condition and our ability to properly care for it. Each year 150 to 200 donations are accepted. Any given donation may number from 1 to 100 or more items and range in size from thimbles to buildings.

It is not possible for our current curatorial staff to generate all the necessary records to maintain accountability for these donations. At present the collection records the data in a computer file consisting of index cards, worksheets and donor deeds of gift. Because of the size, diversity and complexity of information generated, the collection records system should be computerized. (If anybody out there has an extra Quadra 960 with a 400 MB hard drive and 32 meg. monitor, printer, data base to handle 500,000+ files, and bar code readers and software, give us a call.)

The Museum relies heavily on specially trained volunteers to assist in creating the collections records. However, it remains the curator’s final responsibility to ensure that the records are accurate and complete.

Records provide both accountability and accessibility. Without complete and accurate records it is very difficult to preserve, research, exhibit or interpret the collection. There is little point in collecting if there is no resulting access. Complete and accurate records include the catalog of the particular objects in the collection. In addition the records provide the body of knowledge that establishes each object’s significance or role in San Jose's history.

Another responsibility of the curator is the preservation of the collection. Every object requires specific care and treatment in order to maximize its "life." Incorrect treatment can result in the destruction of the object. The curator must understand the object and its history. The most effective means of preservation is prevention through regular inspection, good housekeeping and regular maintenance.

Ideally every item in the collection should be periodically inspected for condition. Based on the inspection the appropriate treatment (cleaning, rehousing, repair, restoration, etc.) should be scheduled. With the Museum’s current level of staffing and volunteers (1324 hours from 16 volunteers in 1993) objects entering the Museum collection are inspected and cleaned in preparation for storage. They are placed in containers that will help protect them from dust, light and other pests.

The San Jose Historical Museum has received two Institute of Museum Services Conservation grants. The first of these evaluated the condition of the collection and made recommendations for its preservation. The second grant supported the implementation of those recommendations through the purchase of shelving and the rehousing of a portion of the collection in the north warehouse.

Our Care and Preservation Program consists of a group of specially trained volunteers who work under the supervision of the curatorial staff to maintain our exhibits. In addition objects on exhibition are rotated on a scheduled basis whenever feasible and we are beginning to reassess our "older" exhibits.

Our historic buildings are the largest objects in the collection. Curators monitor their condition and make recommendations for proper maintenance. This can involve everything from repairing a step, to replacing an old window to white-washing the Peralta Adobe (a task which has been performed by curators).

In 1991 the Collections Facility Report was produced under the guidance of the Museum’s curators. This document details the long-term requirements for storage facilities to properly care for our collections. This report included the structural requirements such as disaster proof (fire, flood, earthquake) construction, suitable climate controls (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning), security systems and appropriate access recognized as necessary to care for the collection.

Research is a fundamental curatorial responsibility. Curators develop a body of information regarding each item in the collection. This information is used to understand what is in the collection, what its place in San Jose and the Valley's history and how it was used. Part of this information is gathered during the donation process. The curator interviews the donor and records all of the known history of the object. The recorded research on the objects in the collection provides accessibility to the collection.

Research is necessary to develop an exhibit and educational programs. The supporting research performed by the curator is the foundation for creating historically accurate exhibits. The curator researches both the collection and outside supplemental sources. The general background research provides the context for interpreting the collection. Exhibits result from combining the objects in the collection with cultural information collected specifically for the exhibit which tells a story and conveys information.

The interpretation of San Jose's history through exhibits is based on the objects in the collection and the research developed on the collection. At the San Jose Historical Museum the interpretive program uses the material developed by curators to share the story with the public. The net result, hopefully, is to educate the public. Each person who visits the Museum has the opportunity to learn something about our past.

In addition to formal exhibits a series of collection-based educational programs have been developed by the curatorial staff. Part of the series are lectures on identifying antiques and collectibles for the general public. The workshops are designed to help individuals learn to properly care for their personal and family collections.

Curators are instrumental to every one of the functions that define a museum: collection, preservation, research, exhibition and interpretation. Museums need curators.

Nancy Valley Curator

Various representatives of the Museum visited the antique fire equipment collection of the San Jose Fire Master. Perhaps in the future they might team up with the Museum for a large exhibit.
FALLON HOUSE AND PERALTA ADOBE
Furnishing Efforts Begin

Spring is often the time for renewal, and for the historic Peralta Adobe and Fallon House this spring is the beginning of a new era. The Association is beginning efforts to bring these homes back to their original prominence in the community.

The 1858 Fallon House renovation is completed and our furnishing plan will be going into high gear. Carpet has been ordered from Europe, woven on the same type of Wilton looms that would have produced the original 27 inch wall-to-wall carpeting. Interior designer Patty McDonnell has researched colors and patterns and has recommended the carpet patterns that we will be installing. Only the downstairs will be carpeted in Wilton. The upstairs flooring will be sisal, a woven sea-grass that looks like sisal in texture and a common choice in the Civil War era for bedroom areas.

The Development Agency will also be adding a new floor surface in the Peralta Adobe, as well as making other necessary improvements to the building. The historical choices for flooring lead us to adobe pevers, either fired or unfired. The final choice will be made with the advice of our histori-cal architect, Oll Sanches, who guided the original restoration of the adobe. This will allow us to begin to develop an improved interior exhibit.

As you can see, we are literally starting from the ground up. At the same time as we install the furnishings, we are continuing our search for furniture and accessories that would be historically accurate. Many generous people in the community have offered pieces, and the John Muir House in Martinez has allowed us to borrow from their surplus collection. We have also found many wonderful pieces in the collection here at the San Jose Historical Museum, and we are eager to exhibit them.

We will be interpreting San Jose's early history from these sources, so it is essential that they be furnished with pieces appropriate for their periods.

Furnishings appropriate to the Peralta Adobe would be early Spanish and Mexican California pieces dating from 1800 to 1840 or reproductions thereof. The Fallon House, which represents the early American period, will require furniture from 1840 to 1870. All rooms of both houses are in need of furnishing and a wide range of items, from major furniture pieces to decorative and household accessories, will be needed.

Certainly any articles which are particular to the Peralta, Alviso, Fallon or Castro families would be most valuable. These would be used as a part of the secure display in the downstairs display area of the complex located in the Fallon House. Please contact Judy Stabile at (408) 287-2260 if you wish to donate furniture, accessories or have information to share.

Judy Stabile
Director
Peralta/Fallon Complex
Laurel Perussa

SPECIAL INTEREST SPRING PERFORMANCES AND DEMONSTRATIONS
The following are free to Association members unless noted:

Saturday 3/6 Japanese Friendship Garden Tours
12 noon to 4:00 PM

Sunday 3/14 Silverado Western Gunfighters
12 noon to 4:30 PM

Friday 3/20 Serendipity Spinners
12 noon to 4:00 PM

Sunday 4/4 Vintage Volkswagen Club of America, Golden Gate Chapter Annual Car Show and Swap Meet (NOMINAL ADMISSION)
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Saturday 4/17 Serendipity Spinners
12 noon to 4:00 PM

Sunday 4/18 Silverado Western Gunfighters
12 noon to 4:30 PM

And, looking ahead to May...

Sunday 5/2 The Victorian May Day (NOMINAL ADMISSION) with Maypole Dancing, Fashion Promenade, Croquet and much more
12 noon to 4:30 PM

Call Monte Duran at 287-2260 if you need more details.

ENDOWMENT FUND ALLOCATIONS FOR 1993

Birthdays, anniversaries, and retirements are memorable events that deserve to be commemo-rated with fanfare. The San Jose Historical Museum Association’s Endowment Fund is the perfect way to honor the special people in your life, in addition to the traditional memorial.

The Association’s Endowment Fund has been very successful in acquiring requested items for the Museum. The principal in the Endowment Fund is not spent; however, the interest on the principal is used on the authorized expenditures. A donation to the Endowment Fund is a gift that gives year after year.

The Endowment Fund Committee, chaired by Bruce Pohle and appointed by the Board of Directors, authorized the following expenditures in January: Telephone answering machine, Archives acquisitions; general and rare books; decorative 55-cup coffee urns; spats for Vintage Reflections; microphone for downtown; walking tours; restoration of (10) park benches; stereo system for Gift Shop; archival storage boxes; bistro tables for O’Brien’s; storage shelves for vitrine materials; carousel slide projector; building signs.

As you can see the Endowment Fund is a wonderful way to support our Museum. Remember your loved one on special occasions with a donation to the Endowment Fund. A lovely letter is sent to the honoree acknowledging your donation. In addition, the honoree’s name appears in the Association News. Endowment forms are available in the Association Office. For additional information, contact Carolyn Gagnon at 287-2260.

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

During the months of January and February 1993, contributions were made to the Museum Association’s Endowment Fund: Special Projects Fund in honor of the following individuals:

In Memoriam: Steven Howard Claribel Kaefer Kim Roman Russell Rose Bart Sepulveda

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.

SAN JOSE ATHLETIC CLUB
PLAN AN EVENT IN HISTORY

Built in 1924 as a Scottish Rite Temple, the San Jose Athletic Club is available for catered events. Enjoy this neo-classic historical site — the decor is unique, incorporating Art Deco and Egyptian elements. Make some history of your own in one of downtown San Jose’s beautiful historical landmarks – the San Jose Athletic Club. Call the Catering Office at (408) 292-1281.

AMERICAN HOME SUPPLY
Solid Brass Antique Reproduction Hardware—over 500 rare items including: hardware such as handle sets, Bails and Knobs in solid brass; and even Glass, for antique furniture & Victorian reproduction door plates and knobs for the restoration of vintage homes, also Window Hardware, Locks for furniture & lock sets for Victorian doors, solid brass Hester Griffis in 24 sizes with or without damper controls, Bronze window & door screening for the finest restorations. Brass faucets for kitchen and bath, Solid brass kitchen plates, Stair rods to hold carpeting, wall brass thresholds, Brass reproduction lighting and even some Antique lighting available. A full Color Catalog, for mail order, is just $2.00, some sets are Supplier of brass hardware used on the restoration of the Antique Trolley’s—restored in San Jose. So you know your quality is one of the best.

Sales: 191 Lost Lake Lane (off Dell Avenue), Campbell, Phone: 408-246-1962

SAN JOSE ATHLETIC CLUB

PHONE S. J. 1924
ANT-TIME
ANY PLACE
GUS HUNTER
PACKARD CARS FOR HIRE
TOURING CARS LOUNGE CARS AMBULANCE MOURNING CARS TAILORED FUNERAL CARS
FIRST AND ST. JAMES STH
SAN JOSE, CAL.
Sixtieth Anniversary of the CCC

Sixty years ago, the United States was psychologically, socially, and economically depressed by the conditions of the Great Depression. The U.S. had fifteen million people unemployed, and over a million transients roamed the country in search of the job or a handout. These desperate circumstances penetrated deeply into the American spirit.

In March of 1933, newly elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed the radically innovative New Deal agenda which included the Civilian Conservation Corps. In his CCC proposal, FDR initially offered employment for over 250,000 young, single, male men between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five, and an opportunity to save America’s natural resources in her forests. On March 31, 1933, the U.S. Congress passed the CCC proposal and its mobilization immediately began. Roosevelt, General Douglas MacArthur, Frances Perkins, and Robert Finch (CCC director) were the major architects of the Corps.

The CCC had a nine-year existence from 1933 until 1942. It provided employment for over three million young enrollees and a quarter of a million World War I veterans. It offered them academic and vocational opportunities through its educational programs. The CCC gave them self-esteem and a work ethic which they carried with them for the rest of their lives. America is grateful for the program and the contributions of these men.

Santa Clara County has its own chapter of the National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni which has many very active members. Fredlin Kessler and other members of the San Jose Historical Museum Association are former enrollees of the CCC. The CCC’s sixtieth anniversary marks a historical milestone of the Corps and is a reminder of the enormous accomplishments of this program and its proud volunteers.

Alexander F. Rodrigues
History Teacher
Silver Creek High School

Note: The CCC Alumni continues to meet at Agnesess Hotel once a month on the second Saturday of every month. Former members of the CCC from any part of the country are welcome to attend and join the organization. President Rod MacDermott can be reached at 374-7672.

WORTHY OF NOTE

FLOWER FESTIVAL BOUQUETS TO ART
March 9 - 13, 1983

Bouquets to Art, the annual flower festival benefiting the Asian Art Museum and The Fine Arts Museums, opens with a gala preview party on Tuesday, March 9. Four days of stimulating lecture demonstrations by celebrated American and English floral designers follow, while the galleries and hallways of the Asian Art Museum and the de Young Museum are filled with floral arrangements by the Bay Area’s most creative and innovative designers.

The museums are open to the public for the usual five plus a $2 supplementary charge during those four days following the preview party.
Information: (415) 357-4123, Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

OAKLAND MUSEUM ARTS & CRAFTS MOVEMENT EXHIBIT

In the East Bay, "The Arts and Craftsmen Movement in California: Living the Good Life," has opened at the Oakland Museum. It includes some 200 objects - pottery, ceramic tiles, furniture, silver, graphics, textiles, leather and photography - from the influential and idealistic movement that is still evident in Bay Area architecture. This exhibit runs through May 28.

CLYDE ARBUCKLE 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On April 13, 1983, City Historian Clyde Ar buckle will be honored at a public reception at the San Jose Civic Auditorium. The Celebration Committee, comprised of a coalition of County and City officials and civic organizations, invites you to join in the tribute to Mr. Ar buckle for his contributions to historic education and preservation and for the role he has played in developing historical awareness among individuals in this multicultural community.

The reception will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. in San Jose Civic Hall. Parking will be available. The cost is $35 per person, which includes a $10 donation in the Clyde Ar buckle Scholarship Fund.
For tickets and program information, contact Jeanette Roberts 533-5266, Ruth Patton 282-2351 or Leslie Mason at the San Jose Historical Museum 277-4017. Deadline for reservations is April 3, 1983.

ANNUAL CORPORATE MEMBERS

PATRON
BankAmerica Foundation
Cellular-One

BENEFACTORS
Coast Raggravin - Fred Wool Jr.
Concrete Interests - Joseph L. Wiss,
PMC - Patent Dept.
Garden City, Inc.
Hallender Smith Inc. Construction
Mayfair Parking Co.
San Jose Mercury News
San Jose Real Estate Board
Barry Swenson Builder
Victorian Preservation Association

ASSOCIATE
American Welding Supply
Bea Electronics
Classic Car Wash
De Anza Hotel
Telm Denabah, D.D.S. Inc.
Exchange Line
Garden City Construction
Frank-Lin Distillers
Gibson Speese Co.
Gold Properties
Innervale Steinbr
Jack/Kevin
Linns Family Mortuaries
Minnewas & Associates
Morison Vineyards
Moller Construction Supply, Inc.
P & G &
Pawl & Hunt Accountancy Corp.
Provenzanos Brothers Building Materials
Kenneth Rodrigues & Associates, Inc.
Rath and Co.
San Jose Water Company
Shea Homes
Southern Lumber
Sun Garden Parking Co.
Valley Heating & Cooling Co.
Western Way Landscapes
Winchester Ranch

SUNSHINE
Allan Pinel Realtors
Alger and Lee, CPA
Law Office of Victor H. Beany
Bell & Bell, Inc.
J. Le bigotry Beveridge, D.D.S. Inc.
Mariana Cohen
Black Construction Co.
E. Keith Brown & Co.
Cable Oil Co.
Caputo Associates
Coakey Hengster
Covershore Bank
Commerical Land Title Insurance Company
Corner Collins & Pure Accountancy Corp.
Coria & Brown
Great Land Surveying, Inc.
Charles W. Davidson Co.
Darling Chapel of Hills Fletcher
Dellose - Caldonis - Dellose
Gannett Outdoor Advertising Co., Inc.
The Hagaman Group
Hall and Barnes
The Hampton Group
The Hampton House
Law Offices of Richard Marx
Hntermark
JPC Architecture
Ireland Direct Mail Advertising
Lindell Scalez
Johnson & Higgins
McCormack Associates
March Development
Markovitz & Mercant
Merritt & O’Brien
Mission Concrete Products
George S. Noble & Assoc.
Normandin Chrysalis
Olivar & Larkin, Inc.
Olosh & Pace
O’Brien Travel Service Inc.
Pizzaro Printing
David J. Powers and Assoc.
PBA, Inc.
Raisch Equipment Co.
Rene Bank
Royal Coach Tours
San Jose Blue Print Service & Supply Co.
San Jose Construction Co.
San Jose National Bank
Sobrato Development Companies
Staplegons - Space Parking Co.
Stein’s Luggers
Table Top Meetings
Thelen, Morris, Johnson & Bridges
John C. Ulrich & Associates
United Insurance Centers, Inc.
Valley View Packging Co.
Western Contrast Interiors
Western Sales & Leasing Co.
Western States Oil
Wilder Glen Travel Agency
Winchester Mystery House
Richard Hammarlund, Architect

MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES
BankAmerica Foundation
General Electric
I.B.M.
Mary’s
Tandy Corp.
The Van Pelt Companies
TRW Systems
Wiringhouse

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS
Hugh S. Center Trust
Stella B. Cross Community Foundation
David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Stella B. Gross Trust Fund
Singularities Academy, M.U.
The Valley Foundation
HISTORIC FOOTNOTES OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY
By Jack Douglas

RENZEL, POLITICS AND PROGRESS

CAST YOUR VOTE for balanced GOVERNMENT in SAN JOSE

Original campaign materials provided courtesy of Ernie Renzel.

Two decades of machine politics in San Jose were abruptly ended in the spring of 1944 when Ernest Renzel and the five other candidates of the Progress Committee were swept into office.

San Jose had seen considerable growth in the period between the wars, but there had been no growth in the basic city services such as fire and police protection, sewers, sanitation, parks and airport facilities. City government was controlled by Charlie Bigley who ran a string of businesses, licit and illicit, which flourished under his patronage at City Hall. Charlie could get out the votes for his candidates for city council, and as long as he had at least four of the seven council seats beholden to him he could effectively control the city manager and any other departmental appointments including the superintendent of schools.

The citizens of San Jose thought that they had defeated machine politics when they approved the new city charter in 1915. The charter eliminated the position of mayor and put control of city government in the hands of a council appointed city manager. Thomas Keed, a Berkeley lawyer who later became the state’s Legal Authority on city planning, set the new system in motion. He soon left and was succeeded briefly by Willard Bailey.

Then in 1929 city engineer Clarence Goodwin took up the reins and held them for the next 24 years. A Presbyterian elder and conservative administrator, Goodwin ran a tight ship that didn’t require new taxes. He was a survivor, and in order to keep his job he had to pay close attention to the desires of the man who had the votes on the city council: Charlie Bigley.

Charlie Bigley was a San Jose phenomenon—a rags to riches success story. Forced to begin earning his living at the age of 12, he became a hustler on the streets of San Jose in the 1890s. As a driver for a local bakery he made friends all over town. He soon became a popular figure in the ethnic and working class neighborhoods, passing out favors and introducing immigrants to the unfamiliar political system. His first business was a cigar store across from the train station on Bassett Street. Realizing that the automobile was the ticket to the future, he started a taxi fleet from the train station which led in turn to car rentals for funerals, automobile maintenance and storage and an ambulance service.

When prohibition was abolished in 1933 Charlie was first on the street as partner and distributor for the Tacoma Brewing Company. He also owned illegal slot machines and was rumored to be involved in other local gambling enterprises. In order for his businesses to function smoothly he needed the cooperation of the police department. As city manager Goodwin didn’t interfere with Bigley’s assignments of jobs in the police and fire departments. Everyone knew that if you wanted to be a cop or a fireman you went to Charlie Bigley whose office was conveniently located in his garage across Market Street from the old city hall. Former chief Ray Blackmore got his start on the force, in spite of the fact that he didn’t meet the height requirements, because Bigley felt that he would be an asset to the department’s baseball team. Out of loyalty to his mentor, the boys in police and fire could always be counted on to get out the vote for Charlie’s candidates for city council.

Seats on the city council rotated so that one, or at the most two, candidates ran on any election ballot depending on the number of votes Bigley was getting out the vote for his candidate. Since there were never controversial issues on the ballot — taxes, city bonds, etc. — the attendance at the polls was usually light, making it easy for Bigley to swing the votes in favor of his men. Bigley’s candidates for council were invariably small businessmen who found that their enterprises improved with orders for products and services from City Hall and the police and fire departments.

By big city standards San Jose “bossism” was pretty benign. Bigley had no grandiose visions or power or greed. He was a big-hearted man, fond of children and difficult to dislike, but he used the democratic system to gratify his own ends at the expense of the general welfare.

Attempts at reform were made in the late 1930s. The youthful Clark Bradley made some inroads during his term on the council by placing an amendment to the city charter on the ballot that created a San Jose Unified School District independent of City Hall. But he could never break the hold of the San Jose Council when it came to replacing Clarence Goodwin.

With the coming of the second world war it became apparent that small town bossism and the status quo would have to end. Bigley was ripe for progress. Bigley’s bubble burst in 1944 when, due to council members retiring or joining the armed services, six of the seven council seats became vacant at once.

The younger generation, tired of Bigley’s lack of interest, formed the San Jose Progress Committee. The San Jose Mercury announced: San Jose Progress Committee intends to draft the top men in the community to become candidates for City Council. Specifications for their candidates would be:

1. Unquestioned integrity and intellectual honesty.
2. Possession of managerial ability and good common sense.
3. Complete absence of prejudice or bias against any group or class of society in the community.

The committee pledged to seek no pre-election pledges or make no post-election demands upon the candidates.

The council selected six of its members to run for City Council. They included: Ernest Renzel, wholesale grocer; Roy Rundle, neon sign manufacturer; Fred Watson, mechanic and labor leader; James Lively, dried fruit packer; Benjamin Carter, FMC comptroller and Albert J. Ruffo, attorney. Ruffo remembers the situation thus: Fred Watson was willing to run for office but none of the other five persons were willing. After arguments by several members of the committee... and strenuous arm-twisting, one by one, each nominee surrendered, as long as all the others so selected would also run.

The six candidates were to run on the Progress platform. They would share the campaign expenses and emphasize the fact that a vote for one would be a vote for all. What ensued would be one of the hottest elections seen in days in San Jose in over 50 years. Newspaper ads by the Progress candidates stressed an end to bossism, the town’s inadequate fire equipment, the need for a better sewer system, more parks and streamlined city services. The Bigley candidates stressed their past effectiveness in city management, citing low crime rates and an “excellent” record in fire protection.

The newspapers predicted a close race, but a record number of voters turned out to elect the Progress candidates by a 2 to 1 majority. All of the members of the Progress slate received over 10,000 votes. Ernest Renzel, who appeared twice on the ballot, once to fill an unexpired term and once again for another four years, was the top vote getter with 11,701 for the unexpired term and 13,702 for the four-year term. Looking for all the world like the Jimmy Stewart character out of Frank Capra’s film “Mr. Smith Goes To Washington,” Renzel became council president.

Mr. Renzel has told this writer that the Progress councilmen had no immediate specific agenda, but the disastrous fire at Garden City Pottery only a week after they took office forced an issue. The fire exposed gross mismanagement on the part of both police and fire departments and exhibited how old and inadequate the city’s fire equipment had become. Twenty-five years of Bigley control and Goodwin austerity had come home to roost.

Renzel and the new council ordered that Goodwin retire the veteran police and fire chiefs. Police chief John N. Black had been on the force since 1902 and fire chief Charles Plummer had
LIVING HISTORY DAYS
June 26 - 27, 1993
10 AM - 5 PM
Mark Your Calendars!

1993 DATES TO REMEMBER
March 20
Napa Valley Bus Trip
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Japanese Garden Parking Lot
March 27
Authors Party
1:00 - 4:00 PM
Pacific Hotel and Firehouse

Mystery Photo
A street sweeper long ago was busy cleaning which of our local streets shown above? If you can give an answer, call Leslie Mauunaga in the Archives at 287-2290.

Renzel, Politics and Progress
Continued from page 7
seen 30 years of service. Loyal to his chief, Goodwin implied that he was retiring under duress. This so incensed Renzel and the other councilmen that they demanded Goodwin's resignation. John Lynch, veteran city clerk, was appointed city manager. He was the tough new broom, says Renzel, that would crack down on the slack city departments. After years of quietly observing how the city was run, Lynch knew exactly where to turn on the best.

He appointed William Brown to head the police department. A number of officers were fired, retired and demoted, and the newspapers reported a crackdown on illegal gambling and slot machines. Fire Captain Lester O'Brien was promoted over more senior officials to become the new fire chief.

The Progress council came to power at a pivotal period in the city's history. Shortly after the election the war ended and the wartime ban on construction and development also ended. Thousands of servicemen were choosing California as a place to work and raise families. San Jose needed progress with a capital P. It came slowly at first. Of five bond issues to improve the city infrastructure, only the one to separate the sewer and storm drain system got the necessary two-thirds vote. Parking meters were installed downtown. Plans were made for emergency housing for servicemen and for an expanded airport, a new city hall, and new industries. Not forgetting the past, Ernest Renzel proposed the formation of the Historic Landmarks Commission.

At the end of his term as council president, Renzel moved that the council give succeeding presidents the title of Mayor, starting a process that has led us back to an elected chief executive.

Some might lament the passing of the good old days when all you needed to get a permit or a ticket fixed was a nod from Charlie Bigley, but San Jose was destined to grow, and it demanded leaders who could plan for the future. The voters, in their wisdom, knew what they were doing when they elected the Progress candidates. We should tip our hats to Bundle, Lively, Watson, Carter, Ruffo and Renzel for taking time from their families and businesses to set the city on a new course. The last three are still living and enjoying their retirement.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Mailing Address
Zip
(RS.) Phone
(RS.) Phone

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS
☐ Mission Circle ($1,000)
☐ Pueblo Circle ($500)
☐ Tower Circle ($250)
☐ Century Circle ($100)
☐ Contributor Circle ($50)
☐ Family ($45)
☐ Individual ($35)
☐ Senior Citizens ($30)
☐ I do not wish to receive my premium book
☐ ADD $3.50 TO RECEIVE YOUR BOOK BY MAIL

Gift of:
Please indicate method of payment. ☐ Check ☐ Cash
☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa Expiration Date:
Credit Card #
Signature

HELP US IF YOU CAN MEMBERSHIP OF $50 OR MORE ENAILS 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 95112-2299

Office Use Only
Book cost/rental
Sold by
San Jose Historical Museum Association Presents

A CHAMPAGNE SOIREE

Celebrating the Nelson/Deluz House Opening

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1993
4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

RIBBON CUTTING PROMPTLY—4:45 P.M.

VINTAGE REFLECTIONS FASHIONS — 5:45 P.M.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
PLEASE WEAR YOUR SPECIAL CHAPEAU

COSTUME OPTIONAL

PLEASE RESPOND BY MAY 14TH
277-3780

ENTRANCE AND PARKING AT FRONT GATE