Project Main Street

Street Construction To Begin May 26
by Mignon Gibson, Museum Director

The San Jose Historical Museum is proud and excited to announce that the Museum’s $1.2 million street and infrastructure construction project is scheduled to start May 26, 1992 and continue through a 30-day construction period ending August 28, 1992.

This is the project that the San Jose Historical Museum Association Board of Directors and the officials of the City of San Jose agreed was the highest priority for the development of the Historical Museum property. This large step toward the future will result in increased visitors, development and use of the Museum complex.

The streets will define the site as having a downtown area with an intersection under the Light Tower and residential areas with meandering country lane style streets. The streets with the infrastructure will pave the way for all future construction. New buildings and restored buildings will be able to be easily connected to utilities, and the streets will provide safe, convenient public access to all areas of the Museum property. Additional street lights will be added throughout the grounds making more options for evening activities, open hours and tours.

Closure To Impact Museum Volunteers, Public Access And Association Shops

The Museum street and infrastructure project has been coordinated to provide the least impact possible to the Museum open hours and operations, while providing the optimum construction conditions of good weather.

Given the amount of construction and the construction time—only ninety (90) days—impact has been kept to the shortest closure period possible from May 26 through August 28.

During this period the Museum will be closed to the general public and group activities. Staff and small numbers of scheduled volunteers will still have limited access to the site.

Businesses operated by the San Jose Historical Museum Association (O’Brien’s, Gift Shop and Vintage Reflections Costume Shop) will suspend operations during construction.

Groups needing a meeting facility will be accommodated elsewhere and Leininger Community Center within Kelley Park will be reserved for many of the Historical Museum group meetings and activities. Larger facility use activities, such as picnics, weddings, antique car tours, and others, will be referred to other sites and encouraged to return next year.

Living History Days Cancelled For 1992

Due to the street construction schedule, Living History Days won’t be held this year. Plans are being developed to continue this popular event in 1993 with an improved site that will more comfortably accommodate the public and allow us the opportunity to have a better parade route and better use of the grounds.

Fourth of July Association Members’ Picnic Cancelled

With the construction, the annual Association picnic celebrating the Fourth of July will also have to be cancelled for this one year. The street improvements will allow plans to be developed to make this event even better in the future.

International Museum Day Picnic And Celebration – Sunday, May 17, 1992

International Museum Day is celebrated worldwide on May 18. In honor of this occasion, and as a chance for Museum volunteers and the public to enjoy the facility before the temporary construction

Continued on Page 8
**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

More News On The Street Project

The Historical Museum streets and infrastructure are now being improved with capital improvement to the site to date. It will set the stage for all future development. I would like to thank everyone for their support and patience during our 90-day construction period. We will be planning a variety of opening activities so watch for announcements in the Association News and your mail for this information.

**Donations To The Museum Collection**

We had some very special donations to the Collections of the San Jose Historical Museum during the beginning of 1992. Our collections began in the 1960s with the start of the Statehouse Museum at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. City Historian, Clyde Arboodke, who is the donor of many of the treasures collected in the early days of the museum. In the past year we have received important paintings, household furnishings, machinery, textiles, documents and photographs. People have been very generous with our institution.

Please remember the San Jose Historical Museum with items that should be preserved for the enjoyment of the public. We are a growing facility, and while not every object is intended for permanent display, many could be important additions to our Collections.

**Ng Shing Gung Receives Awards**

The Chinese Historical and Cultural Project (CHCP) received two significant awards from the City of San Jose Recreation Society. A District 6 Award for Volunteer Merit and the Statewide Award for Volunteer Merit were recently awarded to Ng Shing Gung, a cultural organization which coordinated efforts to reconstruct San Jose's 1868 Chinese Temple on the grounds of the Historical Museum. Their work has certainly been recognized locally, and it is wonderful that a larger community is learning about the San Jose Historical Museum and Ng Shing Gung through these awards. If you haven't had a chance to visit this museum, try to do so before we close during street construction.

-Mignon Gibson

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

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

This issue of the newsletter focuses on the implementation of the street and infrastructure project. Other articles in the newsletter have dealt with specifics of this exciting project. I'd like to focus on the project's long-range effect on the Museum's future development. Like so many issues that we deal with at the Museum, this project has both positive and negative impacts on the Association and the Museum itself. The negative effects are, however, short term and result from the need to keep the Museum open for approximately three months.

On the positive side, the completion of the street project sets the stage for the future growth of the Museum. The prospects for future growth is extremely exciting. To ensure that this growth is planned, the Association is presently discussing the need to update the Museum Master Plan with the City staff. The process of updating the Master Plan will provide us with the opportunity to analyze such things as the need for archives and collection space, the feasibility of attracting commercial activities consistent with the theme of the Museum, the provision of off-site parking of sufficient size to accommodate both the employee/service needs, as well as long-term visitor needs, and to verify the future location of many of these items. A substantial amount of preliminary analysis of some of these issues has been the topic of discussion of the Development Council over the last several years. The Development Council, under the guidance of Craig Minnweaver last year, and Steve Oat this year, is comprised of design professionals, all of whom are volunteering their time and experience to assist us in planning for the Museum's future. A big thank you to the members of the Development Council for their efforts.

Once the streets are complete, we will be able to begin addressing the very difficult problem of preserving the corporate community in the Museum's future development. We have actually begun the process. On April 2, 1992, we hosted forty-five members of the business community for a preview of our new corporate community. Many of these business people in attendance responded by becoming corporate members. To those new members——Welcome and Thank You.

Lastly, the Museum Association activities for the last several months have been most successful. These successes have been, in part, made possible by several generous corporate citizens. The special performance of "Remember or Reap" was produced by Cellular One; the San Jose Athletic Club has graciously allowed us to utilize their facilities to hold the Harry Farrell lecture and book signing party; the Business Journal provided us with a free display ad to promote the lecture at the Hyatt Hotel given us an in-kind donation of a luncheon for our winning Board fundraising team.

-Gerry DeYoung

**FROM THE EDITOR**

Inserted in this issue of the Association News, will be a brochure promoting the Association's Endowment Fund. We urge you to keep this brochure in your desk and consider a donation to the San Jose Historical Museum on some appropriate occasion. Donations are often made in memory of friends and family on special occasions, as well as memorial gifts. Donations to the Endowment Fund continue to give over the years to benefit the Historical Museum.

The construction of the street system and infrastructure at the Museum this summer is a wonderful boost for the further development of the Historical Museum. But with the City's decision to close the Museum during the construction of the streets, several popular events enjoyed annually by Association members will not take place this year.

In addition to Living History Days, our Fourth of July party has become a special tradition for many of you. The old-fashioned ambiance of the Museum grounds, together with the proximity of the fireworks display at Municipal Stadium, makes that event difficult to duplicate in another setting. For those of you who are members at the $100 level or above, a free car pass to the Fourth of July party is one of your benefits. We regret that we are unable to provide you with that benefit this year. It is our hope that when the Museum is opened to the public again we can offer a special reception for you instead. In 1993 we will then again resume our normal schedule of summertime activities.

Thank you very much for your support of the Association during this period of disruption. When the Museum reopens you can experience first-hand the future development of the Museum into the major attraction we all envision. Your understanding of our inability to offer all the usual programs and activities during this time is greatly appreciated.

-Kathleen Muller

**GIFT SHOP**

**SPECIALS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY**

**Past Premium Book Sale**

$13 each or 3 for $36

**Inventory Reduction**

Inventory reduction sale to prepare for summer closure

25% off all dolls, brass gift items and other selected merchandise.

Look for the bright pink dot to indicate the Inventory Reduction Sale items.

Membership discount will not apply to these sales.

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Solid Brass Antique Reproduction Hardware—over 900 rare items including: hardware such as handle sets, sconces in solid brass, and even Glass, for antique furniture & Victorian reproduction door plates and sash. Their line includes Victorian pocket doors, door levers for furniture & lock sets for Victorian doors, solid brass heater grills in 24 sizes with or without damper, brass brackets for cornices, brass jalousies for kitchen and bath, brass kickplates, stair rods to hold runners on stairs, Solid brass threshold, stair lighting, and even antique adjustable sconces. Available in full color Catalog, for mail order, is just $2 or, come see us. Supplier of brass hardware used on the restoration of the Antique Trolley—restored in San Jose. So, you know our quality is one of the best.

Sales: 191 Lost Lake Lane (off Dell Avenue), Campbell, Phone: 408-246-1862

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San Jose Historical Museum Association
1650 Sanborn Road
San Jose, California 95112
(408) 297-2390
FROM THE ARCHIVES

The summer of 1992 will be marked by major advances in the Museum's development. This will be immediately obvious by the changes on the grounds but programs will also be affected. While the Archives will not be directly impacted by the street construction, this "down time" will give us an opportunity to reassess and to focus on some major projects in cataloging and preparing for the next phase.

From the end of May through late August, the Archives will be closed to the public for on-site research due to the problem of access. Museum staff and volunteers will continue to work and will attempt to answer some reference questions over the phone and by mail.

The Archives volunteers will be using this off-time to do some in-depth processing of the Archives collection. Special projects which will draw from all the Museum volunteers are planned in order to process some of the large collections. In addition the Archives Study Sub-committee will continue to work on the long-range development issues of the Archives Program.

In late summer/early fall the Archives will again be open for public research. To further the research program, a more systematic training for Archives volunteer research assistants is being developed. This will include working on the various materials held in the Archives, handling and use of primary documents and how to assist in reference work. If you are interested in becoming an Archives research assistant, please contact Cheryl Kiddoo, the Museum Volunteer Coordinator.

In the fall the Archives, along with Collections, will again be offering workshop programs for the public. This will include "My Family Scrapbook," a workshop on how to care for your family archives and documents and a new program, "Collecting Family Tales," a workshop on capturing your own family oral history.

Visibility and continuity of the Archives program are of great concern. However, with the energy being put into the "infrastructure" of the Archives this summer, we anticipate that in the fall of 1992 a stronger program will be in effect, mirroring the development of the Museum as a whole.

Leslie Maununaga
Archivist

IN THE COLLECTIONS

The Museum street infrastructure project affects each area of the Museum differently. The Collections volunteer program will continue to operate during the period of public closure, as our volunteer activities involve on-going care and preservation of the collection, rather than public access. Implementation of the Institute of Museum Services Conservation grant will also continue. Special inventory and cataloging projects have been identified to provide opportunities for volunteers in other program areas to continue to assist the Museum during this period. Curators will continue to accept donations to the Collections by appointment.

The Museum collects the widest variety of materials which document the growth and development of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley. In 1991, 787 items were donated by 121 donors, 75% of whom were Museum volunteers and 69% of whom were first-time donors. Donations fell into the following general categories:

Textiles.....25% Appliances......5%
Agricultural...5% Furniture......5%
Asian......14% Art......1%
Household......10% Toys......1%
Photography......7% Other......9%

Significant additions to the art collection included two paintings by A.D.M. Cooper, "fandian Encampment" and "View of A Ship," a portrait of pioneer John G. Bray; and a painting by local artist Clarkson Dye "Path in Los Gatos" (purchased through San Jose Historical Society funds). Endowment grants from the Ng Shing Gung and the 1875 laundry stove used in a Chinese laundry. Furniture donations included a 1930s wheelchair with a caned seat, an 1860s Eastlake-style parlor suite, and an 1845 American Empire sofa. Donations suggest-ive of the wide variety of items the Museum collects in order to illustrate life in San Jose included a bicycle rack made outside Bianco Furniture Store, a 1940s permanent wave machine and hair dryer and a 1915 chick incubator manufactured in Sunnyvale.

Through the Collections program the Museum gathers the objects that illustrate the story of the Valley. These items are preserved for future generations to enjoy and understand the past through interpretive exhibits.

Sarah Heigho Nunes
Curator

MUSEUM STAFF

Mignon Gibson
Director

Wanda Foos
Office

Virginia Beck
Curator of Education

Cheryl Kiddoo
Volunteer Coordinator

Nancy Freeman (p/t)
Volunteer Projects Coordinator

Events

Monte Duran
Museum Events Coordinator

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Sarah Heigho Nunes
Curator

Nancy Valby
Curator

Trolley Barn

Fred Bennett
Volunteer Coordinator

Al Spivak (p/t)
Trolley Barn Supervisor

ASSOCIATION STAFF

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Administrator

Administrative Services

Carol Ouettele
Bookkeeper

Margaret Anderson
Membership Secretary

Pamela Bruno
Costume Shop Manager

Toni Evans
Manager

Sharon O'Gorman
Scheduler/Supervisor

Margaret Spomer
Shops Supervisor

ARCHIVE STAFF

"Project Main Street" is uppermost in the minds of everyone concerned with the Historical Museum. The closing of the Museum site for the next few years raises questions in the minds of volunteers. As these questions are being considered, solutions are being planned.

"How can I continue my commitment to the Museum during the closure?"

There are Museum service areas which will continue to require the efforts of our volunteer staff, and extra hands will mean we can work on some important projects. Collections needs people to work on the preservation of wood and objects - cleaning, waxing, buffing. The Trolley Barn is concentrating on restoring the Italian Car for Capitol Day and activities. And can we add a variety of skills. Educational programs will be scheduled as usual: decent training, outreach kits, downtown tours, Santa Clara like, "P... Sta. Avelino," and Japanese Friendship Garden tours. Vintage Reflections will continue to book off-site shows, and costumes and boutique crafts will continue to be made for future use. These are just a sample of the additional volunteer opportunities to be scheduled.

"Will there be the opportunity to keep up with the volunteers?"

Volunteers can continue friendships through social events, such as an all-volunteer picnic at Family Circle in Kelley Park on August 15. Day trips to destinations in historic sites will also be scheduled. The Museum's volunteer newsletter, Light Tower Press, will publish details to keep you informed.

"Are there creative ways to use the time which would normally be donated to the Museum?"

Seminars and programs on such subjects as Interpersonal Skills and Customer Service will be offered for Museum volunteers at an off-site location to all who wish to use their volunteer time in a new and creative manner.

Docents and Auxiliary members will be joining together to make the 90 days of Project Main Street productive in preparation for the Museum's expansion in the future.

Alieece Ewan
Docent President

Louise Evans
Auxiliary President

THE SECOND

Villa Montalvo
Book Fair

An Elegant Event

The Second

Sunday, May 17, 1992
10 o'clock until 5 o'clock

Villa Montalvo
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Saratoga, California 95071
408/741-3421

Preservation brings history to life!
INTRODUCING GLORIA STERN

There was a time when Association Board member Gloria Stern thought of San Jose as the end of the world, which "surely pointed north from Palo Alto to San Francisco."

San Francisco was the birthplace of Gloria Louise "Dillon," however, she was raised in San Mateo County. She recalls that her Irish father, whose own father had left Ireland during the potato famine, would pass along to her the grandmother's memories of California when everything revolved around the railroad. Her mother's family first immigrated to New York from Germany. The family name was Liebeskind, and they came to California in 1898.

Having a life in San Jose seemed very remote to Gloria, but it was just one of the small communities through which trains passed in her father's stories. But that attitude changed with her acceptance into the Marketing program at San Jose State University. And San Jose looked far more interesting when, close to graduation, she happened to meet a young fellow named Howard Stern.

After graduation, Gloria decided to work at the Emporium in San Francisco. In "the City" she enjoyed the trumpet that woke her up each morning in her apartment across from Fort Mason. That hat-and-glove attire, the endless restaurants, shopping in the rotundas at the City of Paris, and cable car commuting (always in the outside seat whether rain or shine) were all wonderful for awhile.

However, she found Howard had more lasting charm. Gloria recalls their married life was very joyful. The young couple made San Jose their home and raised four wonderful children in its informal atmosphere. Daughter Sally teaches high school in Utah; Jeff lives in Seattle where he works as a biologist; Nina runs a landscaping business; and Clay operates the Stern family business, Stern's Luggage, with Gloria.

Gloria is now the proud grandmother of five. No doubt her grandchildren enjoy the Puppeter skills Gloria developed when donating time to children's groups through the San Jose branch of the American Association of University Women. AAUW is an organization she has belonged to for thirty years. She was also involved in Eastfield's Junior Auxiliary, another organization that serves children, and helped in starting the "Butter Paddle," a gourmet kitchen shop in Saratoga.

Gloria reflected on how she worked with her husband and father-in-law one day a week, then two and three as the children matured. Gloria particularly loved observing her husband's efforts to prod his father to be more creative; today her son prods her. Operating Stern's Luggage, which was established by the Stern family in 1883, as well as a saddle, bridle and harness business, remains an enjoyable challenge and tradition.

In the '70s Gloria was very active with the Santa Clara County Mental Health Advisory Board, serving as chairperson for two of those years. More recently, she enjoys working with the official Sister City Program, which recently added Dublin, Ireland, to bring the total number of Sister Cities to five. And since "owner's discretion" on work hours is now hers, Gloria can arrange more time to volunteer in the community. At the San Jose Historical Museum, it is the excitement of making new Museum friends, exploring a new direction through participation in the Association and seeing evidence of progress that makes Gloria proud of her attachment to the San Jose Historical Museum Association.

Gloria has found satisfaction in donating time to the operation of the two shops that create income for the Association. Former President Brian Serpa realized that Gloria would enjoy O'Brien's as well as the Gift Shop, although that admission to O'Brien's was teaching her new things. O'Brien's food service differs greatly from luggage, leather goods and gifts.

Gloria wants more people to be "sold" on the Museum itself, for she feels it is a perfect place to bring children and make new memories while respecting old memories. Just as Stern's Luggage is not known by everyone despite its 140-year history in the Valley, our Museum, too, has to send out a continual message that it is here. The Museum is getting bigger and better with each project, and it will be an even greater place to enjoy when it reopens after complete renovation of the street system.

MYSTERY PHOTO SOLUTION

The last Mystery Photo included several elements: a bond drive, various civic and other groups, and, of course, trains!

According to members of the 2479 Steam Engine Organization, this event appears to have taken place in the San Jose Yard just beyond the roundhouse. And thanks to Jim Novey, a Trolley Barn volunteer who sent the letter below, we have exact information on the locomotives. Thanks for all of your assistance.

Leolie Masunaga
Archivist

Dear Leslie,

At last the "Association News" has a Mystery Photo I can sink my teeth into!

While I don't know the exact date and location of the photo appearing in the March issue, I can fill in some details. The occasion appears to be a World War II bond drive for Southern Pacific employees.

Note the sound truck with the "Buy Bonds and Stamps" sign and the wartime blackout hoods on the locomotive headlight and switch stand. A lot of the people appear to be Induction Applicants (with few Boy Scouts around, too). The speaker appears to be from the American Legion. "Keep 'em rolling" was a WWII railroad industry slogan, and the sign on the podium is a variation on it.

The location appears to be the ready tracks at the San Jose roundhouse. Just over the tracks of the locomotives you see the roof of the roundhouse, and the PM&E natural gas storage tank is behind the stack of the locomotive on the left.

Now for the locomotives. The one on the left is the 1774, a class M-6 Mogul type (3-6-0 wheel arrangement). It was built in Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1901 as a Vandalium compound. It was converted to a simple type between 1907 and 1915. Five locomotives of this class were saved from the scrapyard's torch and were put on display in various cities, and 1774 was one of the lucky ones! It was placed on display in Globe, Arizona, 1771, a sister locomotive, was on display in Phoenixville until a few years ago; it is now at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento and is being restored to service. Moguls were mainly used on local freight trains. The next two locomotives to the right are the 1125 and 1126, both class S-8 (6-6-0 type switches built by Baldwin between 1925 and 1931). All locomotives of this class except one were no longer in use by 1952. None were saved. There are other SP 0-6-0 switchers on display, including 1299 (class S-12) at the museum in Sacramento, and 1238 (class S-10) in Martinez. 1294 (a class S-14) was on display in the playground at the San Francisco Zoo for many years, but was scrapped in the late '70s because of corrosion from the salt air. Keep the Mystery Photos coming, especially ones with trains and trolley cars!

Yours,
Jim Maurer

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

During the months of March and April 1992, contributions were made to the Museum Association Special Projects Endowment Fund in honor of the following individuals:

In Memoriam
Bill Brudigam
Elze Daly
Jean Frasier Dean
Col. Louis Freer
John Garcia
Kenneth Ingalls
John Kurzaek
Lawrence Peterson
Dave Pollock
Ann Slavich
Evelyn Derby Stockton
Jean Strebel
Anthony Williams

In Celebration
25th Wedding Anniversary of Larry and Miriam Sepe
Birthday of Mark Corella
Birthday of Gil Erickson
90th Birthday of Lou Bartlett
90th Wedding Anniversary of David and Helene Evans

In Honor
Bob and Wanda Olinger
Mort and Elaine Levine
American Antiques Club of Willow Glen
My Special Godmother
Laurel Perusas
on Mother's Day
Dorothy Farrington

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, 1600 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112. A letter of acknowledgment will be sent to the person being honored or the family of the deceased.
Jackson Hatch was a native son born in Tuolumne County on December 27, 1852. His father, F. L. Hatch, was a respected Superior Court judge of Calora County. Jackson was educated in country schools, then began to make his living as a teacher while, at the same time, studying law. He was admitted to the California Bar at the age of 21 and shortly after was elected District Attorney of Colusa County. He served in this position until 1880 when he went into private practice specializing in criminal law. In 1888 he was chosen first Assistant U.S. Attorney in San Francisco.

Two years later he set up practice in San Jose in the old Porter Building at 2nd and Santa Clara Streets. Active in the Democratic Party and leader in the Elks and other organizations, he frequently was called upon to make public speeches as he did at the opening of our Carnegie Library in 1903. He was the Democratic candidate for the State Supreme Court in 1899 and again in 1906, and there was talk of his being the Democratic candidate for Governor. Though never a judge, he was referred to as Judge Hatch which, as was the case, a sign of respect given to prominent lawyers.

Hatch married in 1879 and had four children – three sons and a daughter. Sons Frank and George became lawyers in San Francisco. The family had a home on Alum Rock Avenue, then an area that was part of the county. When the rowdiness of the Rock Rock saloons became too much for the decent folks, Jackson Hatch was one of the people instrumental in incorporating the area into the City of East San Jose. The offending saloons were promptly closed. Hatch was appointed as the city attorney and was personally responsible for getting the Cagney Trust to fund the construction of the library at the corner of Santa Clara and 23rd streets.

The 1906 earthquake and fire that would emanate from the City of East San Jose. The offending saloons were promptly closed. Hatch was appointed as the city attorney and was personally responsible for getting the Cagney Trust to fund the construction of the library at the corner of Santa Clara and 23rd streets.

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MURDER IN MONTECITO: THE CASE OF THOMAS TALLE

The Bench and Bar Historical Society of Santa Clara County will sponsor another of its acclaimed luncheons this May. It will feature attorney James Boccardo on "The Murder Trial of Thomas O. Talle". The luncheon will be held on May 3, 1993, 12:00 noon. The Old Spaghetti Factory, San Jose. RESERVATIONS are necessary, call Jennifer Togwell at (408) 259-1339.

The murder of 29-year-old Marge Talle on the night before Christmas eve, 1946, did things to her husband, Tom Talle, in a lot of trouble; it gave James Boccardo the title of "the best attorney in the county," and it added a new chapter to the right against self-incrimination. People v. Talle (1942) 131 Cal.App.2d 656, is one of Santa Clara County's most celebrated cases.

Talle, the only suspect in the murder, was an extremely wealthy cattleman from New Mexico. He met a beautiful and wealthy woman named Mrs. Edwards in a Denver hotel. Both Talle and Marge divorced their spouses and were married in 1945.

This began a violent marriage that sent both man and wife to the hospital on several occasions. One beating left Marge with a breast that "looked like raw liver." Another fight left her with a broken hand. When she would try to kick back and throw porcelain at Tom's head, the fights would usually amount to Tom's excessive drinking, which made him dangerous.

On December 23, 1949, a drunk Talle lumbered into Falaschi's Inn in Los Gatos at about 8:45 p.m. He propped up in front of the bartender and said three times, "Gerry Christmas. Give me a drink. I've got a dead wife up at the house." Talle tried unsuccessfully to call his attorney, James Boccardo. Talle, who lived in Los Altos, San Jose accountant John Miller and Marge's brother-in-law, man of Willy Van Hecke hauled Boccardo at 8:53 p.m. Boccardo went with Talle and Van Hecke to inspect the crime scene. Talle's newly built $75,000 palatial ranch house complete with swimming pool, at Panorama Drive and El Camino Grande, in Monte Sereno was burned down.

Boccardo called the sheriff's office at 10:53 p.m.

The case was heard before the Honorable William F. James, District Attorney Napoleon J. "Neg" Mar mond and James Boccardo in the early morning hours of the beginning. Newspaper readers who followed the story wrote as much interest in the personality conflict between Menard and Boccardo as they were in the unveling of the facts.

After jury selection, Menard opened with an interesting approach: "There have been a number of statements (made by Boccardo) concerning the advantage that is gained by the prosecution (because)...the defendant is not permitted to prevent his statement until after his defense has completed its case. In order to share that advantage, if it is thought to be such, at this time, we will call as the first witness in the case, Thomas P. Talle." Of course, all hell broke loose, and Talle refused to take the stand.

Menard portrayed Talle as a "good for nothing drunkard with a lot of money." Menard believed the evidence showed Talle shot his wife twice at point-blank range as she ran frantically from their home. The murder weapon, Tom Talle's .44 caliber Smith and Wesson lever, left a gaping hole in her body, with one slug slicing the main artery in her heart. With the expensive gabardine riding trousers that Tom wore on the night of the murder had two spots of "O" type blood on them, the same as the type that spilled from Marge.

Marge kept a journal which was introduced at trial. It chronicled Tom's constant physical and mental abuse. She had given this "letter from the grave" to her brother-in-law. The murder weapon, it was given to the district attorney if she were killed. According to this diary, Tom repeatedly threatened to kill Marge, and held a gun to her head more than once.

New Mexico housewife Alta Sheenaker, who knew both Tom and Marge Talle, said Tom had often bragged he would kill Marge, offered Mr. Boccardo $600 to put Tom in touch with a hit man to dispose of Marge, and made plans to make Marge's death look like the result of a burglary. Sheenaker said she would "put the body at the authorities if I have to crawl to California on my hands and knees." Assistant District Attorney Grant Engberg gave Marge his word, but was working on the case, flew to New Mexico immediately.

Mrs. Sheenaker testified that Tom returned to New Mexico a little before the murder and said "he hired the best attorney in the United States," James Boccardo. (At this time, Boccardo was representing Talle in a divorce action filed by Marge, based upon "cruelty," which was dropped.) Sheenaker asked Talle why he needed the best attorney in the United States when he could go to California to make a house arrest. Talle replied, "You don't think I'm spending all this money because I want to live there do you? I'll get out there where Marge doesn't have friends or know anybody, and when the job is done I'll come back and nobody will be the wiser."

Talle also made bets with family friends that they would never see Marge alive again. Eventually, he said he knew of a cheaper way to kill her than to spend money on a hit man.

Talle told best friend van Hecke that Marge was spending too much money on his two children. This inanimating conversation regarding a "hit" was unknown to the prosecution until minutes after the trial where van Hecke testified. Willy van Hecke also testified that Talle's attorney had twice asked him to "avoid" telling authorities about the conversation in the car.

Boccardo defended Talle by eliciting expert testimony that Talle was legally incapable of a act of murder because of his drunken condition and ingestion of cold tablets that contained belladonna. Boccardo argued that Talle may have shot his wife hamstringing her for a burglary. He may have come upon her already dead body after a burglar shot her. The gun had no fingerprints. There was no evidence that Talle was in his house during the time of the murder. Talle testified that he could not remember what happened because he was in the middle of a four-day blackout.

Menard continued his interesting approach when called upon to cross-examine Talle. Menard asked him to stand at a blackboard in front of the jury and write out with chalk: "Nothing is to be concealed from the jury. That goes for my attorney, too (aside from privilege). They are so instructed. [signed] Tom Talle."

Talle was found guilty of murder in the first degree and sentenced to life in prison. Leto, Talle, on the verdict, "felt like I had been kicked by a couple of steers."

Boccardo appealed the verdict, and Menard filed a brief with the District Court of Appeals stating Boccardo was an accessory to the murder. The appeal of the verdict was overturned two years later because: 1) Talle's right against self-incrimination was "trump[ed] upon" by Menard calling Talle to the stand. 2) Talle's right to face his accusers was violated by the introduction of Marge Talle's journal - Marge's "ips sealed in death," and 3) Menard's closing statements regarding Talle not taking the stand was "inflammatory and prejudicial." The appellate court in San Francisco rebuked Menard for commenting on Talle's wealth, proclaiming "God knows Talle is guilty!" and saying "Anyone hiring a strong attorney (Frantin Attorney George T. Davis as one of his defense counsel) must be guilty."

After the trial, Marge Talle's $10,000 emerald cut diamond ring disappeared. Menard and Bergna said that they gave everything to Boccardo. Boccardo said that the diamond ring had been included in the jewelry given to him. This, of course, gave rise to scandalous news coverage.

The case was retried, with Boccardo and Menard again. Menard petitioned the court to temporarily hire Louis Bergna, the "brains" behind the first trial, because Bergna had since gone into private practice. Talle was found guilty of second degree murder, and given a 10-year sentence. He served 86 years of this sentence, was released to San Diego, and married his best friend's widow, Gredys van Hecke.

Circuit Court Judge Thomas Bernal.

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THE "FAIR BUT FRAT," AND PRACTICAL

by Barbara Murray

"California!" From everywhere came people who had given up their normal pursuit of happiness to find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. The name California frequently meant loneliness, tragedy, or death—especially to the women: those who were left back home to wait, those who were dragged along on the journey, or those bold women who had gone to California a new freedom and brevity the journey eagerly. Women numbered less than two percent of the population in the mining regions, and only ten percent in the big cities such as San Francisco and Sacramento.

The first new group of women to come to California were prostitutes—or, as they were referred to, the "fair sex in full bloom." The scarcity of women served to increase the appreciation of those who were here, Hubert Bancroft says, "it mattered not so much to [the miners] who or what she was, she might be chaste and fair or as wicked as Jezebel."

The arrival of the women was great news. From the Alta California, May 7, 1850:

"We are pleased to notice by the arrivals from sea Saturday, the appearance of some fifty or sixty of the fairer sex in full bloom. They are from all quarters—some from Yankee-land, others from John Bull country, and quite a constellation from merry France. We Frenchman brings twenty—all they say beautiful!"

These prostitutes were perhaps the most elegant dressed women in San Francisco. They were actually dressed in the early years as the fashions styles for the ladies of the city. Their job, whether they actually sold their bodies or not, was to attract visitors to the bars and dance halls, hotels, etc. Because appearance determined much of their earning capacity, a wardrobe was their largest business expense. A high-class prostitute could make as much as $300 to $500 a night! The French prostitutes who arrived in significant numbers after 1850 were immediately the fashion trendsetters of the gold-rush era mondse society. Their expensive and fashionable style encouraged the splendid character of the shops of jewelers, silk-merchants, milliners, and others whom the women patronized. The respectable woman who aspired to elegance and style followed the same fashions. It has also been suggested that the elegance of these women was such that even the miners would be attracted to them, to the extent to buy their clothes, shoes, and just on a clean shish in order to attract their attention.

But this high fashion existed for the most part only in the cities or amongst the wives of the wealthier merchants, or the prostitutes in the smaller towns. Most fashions—al least for a time—were frequently adapted to the more practical needs of frontier life.

This adaptation began on the trip to California. Women were advised to take no fine clothing, only "things suitable for everyday wear" such as a calico frock, plainly made, no hose, and a sunbonnet, or flat bonnet—made with wooden splints used to stiffen the brim. Frequently blue denim knickers were made to wear underneath the dressess. One Veteran of the journey advised "Indemnities should be discarded—women should wear hunting frocks, loose pantaloons, men's hats and shoes, and ride the same as men." Any woman starting West in a silk dress was immediately suspected of being a prostitute. A respectable woman was supposed to wear working clothes—at least until she had completed her journey. They often purchased men's boots of smaller sizes for use during crossing. They also outfitted themselves with knickerbockers that reached to their boot tops, although these were modestly covered by skirts reaching to at least the knees. This was the famous Bloomer outfit—and the New York Daily Tribune, 1852, reports in his description of a migrating party--"ladies on horseback, dressed out in full bloomers."

There are references to bloomers being worn even after reaching California where a free social code allowed the possibility. Eliza Farnham, a woman who came to Santa Cruz to take over her husband's property when he died, writes in her journal:

"I ought not to omit mentioning that I commenced my new business in the ordinary long dress, but its extreme inconvenience in displacing all the smaller tools, effecting lines (ed. note: she was laying out new building a new house!) and flying in the teeth of the east, induced me, after the second day, to try the suit I had so long at the various approaches to the house, lest I should be caught in it. If I saw a man coming, I did not use what we call the "shaky" to keep out of sight till I was gone, or to change my dress. This was a great victory."

Eliza also went so far as to don a young boy's clothes when she had to go out and round up a lost cow and calf.

Here we see a picture of the fascinating Bloomer outfit as envisioned by Annula Bloomer.

The most problematic pieces of women's fashion were the many petticoats and the cumbersome hoop used to extend the skirts to their ideal fashionable dimensions. Not only were these bulky, clumsy, and too large for the spaces available in the home, stores, or wagon, but they could be a distinct embarrassment. For example, George Armstrong Custer was extremely offended when his wife's skirts blew up over her head, the wind lifting the hoops like a large balloon. The skirts were five yards around, gathered into a waist band, and filled nicely with air! So humiliated was he, that he took a load bar, cut it into small strips, and ordered her to sew them into the hoop skirts.

The hoop skirts were the source of many humorous stories in the mining camps. For example, the story is told of a woman who, upon hiring a girl to help with the housework, told her she was to wear her hoop to work, as the kitchen was simply too small. The girl insisted that she wear it, and finally a compromise was reached: the girl removed her hoop and hung it on a peg outside the door! One day as she left work she discovered that the hoop was gone. No one could explain its disappearance—that is until a few days later when a nearby Indian tribe held its pow-wow. Out of one of the lodgings stepped an Indian woman wearing the hoop over her own garments. The hoops were now adorned with beads and ribbons and other items strung to hang from its structure.

Travelling with any fancy clothing also proved a consideration airport in the 19th and ordered proper city dress, should not be worn on horseback but were necessary upon arrival. Says Eliza Farnham:

"...I ought to have mentioned that these horseback journeys precluded any respectful transportation of millinery or muslin, and consequently I was reduced to the necessity, on my arrival at each stopping place, of walking out in a riding hat (ed. note: inappropriate) or borrowing a bonnet... Once, indeed, I had a bonnet carried at the back of my coat! I kept a weary grand fine gold ride proving very unpleasing to ribbons and flowers, I did not repeat the experiment."

Despite the nickname "fair but frail," women proved that they were equal to the needs of their new homeland. Despite adaptations they were forced to make, as we look at the clothing of these women, we cannot help but see the pride they take in their dress. As a contemporary male observer put it, "...and every woman were her bit of ribbon."

Barbara Murray is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Santa Clara University.

ADVISORY BOARD
MEMBER ERNIE RENZEL HONORED

The 1992 recipient of the prestigious San Jose Medical Center Festival of the Legacies Medal Award is Ernest H. Renzel, Jr., also a member of our Museum Association Advisory Board.

On May 7, 1992, friends, family, business and community associations will come together to honor Ernie for his many accomplishments. The Legacy Medal has been awarded annually since 1977 to an individual who has contributed his or her time and talents to the benefit of the community at large.

In addition to many other achievements, Ernie was instrumental in the purchase of Kelley Park for the City of San Jose and designation of the south end of the park for the Historical Museum. Several years later, Ernie helped the City purchase the collection of Lew Bohnett which substantially increased the Museum's holdings.

Ernie was also a leader in bringing air travel to San Jose through the establishment of the San Jose International airport and in establishing the right-of-way for Highway 17.

In addition to his many contributions to the San Jose Historical Museum, Ernie Renzel was a trustee of San Jose Hospital (when it was called by that name), and devoted his time and talents to helping the San Jose Symphony, the San Jose Rotary and the San Jose Museum of Art. He is a board member of the Community Foundation of Santa Clara County and was instrumental in raising the funds to start the East Valley YMCA.

The San Jose Historical Museum Association joins with the San Jose Medical Center Foundation in saluting Ernest H. Renzel, Jr. as a worthy recipient of their Legacy Medal Award.
BLACKHAWK PLAZA BUS TRIP

Mall Museums, Motor Vehicles and Hispanic Culture

WHEN: Tuesday, May 19, 1992

WHO: Association Members and their guests

HOW: Royal Coach leaving from and returning to the JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN parking lot.

TIME: 9:00 AM DEPARTURE / 4:30 PM RETURN

COST: $25 for Association members – NO LUNCH PROVIDED

$30 for guests – NO LUNCH PROVIDED.

How in the world can we combine mall museums, motor vehicles and manage to celebrate Hispanic culture, too? No problem!

If you join us on May 19, you will be on your way to Danville to visit Blackhawk Plaza, the innovative shopping mall which was featured in the April, 1992 SUNSET magazine.

First you will be provided with a docent tour of the Behring Auto Museum to see turn-of-the-century horseless carriages, speedsters of the Jazz Age, and classics of the war years, as well as '50s and '60s cars we all know and love. Then you will be turned loose on the second floor to see exhibits of vehicles loaned from collectors and to interact by video with designers of the 1955 Thunderbird and many other classics.

At noon you'll be on your own for lunch in the variety of restaurants that are available in one of the newest and classiest shopping malls in Northern California. Or, you can also choose to bring a bag lunch and eat beside the Plaza's wonderful two-acre waterways. Wander into the mall itself at your own risk!

After lunch, you can visit the second museum located at the mall! The U.C. Berkeley Museum of Art, Science and Culture has permanent exhibitions on prehistory and scientific discovery in addition to a special exhibit featuring IMAGES OF FEMINACE, IMAGES OF MERCY: "Santos and Ceremonies of the Hispanic-Southwest."

To make your reservations, send in your check, payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association (SJHMA) and include the reservation form below and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Mail it to the San Jose Historical Museum Association, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112, Attention: Carolyn Gagnon.

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

BLACKHAWK PLAZA BUS TRIP, TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1992

9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

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Royal Coach Bus leaving from JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN PARKING LOT

Plan to bring or to purchase your lunch.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1992 Public Humanities Lecture

The California Council for the Humanities is sponsoring BACKING INTO THE FUTURE: Columbus, Cleopatra, Custer and California's Diversity Revolution. Carlos Cortes, professor of history at U.C. Riverside and an award-winning multicultural trainer, will lecture and discuss why battles over the past have become so important to us now. This will be held on Thursday, June 11, at 8 p.m. at Mother Olson's Inn, 72 North Fifth Street near Santa Clara Street, San Jose. Admission is free. For further information on this or related upcoming events contact Jeanne Huddleston at (415) 891-1474.

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