HAPPY NEW YEAR!
1995: A Year of Focus on the Museum’s Future

A study to set the course for the future of the San Jose Historical Museum was undertaken by the City of San Jose in mid-1994 and will continue throughout the new year. Contracting with The Wolf Organization, Inc., a consulting firm with national experience in the planning of cultural institutions, the City Council approved funds last August to develop a strategic plan for the future of the Museum.

This exciting process will result in a shared vision of what the Museum can be and a plan for achieving that vision over the next five years. City leaders and community representatives will join with the consultants and staff to develop consensus on organizational and program options for the future and to determine the best possible means of funding further development.

The Museum Association Board of Directors has welcomed this study as a positive expression of the City’s interest in seeing the Historical Museum reach its full potential. Members of the Association are encouraged to keep abreast of the process by attending meetings of the Core Planning Committee (see schedule on p. 4) and participating in public forums as they are scheduled later in the year.

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WINTER LECTURE SERIES

This year the Museum Association is dividing its Thursday night winter lecture series into three areas of interest. The first lecture will be given by former mayor Tom McEnery and will be combined with a book signing of his new book, The New City-State: Change and Renewal in America’s Cities. The second and third lectures will complement the Association’s 1995 membership premium book, Scenes Along the Line of the San Jose & Los Gatos Interurban Railroad by Andrew P. Hill. The fourth lecture will be devoted to commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Stephens, Townsend, Murphy Party’s arrival in California in 1844.

All lectures will begin at 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). The first and third lectures will be in the Firehouse meeting room; the second and fourth in the Pacific Hotel meeting room. Entrance to the Museum will be through the Phelan Avenue gate. Cost for each lecture will be $2 for Association members and $5 for the general public. Please make reservations by calling 277-3780. Seating is limited. If you are a current member of the Association at the $10 level or above, please inform the Membership Coordinator when you make your reservation. You are entitled to two free passes to the lecture of your choice.

January 26

Tom McEnery: The New City-State: Change and Renewal in America’s Cities

Former mayor and now vice chairman of the San Jose Sharks, Tom McEnery will join us for the evening to talk about and sign copies of his latest book. (The book will be available to purchase the night of the lecture or get your copy at The City Store for $24.95, with a 10% discount to Association members.) Mr. McEnery served as the mayor of San Jose (1983-1990) through some of the best and some of the worst political times. He will share his insights and experiences of more than a decade of public service with us and answer our questions. PLEASE NOTE: This lecture will begin at 7 p.m.

February 9

Dr. Patricia Sanders: Andrew P. Hill and Other Early California Artists

Dr. Sanders will be making her second appearance as a guest speaker for the Association in less than three months. She served as the art historian panelist at the Fallon Statue Forum and presented a paper on community involvement in the public art process. For this lecture, Dr. Sanders, a San Jose State University professor, is going to discuss 19th Century California painting and the part Andrew P. Hill played in the art scene of his time. Dr. Sanders regularly lectures at the De Young Memorial Museum of Art in San Francisco, and the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento.

February 23

Bill Wulf: Blossom Trolley Trip of the Santa Clara Valley

Travel the historic trolley lines of the Santa Clara Valley with Bill Wulf as the motorman. Mr. Wulf, Santa Clara Valley historian, will narrate as he shows his collection of photographic slides featuring the Valley’s early trolleys. Visit the sights along the historic San Jose & Los Gatos Railroad route as well as the towns and attractions served by the other San Jose railroads and the Peninsula railway. Bill has had a life long interest in trains and trucks and will make this evening one to remember.

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT

THIS ISSUE OF THE
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President's Report

I'M LOOKING forward to this year as President of the San Jose Historical Museum Association. It promises to be exciting and challenging.

I want to thank those who have been supportive and had confidence in me. The goals for the upcoming year is to expand and broaden the spectrum of programs and exhibits at the Museum and the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historical Site. Also, I want to say thank you for the support you have given me.

I am looking forward to seeing the approval of the updated Master Plan that will provide for future growth and development at the Museum.

A goal of the Board of Directors is to improve the Museum's reputation and to communicate with the public. It is my aim to have better communication and greater dialogue within the Historical Museum "Family." Please join in working together to accomplish our goals to make the San Jose Historical Museum a better Historical Museum in the coming year.

TIM STARRER
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Administration
Welcome to New Board Members

WITH the start of the new year we have the opportunity to welcome new members to the Association's Board of Directors and begin to benefit from their generous gifts of time and talent. New members of the Board include Sunny Cagggetti, Edward M. Garcia, Dean Helms, Magda Madriz, Margie McBride, Ned Richmond, Martha Small, Evelyn Ucovitch, and Jim Zetterquist.

San Jose Historical Museum Association News

The purpose of the San Jose Historical Museum Association is to support the San Jose Historical Museum in providing educational programs, publications, educational and volunteer services, to assist in the development and complete the Mission San Jose complex and to promote the preservation of the San Jose Valley's cultural heritage.

EDITORS: Dan Bingham, Kathleen Muller


ADVISORY BOARD: Vic Glaconant, Dwight Bentel, Berry DeYoung, Robert C. Doerr, Jack Douglas, Frank Fasini, Theresa Fox, Lilian Gross-Guy, Mary Gottschalk, Gloria Hain, Patricia McDonald, Maryette Perce, Bruce Robal, Brian Syra, Judge Mark Thomas, Jr., Auction Warburton.


CONTRIBUTORS: Dan Bingham, Jack Douglas, Megan Gibson, Dean Helms, Judi Henderson, Barbara Johnson, Laxmi Mahadevan, Allan McDaniel, Ken Mullen, Kim Pham, Slawomir, John Stable, Tim Starbird, Nancy Vander.

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The San Jose Historical Museum Association is part of the Department of Convention, Cultural & Visitor Services.

San Jose Historical Museum Association
1658 Senter Road
San Jose, CA 95112-2599
685-2737

The San Jose Historical Museum is part of the Department of Convention, Cultural & Visitor Services.

Director's Report

Save the Date in 1995

BACK BY popular demand and attendance, the Historical Museum will again be coordinating and promoting the following special events:

- Civil War Memorial, May 27-29
- Living History Days, June 24-25
- Chinese Summer Festival, July 30
- Victorian Christmas, December 9-10

Many of these events rely on support from other groups or organizations that have indicated a great desire to come out to the Historical Museum for another special time. Plan to put these special dates on your Museum calendar and look forward to new activities and events. While both the Portuguese Im perio and the additional trolley track projects have been delayed, they are still on the books and should be rescheduled in 1995. Expect celebrations for these unique projects when they break ground or open to the public.

Wish for the New Year

In January, the Historical Museum will be the subject of an interesting, call Virgin ia presents the findings of her study. This past year has been one of great difficulty with many of the Museum volunteers asked to choose sides. It is my hope that for the new year the Museum goes beyond personal ambitions and charts a good path for the future of this institution and all those who contribute to it. The San Jose Historical Museum is a non-profit, voluntary-run program and I hope that this continues in the near and distant future. Mark your calendars with the January dates to attend the Wolf Organization presentations. Your questions continue to be welcome.

MARGIE MCBRIDE
MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Docent Report

Reach Out and Join Us in 1995!

THE SAN JOSE Historical Museum serves the community as a resource center, a conservator for artifacts pertinent to our valley's history and former inhabitants, a backdrop for a pleasant outing, and an educational enrichment for our school's curriculum.

As an educational facility, the San Jose Historical Museum provides a wealth of programs to reinforce classroom instruction. The elementary school curriculum is divided into themes that offer many opportunities available at the Museum, and heavily schedule these programs (over 650 a year). The docents are as varied as our programs, ranging from professionals from other museums, to educators to business persons, and from college students to octogenarians. Collectively, we provide insight into, and information about, our valley's past. We challenge our visitors to use their imagination, and reflect on how different their lives would be if they had lived in San Jose a century earlier.

Every year we seek new members to join the docent program. If this sounds interesting, call Virginia Beck at the Museum and leave your name and phone number. In February we will be holding two informational coffees, which provide a chance to get acquainted and learn more about the docent program. The training class for 1995 will begin in March and end in June. Training lectures will be held on Wednesday evenings with in-galley training on Monday or Saturday mornings. A materials fee of $45 helps defray the cost of this training program. There are lectures by professionals in the field, under the direction of Virginia Beck, giving facts about our valley's past, field trips, and at the completion, a well deserved "docent badge."

Besides giving regular Museum tours, docents have an opportunity to give private tours or to train and for any of the 10-12 unique programs developed for and offered to different interest groups and age levels, from second graders to retirement home groups.

Is this the year to reach out and join a rewarding, worthwhile program? I hope so! Check us out.

MARGIE MCBRIDE
DOCENT COMMITTEE PRESIDENT
From the Archives

Our Old House

ONE OF THE primary research queries in the Archives is that of home owners looking for the history of their house. Whether it be to meet documentation needs to obtain a planning permit, or to recreate the front porch, or simple curiosity as to who lived there, house researchers look to historic documents to give them clues to the personality and style of their buildings.

A case in point is the research we've done on the structures being restored and/or renovated on the Museum grounds. We've looked to photographs and oral history to give us some indication of the changes made over the years and the direction we should take in restoration.

If you look at the Umbrager House exterior and that of the old photograph, you can see that the restoration has come close to the original. Other houses have had modifications, some for safety and other mandated needs, others for a deliberate choice as to what is the most appropriate period and style for the house. In addition, funding and construction capability, are other factors which play a part in the reconstruction. For example, one family photo of the Gordon House shows an “observatory” on the top of the house, which sticks up like a single room growing from the roof. Rather than replacing that particular element, the restoration developed along the lines of the better known historic structure, the large and graceful square house.

Currently, we are facing a new challenge: The Edwin Markham House. As part of the reconstruction plan, the first step is the analysis of the house to determine what was true to the period we are seeking to restore. Like many modest homes, the Markham House has undergone several stages of renovation, upgrading, moving, and other changes which reflect the needs and desires of its owners. In fact, this house has been likened to a baby Winchesters the changes and modifications made in the house.

Ed Janke, AIA Architect, the architectural firm hired by the Museum Association to direct this project, has poked and prodded the structure and used photographs, documents, and other resources from the archives to document the meandering construction of the house.

The first stage appears to be a simple two-story structure, with the stairwell coming from the lower back room and exiting into what is now a closet. When Mrs. Markham purchased the house in 1870, she was living in the deed states that she bought a story and a half house, the addition noted on the then south side of the house. Later it appears that second floor was re-configured adding another bedroom and bath plus a hallway which has a distinct bump in it. In addition, historic Sandborn maps and letters from Mrs. Markham indicate that the house had a one-story addition in the rear. When the house was moved in the 1920s to the back of the lot, the addition was removed and a small lean-to added a sink and storage to the house.

This is just a brief outline of the construction history of the house as we know it today. Many other facts will undoubtedly come to light as this project moves forward. By using historic photos, we can visualize the structure we want to create. Each little thing we learn will help direct the restoration and the future use of the Markham House.

LESLEY MASUNAGA
ARCHIVIST

In the Collections

SING KEE, a resident of San Jose’s Heinlenville Chinatown, was the first decorated Chinese American soldier. He was awarded the Distinguished Cross in World War I, as a sargeant in the Signal Corps, for maintaining a listening post under constant shelling for three days after the rest of his unit had been killed or fled. Upon his return to San Jose, he was feted with a grand parade in downtown San Jose.

Photographs of Sing Kee in uniform with his parents, and in the parade, appear in the San Jose Historical Museum’s Ng Shing Gung exhibit, but we knew little else of his and his family’s history until last spring. One day I received a call from the lobby desk that a relative of Sing Kee’s was visiting the Museum and would I be interested in talking to her. Would I indeed! I was delighted to have the opportunity to meet Margaret Marr, Sing Kee’s eldest daughter, currently residing in Oregon. She informed me that Sing Kee had five children, all still living, and that the family was based in New York where Sing Kee had settled after the war. Since then, we have met several times and Margaret has shared information and photographs of her family. She was able to provide the Museum with photographs of Sing Kee’s military medals, which are now on display in Ng Shing Gung. With Margaret’s help, we were able to tell the full story of this distinguished resident and his family.

Sing Kee’s grandfather first came to the United States in 1839 and lived in what was called in Merchant Street Chinatown. He arranged for his son, Sing Cheung, to join him about 1866. As was typical, Lau Cheung went back to China to marry. Lau Cheung and his wife Mary returned to California in the early 1890s. Sing Kee, their second son, was born in Saratoga in 1896 (the first son did not live). The family moved to San Jose about 1905. Lau Cheung had a cigar store at Fourth and Jackson Streets and also acted as a labor agent for ranches and mines. The store was called “Sam Kee” (“Kee” meaning “company”) and so the family name became Kee.

Mary Lau had thirteen children, but only four sons and one daughter lived to adulthood. After Sing Kee finished school, his father decided to return the entire family to China. Sing Kee was married at this time and then moved to the United States to earn money to support the family. He enlisted in New York in December of 1917. Apparently, the family returned to San Jose sometime during the war.

After the Sing Kee was offered a civil service position because of his distinguished war record. He worked in Cincinnati and later in New York as an interpreter. His mother, wife and brothers and sisters also lived in Cincinnati with Sing Kee and his daughters and sons. His sons and her family and his family’s friends all still reside in New York. The two eldest daughters both live in California now, three of the sons were here, but the San Jose Historical Museum to see their father’s photographs in our exhibit. The eldest son plans a visit to San Jose next July and may be bringing his father’s medals. We hope to discuss the loan of the actual medals for the exhibit.

SARAH NUNES
CURATOR

MUSEUM STAFF

Mignon Gibson........... Director
Wanda Foss.............. Senior Steno
Jeanne Kondo.............. Clerk/Typist
Leslie Masunaga.......... Archivist
Virginia Bock.............. Curator of Education
Beverly Blackie.............. Volunteer Support (PT)
Lawrence Fuelle ................ Volunteer Support (PT)
Carol Provenzano.............. Volunteer Support (PT)
Mary Anne Schreier.............. Volunteer Support (PT)
Al Spivak................ Volunteer Support (PT)
Beverly Treadwell.............. Volunteer Support (PT)
Monte Duran................. Museum Events
Sarah Heigha Nunez.............. Curator
Nancy Valery.............. Curator
Fred Bennett.............. Trolley Barn Manager

ASSOCIATION STAFF

Kathleen Muller.............. Administrator
Barbara Johnson.............. Development Director
Judy Stabile.............. Peralta/Fallon Director
Judie Henderson.............. Administrative Assistant
Dan Bingham.............. Public Relations & Programs
Carol Ouellette.............. Bookkeeper
Margaret Anderson.............. Membership Secretary
Toni Evans.............. Shops Manager
Susan Miller.............. Shops Scheduler/Supervisor
Marge Lestrachica.............. Shops Supervisor
Julie Peterson.............. Vintage Reflections Manager
Mayra Diaz.............. Peralta/Fallon Shop Supervisor

Spring Blossom Trail

Although not many fruit & nut orchards remain in the San Jose area, they still survive in the central valley. The "California Pioneers" will relive the nostalgic times of blooming orchards on their trip to Fennco Panama, March 9-12. Besides the Blossom Trail Tour, the group will also visit the historic Chinese Villages of Sandstone Arter, the Menonite Quilting Center and Kearney Mansion, plus a taste of Armenian and Basque Food. The trip includes bus transportation, 3 nights lodging, 6 meals, and tours. Museum Association members are invited to call Nancy Hill at (408) 258-3449 Monday through Friday mornings for reservations and brochure information.

Macy’s Shopping Day Update

Thank you to all who participated in the second annual Macy’s Benefit Shopping Day on Saturday, October 26. Your continued support helped the Museum Association raise over $4,500. Laurel Perusa, winner of lunch for 4 at O’Brien’s, sold 75 Macy’s tickets. Thanks to all who participated and congratulations to Laurel!

Congratulations John Luckhardt!

The Museum Association is pleased to announce that former Board Member John Luckhardt has been recognized as one of the National Society of Fundraising Executives (NSFRE) Distinguished Volunteer Fund Raisers for 1994. John was honored at the 1994 Silicon Valley Chapter’s Philanthropy Awards Celebration, Thursday, November 17 at the Fairmont Hotel. Recognition was given for John’s leadership role, sharing knowledge through workshops, lectures, training and knowledge with fellow Board members. Congratulations John!

News & Notes
PLANNING AHEAD
Remembering SJHMA in Your Will

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."
—Winston Churchill

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

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

Save taxes with a gift of stock! Three strategies: (1) Do you own securities that have appreciated greatly in value? You can make a meaningful gift to the San Jose Historical Museum Association at about half the actual cost by donating the stock to the Association. You will receive a tax deduction for the fair market value, and without paying capital gains tax on the appreciation because it is a charitable gift. (2) If you want to continue to own that stock, but have a large capital gain, you can donate the securities to the Museum Association, take your tax deduction, and repurchase the stock at current value. In that way, you will avoid capital gains tax and, at the same time, increase your cost basis for future appreciation. This substantially reduces the actual cost of your gift. (3) If you own "closely held stock" in a family business, for example, a charitable gift to the Museum Association may assist in transferring assets to the next generation and also provide tax savings. Call Barbara Johnson, Development Director SJHMA for further information at (408) 287-2290.

Sustaining Members

We started this series to feature local businesses that have sustained and prospered in the community. The businesses featured in this series have been identified for at least 75 years of service to the community as well as the active role each business family has played in local history. This month focuses on Roma Bakery, established in 1907 and a loyal corporate member of the San Jose Historical Museum Association since May of 1992.

Roma Bakery

565 Almaden Avenue

The Roma Bakery traces its history to 1907, when immigrants Riziera Pera and his wife, Rosa, built a general store and bakery on San Jose's Orchard Street. Pera settled his family into the second floor of the Victorian-style building and began selling his goods to the farmers who came into town by the Orchard Street road. Pera offered the farmers easy credit, and the bills were paid each year at harvest time. His bread became quite popular and was soon no longer just a sideline. He was managing a full-scale bakery business.

Pera's five children, some of whom were born in the home above the store, grew up working in the bakery. After some time, the era of delivering bread house to house, and the Roma Bakery began selling to grocery stores. Today, they market their bread commercially, offering it to restaurants throughout the area.

The location of the bakery has not changed. It is still down on the corner of Old Orchard Street — now the busy Almaden Avenue. Mario Pera's office was just two doors down from the room in which he was born.

The Pera family can boast of three generations operating the same business — and doing so successfully.

"We had a lot of down times, but the family effort pulled us through. If we hadn't worked together as a family, we wouldn't have survived. We are the last family of French bread in San Jose," says Robert Pera.

We started this series to feature local businesses that have sustained and prospered in the community.
MUSEUM STUDY UPDATE
The Wolf Organization to Present Initial Findings

THE WOLF Organization, Inc. will present recommendations for the future of the Historical Museum to the Strategic Plan Core Committee on January 17 in a meeting open to the public. In their initial report, the Wolf consultants will present three or four governance options or models, with pros and cons and the likely consequences of each model. These options will be accompanied by a consultant recommendation of a preferred option. Copies of this draft report will be made available on January 19 at the Office of Cultural Affairs or in the Historical Museum administrative offices.

On November 7, the Strategic Plan Core Committee met and established a tentative schedule for upcoming meetings. This schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, January 17
Core Committee meeting at which the consultant team will present its draft recommendations. San Jose McEnery Convention Center, Room F, 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 19
Draft report available for public distribution at the Office of Cultural Affairs (291 S. Market Street) or at the Historical Museum administrative offices. To request a mailed copy, please call 277-5144.

Monday, January 30
Core Committee meeting during which action will be taken on the consultant recommendation. The initial portion of the meeting will include an opportunity for brief public comments. San Jose McEnery Convention Center, Room F, 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7
City Council meeting and action on consultant and Core Committee recommendations. This review may be delayed until March 7 if additional time is needed to consider the draft report. City Council Chambers, City Hall, 7:00 p.m.

For those with questions regarding this schedule, please contact Monica Attanasio at the San Jose CCSV at (408) 277-5144.

Corporate Dollars Benefit Museum Association

CORPORATE matching funds resulted in over $5,000 in contributions to the San Jose Historical Museum in 1994. If your employer has a Matching Funds Program, it may match or even double your contribution to the Museum Association. Companies provide varying amounts of matching funds, whatever the program, the Association benefits. Please check with your company's personnel office or call Barbara Johnson, Development Director, at the Association office (408) 277-3780 for further information.

At the present time, we are qualified with the following companies:

- AT & T
- Adobe Systems
- Apple Computer
- Bank of America
- Cirrus Logic
- General Electric
- IBM
- Macy's
- The St. Paul Company
- Sal Microsystems
- TRW
- United Technology (UTC)
- United Parcel Service
- Westinghouse

There are many other companies that have matching programs. Please check with your employer if they are not on this list. Thank you for all of the support.

Garden Club Plans for 1995

THE HOLIDAYS are just behind us, yet it is not too early to begin thinking about the garden and spring planting. The Museum established a Garden Club in order to assist Carla Morrison, the gardener for the Historical Museum, in maintaining our existing grounds and garden areas. It is the goal of the Garden Club to have volunteers adopt individual areas on the Museum grounds, and to care for the adopted area on a regular basis.

Last year, visitors to the Historical Museum enjoyed a visual bounty produced by the Garden Club volunteers, including dahlias abounding in early spring, roses flowering during the summer months and herbs and produce decorating the Umlarger House garden.

If you would like to be a member of this busy and energetic group, we welcome you to our January meeting. At this meeting, we will establish goals for 1995, ask volunteers to adopt specific areas on the Museum grounds, and establish guidelines for the care of the adopted areas. The Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, January 25, at 10 a.m. in the meeting room of the Pacific Hotel. If you're interested but not able to attend the meeting, or if you would like more information, please call Laurel Perusa at (408) 354-7153.

We Buy and Sell California Paintings

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

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

Bingham GALLERY

Endowment Fund

DONATIONS

From October 26, 1994 through December 13, 1994, the Endowment Fund of the San Jose Historical Museum received the following donations:

In Memoriam:
- Terry O'Connell
- Stanley Smock
- William L. Rusky
- Edward Garity
- George Starbird
- Lawrence Peterson

In Honor of:
- Bradford Richardson
- O'Brien's Volunteers
- Laurel Perusa

Gifts to the San Jose Historical Museum Association to honor someone on a special occasion, 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.

Threshold to Confidence

School of Social Grace

Classes in etiquette for Young Ladies and Adults.
Mrs. William Barrett (408) 267-8677

Educational Volunteers Needed

The increasing popularity of educational tours for schoolchildren at the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Museum has created a need for positive volunteers. Since we are very pleased with the response from teachers and educators to the Site, on the other hand, we are growing increasingly concerned that we will not be able to meet the demand for these tours without newly trained docents. Specifically, we are seeking those volunteers who wish to specialize in weekday children's tours. If you are interested, or if you know someone who may be interested, please call Judy Stabile or Dan Bingham at (408) 993-8182.

Introductory Exhibits Now Open

The highly anticipated introductory exhibit in the Fallon House Cellar is now open to the public. The exhibit, titled "San Jose: Early Beginnings," explores the stories of some of the earliest people, cultures, and events that shaped San Jose before the 1870s. It focuses on the native peoples who lived here in the Valley near the banks of the Guadalupe River, the Spanish and Mexican settlers who built the pueblo, and the early Yankees who laid out an American city which today has grown to become one of the largest in California.

The exhibit is complemented by a thirteen-minute introductory video, which both reemphasizes the displays and introduces visitors to the Peralta and Fallon histories. The video is an excellent tool for teaching our Valley's history and a perfect introduction to the tours of both homes.

Renew Your Membership Here!

For your convenience, membership in the San Jose Historical Museum Association can now be processed at the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historical Site. Renewing members may pick up this year's premium book, Scenes Along the Line of the San Jose & Los Gatos Interurban Railroad, as well as current membership cards. While you're there, take advantage of the 10% membership discount on all purchases in the City Store gift shop. We offer free downtown parking passes daily to members. For information on joining SJHMA, call (408) 277-3780.

Peralta Adobe & Fallon House
Historical Footnotes of the Santa Clara Valley
By Jack Douglas

Leonard Willecke, Journeyman Architect

THE NAME Leonard Willecke is probably unknown among local architects and unlisted in any history of California's architecture, but this young journeyman architect designed two major local building complexes which have been familiar landmarks for over ninety years. The projects to which I refer are the San Jose State College campus and Agnew State Hospital.

Willecke was born in Cincinnati on July 28, 1884. His father, Anthony, was a custom boot and shoemaker. Leonard decided at a young age to become an architect, but schools of architecture were few and far between in 19th Century America, so at the age of eighteen he became an apprentice in the Cincinnati architectural firm of George W. Rapp and Son. Rapp was a building superintendent for the city, and this allowed his apprentice the opportunity to see how public projects were created.

In the next two years, Willecke submitted plans for a number of competitions and gradually began to win prizes for his drawings. Realizing the need for academic training, he frequently took evening courses in art, engineering and architecture.

After his initial training, he began his career as a journeyman architect. In early 1905 he went to work for the firm of Trobridge and Livingston in New York City. The following year a disastrous event occurred in California that would affect the lives of architects throughout the country. The earthquake and fire of 1906 leveled a whole city and left numerous buildings in northern California uninhabitable. While this was most unfortunate for Californians, it was an absolute boon for the architectural profession. The destruction of San Francisco allowed planners the opportunity to redesign the city and replace thousands of public and private commercial buildings.

Trobridge and Livingston were hired to rebuild San Francisco's famous Palace Hotel, and Willecke was sent west to help work on the design. At the completion of that job the young architect was taken on by the firm of Sellon and Hemmings in San Francisco. Willecke's design for the Hotel Sacramento won that important project for his new employers, and he went on to design the Berkeley Hotel, the Fresno Apartments and the Sacramento Masonic Temple, all impressive projects from a budding architect of only twenty-three.

State Division of Architecture Created

The '06 earthquake may have been the factor that convinced the California State Legislature that they should establish a State Division of Architecture, and Willecke's boss, George Sellon, was appointed to the position of State Architect in May 1907. Sellon, who recognized the potential advantages of holding such a position, was also loath to ignore his booming private business. He solved this dilemma by installing Leonard Willecke in the State Division of Architecture as the ipso facto head of the department.

Willecke Named Chief State Architect

As chief designer for the State of California, Willecke had to supervise the plans for 103 projects at 26 sites. He personally did drawings for state hospitals at Agnew, Mendocino, Napa, Patton and Stockton, for the state teacher's colleges at San Jose and San Diego, and for the Capitol Park insetory in Sacramento, the California Building of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, the entrance to Folsom Prison and block plans for San Quentin Prison.

Agnew State Hospital

The greatest tragedy of the '06 earthquake in Santa Clara County took place at the old Agnew State Hospital for the Insane. The multi-story, unreinforced masonry building crumbled like a set of children's blocks, killing over 100 patients. Willecke and the institution's superintendent, Dr. Leonard Stocking, redesigned the hospital in, what was then, a revolutionary cottage plan, spreading the low rise buildings along tree-lined streets in a manner that resembled a college campus.

The architect, barely arrived from the east, intuitively selected the emerging California Mission style as the basis for his design for Agnew and San Jose State. He adorned the modern concrete buildings with tile roofs, rustic wooden balconies, porch columns and bannisters. Bands of decorative tile patterns add to the Hispanic feel of the buildings. At the center of the Agnew complex is the Treatment Building with its awesome asymmetrical clock tower. The auditorium is an outstanding building which seems as beautiful today as it was in 1913.

San Jose State

The majestic brick Normal School building designed by pioneer architect Levi Goodrich did not crumble like Agnew State Hospital, but it was deemed structurally unsafe for further use. Willecke was challenged to design a building which would incorporate the latest earthquake-proof engineering methods of concrete reinforced with steel rods. This was one of the earliest California buildings to use these methods on a grand scale.

Unlike the Agnew "campus," the San Jose State design was an integrated plan which housed the whole school in the shape of a quadrangle. All the rooms could be reached through covered walkways, and the right and left wings were connected by a low tile covered arcade. A stately tower was constructed next to the formal entrance into the administrative offices and to Morris Daily Auditorium which was added a decade later. The Mission influenced style was similar to the buildings at Agnew, but the overall effect was more cloistered and romantic.

Up until the 1940s, architects of later buildings tried not to deviate from Willecke's original conception. Modern construction in the 1950s, however, crowded the Tower Hall complex and the campus planners decided that the quad was obsolete and not up to the latest earthquake standards. They planned to raze the entire structure, but last minute petitions to the Governor from thousands of students, alumni and friends convinced the bureaucrats to save the Tower and the auditorium. "La Torre," the Tower, remains the university's most cherished symbol and a tribute to a young architect with a grand vision.

Leonard Willecke left California after serving only one year as its principal state architect. He returned to Cincinnati and later settled in Detroit where he carried on a successful practice. He died there at the age of 85 on July 2, 1970.

Tower Hall at San Jose State Normal School. Photo courtesy of San Jose State University Archives.
Introducing
FRANK BOITANO

FRANK BOITANO would like nothing better, if he had the time, than to sit in the Museum's gift shop and go through all of the history books. But Frank doesn't have that luxury. By being a volunteer for numerous organizations, Frank donates his extra time to community service.

"If everyone gave something back to the community, society would be much better off," states Frank.

While Frank begins his second year on the Museum's Board of Directors, his involvement in other organizations goes back much farther. For the past fifteen years, Frank has been heavily involved with the Crippled Children's Society, most recently serving as that organization's President. Currently, he serves on the Santa Clara University Board of Fellows, sits on SCU's "Bronco Bench," donates time to the Capital Construction Committee at Presentation High School, assists the Alumni Organization at Belmarne College Prep, and coaches referees in the Almaden Valley Youth Soccer League. On top of all that, Frank is a partner in the Boitano, Sargent & Lawrence accounting firm and the father of two teenage daughters.

"It's easy to become involved with organizations that do a good job in what they're doing," explains Frank. Using his expertise in the accounting area, Frank begins his term this month as the Secretary-Treasurer for the Association's Board of Directors, and a member of the Executive Committee.

"I want to work hard to refine the financial records and books of the organization so that the budget process, (the Association) can better plan for its future," says Frank. But Frank's ideas for the Museum aren't restricted to debts and credits. Frank, for one, sees a lot of opportunity for the Museum once more people become aware of it. "The main objective of the Board has to be to get the word out that there's a lot more to Silicon Valley than high tech. There are a lot of people who don't know about the Museum."

With such a busy work schedule and so much community involvement already, Frank is still amazed that Frank and his wife Gayle find time every month to visit their cabin in Lake Tahoe.

"My wife and I decided that if we had a place to go, once a month, it would force us to get away, and that's what's happened. (Going to Lake Tahoe) forces us to get out of the area and do some family bonding." That family includes daughters Lindsay, a se-
Go Underground on Groundhog Day.

The Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Exhibit and Introductory Video Grand Opening

The Peralta Adobe & Fallon House orientation video and exhibit are complete and you are invited to join your friends underground in the Fallon House Cellar on Groundhog Day, February 2, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. We are proud and anxious to share these two elements of the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House project that complement and introduce these furnished structures. This is an opportunity for Association members to bring their friends to a social event, introduce them to the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site, and share with them a positive museum experience.

Come join us after work for some refreshments and a walk-through of the beautifully furnished and renovated Fallon House.

Send reservations to SJHMA, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112-2599. The cost is $12.50 per person. The reservation deadline is January 27, 1995. For more information, please call the Association offices at (408) 277-3780.


WINTER LECTURE SERIES (Continued from Page 2)

March 16

Jim Rose: The First Emigrant Wagon Train to Reach California

Jim Rose, Chairman of the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission and former San Jose resident, spearheaded the campaign to name a mountain peak in the Sierras, Mr. Stephens, in honor of the first wagon train to cross the formidable mountains. He will share his research and insights with us on the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Party. His talk will also include the experiences of Moses Schallenberger, a member of the Party and Dr. Job Townsend’s brother-in-law. The names of the party members are familiar to us, including Schallenberger’s, because they head their names on streets, creeks, dams, and schools in the Bay Area (unfortunately, Stephens’ namesakes in the valley have been misspelled as Stevens). Join us in learning more about the valley’s early settlers and the hardships they endured to reach the “golden state.”

Thank you for making this year's "Groundhog Day" program a success. We look forward to seeing you on February 2, 1995, for our annual event. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this special occasion.

Interested in Sponsoring This Newsletter?

The San Jose Historical Museum Association is seeking sponsorship for its six bi-monthly issues of the Association News. Organizations or companies interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter should contact Barbara Johnson in the Association offices at (408) 277-3780.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

January 17
Core Planning Committee Meeting
Presentation of Draft Recommendations
1:00 PM
San Jose McEnery Convention Center, Room F

January 26
Winter Lecture Series
Tom McEnery: The New City State
7:00 PM
Firehouse Meeting Room

February 2
Underground on Groundhog Day
Viewing of the Peralta-Fallon Exhibit and Video
5:30 PM
Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site

February 9
Winter Lecture Series
Dr. Patrick Sanders: Andrew Hill & California Art
7:30 PM
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room

February 23
Winter Lecture Series
Bill Wulf: Blossom Trolley Trip
7:30 PM
Firehouse Meeting Room

February 23
Get-Acquainted Coffee for Prospective Docents
1:00 PM
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room

February 25
Get-Acquainted Coffee for Prospective Docents
1:00 PM
Pacific Hotel Meeting Room

SANT JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
Mr./Mrs./Miss

Mailing Address: (Box ) Phone:
Zip +4: (Res ) Phone:
MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

□ $1,000 Mission Circle
□ $500 Pueblo Circle
□ $250 Tower Circle
□ $100 Century Circle
□ $50 Contributor Circle
□ $45 Family
□ $35 Individual
□ $32 Senior Citizens (1 or 2)
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Your gift may then be doubled—even tripled—if not expense to you.

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Refereements will be served

$12.50 per person
Pallone House Cellar
6:30 - 7:30 P.M.
Thursday, February 2, 1966. "Groundhog Day"
Viewing of the "new" introductory video and exhibit
Association Members and their Eagles

Exhibit & Introductory Video Grand Opening

The Perale Adobe & Pallone House

Go Underground

on Groundhogs Day!