1992 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS THIS MONTH

The San Jose Historical Museum Association is pleased to announce the start of its annual membership drive and the publication of Chinatown, San Jose, USA, the 1992 membership premium soon to be available to all new and returning members.

The nineteenth in a series of books published annually by the Association since 1973, Chinatown, San Jose, USA is particularly timely this year with the recent opening of the Ng Shing Gung replica at the Museum.

The focus of the book is the Chinese settlement of Heilinville, a unique community located in San Jose from 1887-1931. Author Connie Young Yu draws on family records and correspondence, oral interviews with former residents, and newspaper accounts of the period to tell the fascinating story of what life was like for the Chinese in San Jose at that time. She begins with an overview on the subject of Chinese immigration and discriminatory laws and recounts the history of earlier Chinese settlements in San Jose which preceded Heilinville, before focusing on the daily life of that community. The book is hardbound, 130 pages in length, and illustrated with over eighty photographs, many of which came from personal collections and family albums and have never been published. The Museum Association is grateful to the Stella B. Green Charitable Trust and the Sourisie Academy of San Jose State University for their generous assistance in making this publication possible.

Chinatown, San Jose, USA is available exclu-

Continued on Page 8

1991 VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS “1890’S STYLE”!

A Victorian Christmas will be enjoyed by all on Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Be sure not to miss this chance to make memories with your family and friends.

Hear, see and smell the magic of the holidays come alive in our turn-of-the-century city. Victorian vignettes, musical interludes, streetcar trolley rides, horse drawn wagons, fresh mistletoe, hot roasted chestnuts, and needlecraft demonstrations are but a few of the many sights and sounds you will enjoy. Don’t forget your camera because you won’t want to miss the faces of children as they are invited to free craft-making, holiday ornaments and a surprise visit by Father Christmas during the children’s story-telling hour.

General Admission: $4.00 Adults
$2.00 Seniors
$2.00 Children (6-17)
Children 5 and under are FREE

Parking: $3.00 in all Kelley Park lots

A special feature of Victorian Christmas this year will be “Child’s Play,” a display of antique toys and dolls from the 1880s to the 1920s. The display will be located in the Bank of Italy and will include samples of childhood toys from the Museum’s extensive collection, such as cast-iron cars and wagons, a model grocery store and drug store with miniature accessories and bisque French and German dolls. Also featured will be doll accessories, board games and construction sets.

Each day the Museum will come to life with costumed characters and festively decorated buildings. As a special feature, the Gordon House will be open for the second time ever to public tours both Saturday and Sunday.

This year’s special donation drawing is again a doll lover’s delight! The drawing showcases collectible dolls and nutcrackers perfect for holiday gift giving.

Holiday shopping will be available in the Gift Shop, as well as in volunteer boutiques. Refreshments will be available. The 1980’s Victorian Christmas will be an opportunity to enjoy the Museum and experience what holidays were like 100 years ago.

Theatre Party Planned – Details on Page 8
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Cheryl Kiddoo Appointed Museum Volunteer Coordinator

The San Jose Historical Museum is pleased to welcome Cheryl Kiddoo to the staff in the position of Museum Volunteer Coordinator. Cheryl has a Master's Degree in Museum Education from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. She is also an Anthropology graduate of UCLA.

Cheryl has recently worked at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, Virginia, as an Education Officer responsible for developing and teaching educational programs. She has good experience in working with volunteers and the general public.

Cheryl has the challenge of replacing Dulcie Jansen and also meeting the growing demands of the Historical Museum. Her assignments will include working many weekends and holidays, in addition to recruiting, orienting, and maintaining our volunteer roster. Please take the opportunity to welcome her.

Opening Celebration photographed by Donald Dong.

Ng Shing Gung Opens

The Historical Museum is pleased to have the 1868 Chinese Temple replica completed and opened to the public as a gift from the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project. I would like to acknowledge how hard the community, the volunteers and the staff worked on this project. I would like to single out the efforts of Sarah Nunes and Nancy Valley, Curators, for their role. They have worked with the project for many years and are often behind the scenes focusing on details. Their primary research, building development participation, exhibit development and installation participation, and general project support all took dedication, skill and time well beyond the normal workday. I am very proud of their efforts and know that all who worked with them were pleased at their professionalism.

The exhibit is now open to the public and will be available for viewing on a regular basis.

1991 Almost Over

I always get a little concerned when I write the Association News article for the month of November. It means that another year has passed, that the holidays are fast approaching and that I didn't get everything done that I had wanted to do for the Historical Museum. I would like to thank all the supporters of the Museum for making this a great, dynamic and growing organization. I look forward to 1992 being another year of activism and success for the Museum. Thank you for your support and attention.

Mignon Gibson, Museum Director

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

These last two years have virtually flown by! Was it only yesterday that we adopted a mission statement and set goals? Our committee system has evolved into a more efficient way of doing business. The completion of new exhibits, i.e., the Gordon House, Ng Shing Gung, and soon the DeLaur House, are only a few of our accomplishments. We received the news of a State grant for our streets at the beginning of my term, and soon we should break ground. Our relationship with the City of San Jose has been enhanced through better communication, thus a clearer understanding of common goals. Membership has remained strong even in these tough times, and the community at large has become more involved with the San Jose Historical Museum.

Thanks to all of you who have worked so hard to make us what we are today.

Patricia Barba McDonald
Association President

FROM THE EDITOR

1992 Membership Drive Begins

Each year the month of November signals the beginning of our Museum Association membership drive. This year's campaign will soon be underway and I urge you to renew your support of the Museum when your membership packet arrives in the mail. 1992 promises to be a year filled with growth, excitement, new exhibits and activities. We hope you will stay involved and encourage your friends and neighbors to join as well. The many benefits of membership in the Museum Association are yours to enjoy!

Please note the article on page 6 regarding matching gift companies. If you or your spouse are employed by a corporation that matches your donations to the arts, please be sure to let us know. Through the generosity of these companies your membership gift and other donations throughout the year may be doubled, and even tripled, at no extra expense to you. We urge you to help us take full advantage of this wonderful source of funds for the Museum.

Farewell to Outgoing Boardmembers

The end of the calendar year also marks the end of another year of activity for the Museum Association and the completion of the term of office of several valued members of the Association Board of Directors. Leaving the Board this year after many years of dedicated service are: Patricia McDonald, Ken Prok, Judge John Herlihy, Jean Corisigia, Charles Walton, John Cochran, Colleen Kelley, Terry Graff, Sylvia Greveling, and Brian Serpa. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with each of these people over the past several years. Fortunately for the Museum, almost every one of them is planning to remain active in the Association in other capacities. We are grateful for the many hours of dedicated services they have given to the promotion of the Historical Museum and look forward to their continuing involvement.

Kathleen Muller, Administrator
MUSEUM STAFF

Migdon Gibson .......................... Director

Office

Virginia Beck .......................... Clerk/Typist

Archives

Leslie Maunana .......................... Archivist

Education

Volunteers

Cheryl Kiddo ......................... Volunteer Coordinator

Nancy Freeman (p/t) ................ Volunteer Projects Coordinator

Events

Menti Duran ......................... Museum Events Coordinator

Collections

Militia Rios-Somaniego .............. Curator

Sarah Heigho Nunes .................. Curator

Nancy Valby ......................... Curator

Trolley Barn

Fred Bennett ......................... Master Car Builder

Al Spivak (p/t) ....................... Trolley Barn Supervisor

ASSOCIATION STAFF

Kathleen Muller .......................... Administrator

Administrative Services

Carol Oudette .......................... Bookkeeper

Management

Paulinnette Bruni ..................... Costume Shop Manager

Museums

Toni Evans .......................... Manager

Anita Kasnower and Sheryl Rose \nBelinsky ......................... Shop Supervisor

Margaret A. Sporer .......................... Shop Supervisor

Additional care and preservation (even restoration!) could be accomplished with more volunteers and additional training by Museum staff and outside resources. Museum volunteers would then qualify to perform basic restoration of selected Museum objects. With a large number of volunteers an expanded program could include:

1. A permanent work area.


3. Selection of representative collection pieces designated for restoration.

4. Exploration of additional funding opportunities.

All interested volunteers, please call the Volunteer Coordinator to help us further our conservation goals. We can make a difference.

John Cochran .......................... Auxiliary President

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Collecting the Past

History is an act of re-creation. Without documentation there is no physical and intellectual link to the past. Photographs bring an immediacy to our own family and community life; maps give a sense of the changing landscape of the city; documents record and reflect political, social and community changes; oral history brings color and context to the documentation.

One of the most important aspects of the Archives program is the collection of these materials. Thanks to San Jose Historical Museum's dedicated volunteers, such as Clyde Arbuckle and Theron Fox, materials were literally saved from destruction and loss. The foundation of our Archives collection is based upon the collections of those materials in the 1960s.

Today developing the Archives collection is a continuous process. The Archives receives materials from City and County offices as well as donations from the community. Our policy is to collect documents and records which relate and interpret the development of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley. Collections have ranged from individual pieces of ephemera, such as greeting cards and maps, to collections of individuals and businesses which are a valuable part of our local history.

The collection is open to all stages of history. For example, the Archives has an ongoing ephemera collection, wherein we collect materials which would otherwise disappear. It includes political packets, flyers and invitations from events which are often lost to history. We are especially interested in the local history of our community. If you have materials which might contribute to our understanding of San Jose, please let us know (P.S. At this time, donations to the Archives Collection are tax deductible.)

Leslie Maunana .......................... Archivist

Open Saturday Archives: The Archives will be open on November 9 and 23, December 14 and 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for research. Please call for appointment (287-2290).

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The San Jose Historical Museum has a Conservation Corp (C&G Corp) of three volunteers who work under curatorial supervision to clean the various exhibits on a regular basis. Working space, lack of focused training, and time constraints have precluded more detailed care of items in the Collection with the exception of art- work and textiles collections, where some additional part-time staff and volunteers are available.

Experience gained during preparation of the Chinese artifacts for display suggests that, with an expanded training program, volunteers under the direction of our professional curatorial staff would be capable of performing basic conservation, preservation, and repair on Collection objects where the cost of professional restoration cannot be justified and where the current state of the objects renders them unsuitable for display.

Trolley Barn restoration of historic trolley cars and of several Museum artifacts attests to the type of work which is possible.
Keith Kelley Club was named in his honor in 1944, and it is still active today. Through donations, uniformed police officers, the club attempts to meet the needs of officers and their families when illness or personal tragedy occurs.

When you'll find Kelley is nostalgic about San Jose's past and often wears in costumes she created, she states "I never would have wanted to try it. In Victorian woman." She marvels at the artistry with which women of the past accomplished making such lovely things for themselves and for their homes, despite poor lighting and the minimal equipment available.

In comparison, the fast pace of present life now leaves little time for many women to devote to arts and crafts. Having the option, however, to walk through the Museum gates and relax for a few hours in another time is appealing to Colleen. She believes "progress is not great all of the time."

The Museum and the Association have been the beneficiaries of Colleen's talent and generosity for a long time. Always smiling, she is a volunteer we enjoy seeing walking through the gates of the Museum.

INTRODUCING COLLEEN KELLEY

The sands of Saudi Arabia didn't attract Colleen very far from her hometown of San Jose in the late 70's despite the lucrative pay she could have earned with architectural models and processes piping. When it came down to a final decision, Colleen said "I couldn't move unless everybody moved." A native of San Jose, Colleen discovered how important the Valley's lifestyle and friends and family were to her.

Professionally she changed directions, focusing her love of "hands-on creation through drawing and painting" into the area of graphics arts and technical illustration instead. While adjusting to the increased computerization of the graphics field, Colleen has offset her technical business activities with, among other creative things, the addition of a healthy dose of doll making. If you ever make a doll, you find you can never quit. Then, of course, you have to dress the dolls. Studying pattern making at Evergreen college has led her to adjust patterns and to design clothing for the dolls and for herself as well.

Colleen's interest in clothing design has proven to be a happy development for her friends in the San Jose Historical Museum Association. Colleen has devoted many creative leisure hours to the benefit of the Museum. This year Colleen has served effectively as the Vintage Reflections representative on the Association Board. Her leadership has given the program a boost. She believes its participants enjoy being focused on their own creative strengths; yet, she has asked that they see their efforts as part of the larger Museum picture. Nothing would please her more than to see Vintage Reflections moved into the Delta House, so the program can then outgrow that space.

Currently Colleen is sewing costumes and working with Meredith Watkins on the Boutique Committee. Her being an inventory of clothing products to help the costume program earn its way. The costume she is wearing in the photograph above is one she created.

Colleen and her eldest daughter are enterprising women, partners in their own copy center and desk top publishing business called Copy Ink. A single mother, Colleen successfully raised three daughters and one son into fine adults. Colleen enjoys the company of her mother, Delores, as well as the visits of her own "two, four, six, no it's eight grandchildren!"

Colleen's father was a San Jose Police officer and she first saw San Jose's Police Department to be killed in World War II. The philanthropic

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

By Bernadette Barton

Your Thanksgiving Turkey - Roasted Here $5.00

The handprinted sign was ready to go up in the back room when Uncle Mike got the family to agree to his plan.

My grandparents, Michael and Rose Hanre, opened the American Home Bakery (Hammer's Bakery) at the corner of Delmas and West Santa Clara Street in San Jose in 1910. From then on, the old-fashioned oven, with three and four feet deep, was left on the bottom and the top and all sides, never got cold. It was "fried" every morning and evening and was always ready for the daily batch of bread and the occasional holiday cake.

Thanksgiving Day, 1941, was going to be a bake shop holiday. With World War II in Europe oceans away and a holiday spirit running high in this country, Uncle Mike was sure people would be willing to fill the oven with their holiday turkeys. In years past Grandpa had roasted turkeys for his family and rescued a occasional customer who wasn't able to squeeze a turkey into her oven at home. Grandpa's projects were nothing compared to what Uncle Mike had in mind, fifty turkeys on Thanksgiving and maybe more on Christmas.

"It's a long day," Grandpa groaned. "Nein! Nein! Can't be done."

"You haven't heard how I'm going to do it, Pop."

"Turkeys all over the place. How are you going to remember which one is which?"

"Numbered metal tags. We tie a tag on the turkey and give one that matches to the customer."

"Fine. You move the birds around in the oven. How do you remember what time they went in and what time they come out?"

"The tags... and maybe a colored string on the leg for the hour they should be finished."

"Ach! I give it a go, do it. I stay at the house."

With that as a kind of blessing, Uncle Mike put his signs up in the store. He started a list of interested customers. He figured out a way to make tags for the turkeys. He mapped out his plan for the day. When the time was right, he and Pop took the turkeys to the oven.

On Thanksgiving Day Uncle Mike was in the back room before the sun was up and opened the store for the early birds. By the time I got over to the bake shop a little after eight, the long metal topped table next to the oven was half filled with the naked birds, puffed up like toads, trussed and buttered and waiting to go in the oven. Those who had bought them in the past time they arrived came the time they were picked up.

The story above was taken from Glimpses of then and now by those who lived 'em, which was a part of Santa Clara Adult Education Center Memoir Writings Class publication.

CHRISTMAS TURKEYS ROASTED - 50c

CHICKEN TURKEYS ROASTED - 75c

The story above was taken from Glimpses of then and now by those who lived 'em, which was a part of Santa Clara Adult Education Center Memoir Writings Class publication.

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by Bernie Ross

(408) 267-6832

The story above was taken from Glimpses of then and now by those who lived 'em, which was a part of Santa Clara Adult Education Center Memoir Writings Class publication.
The dolls and teddy bear will go on display in the Pacific Hotel Lobby on November 4. Tickets will be available for purchase from that date on at the Lobby Desk for a donation of $1 apiece, or six for $5. Each prize has been numbered so you may keep your tickets and place the stub in a numbered box that corresponds with the prize of your choice. To receive tickets by mail, call the Museum Association at 387-2290 before December 1.

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

During the months of September and October 1991, contributions were made to the Museum Association's Endowment Fund/Special Projects Fund in honor of the following individuals:

In Memoriam: Rich Barbour
Susan Cusimano
Josephine Gagnon
Kitty Hazel
Adeline Rodericks
Ruth Stockley
Madeline Seltalmachia
Bruce Whitney

In Celebration: 30th Anniversary of Toni & Roger Evans
30th Anniversary of Pat & Frank Lima

In Honor: Harvest Fair Winners
Betty Hill
Ng Shing Gung Exhibit
Retirement of Earline Shields
Vintage Reflections
Volunteers

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, 1850 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the person being honored or the family of the deceased.

Lecture Series Planned

Plans are currently being made for a series of lectures to be held at the Museum on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the early weeks of 1992. The programs will take place in the meeting room of the Pacific Hotel and will be open to the general public, with discounted admission to Museum Association members. Below you will find a tentative listing of dates and topics. More detailed information will appear in the January 1992 Association Newsletter. Mark your calendar now so you don't miss out!

January 16: The San Jose Historical Museum Master Plan: How it Evolved and What the Future Holds. Program presented by Museum staff and members of the Museum Association's Development Committee.

January 30: "How the West was Worn": Clothing and Adaptation of Fashion in the Gold Rush. Lecture and Program by Barbara Murray, Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre & Dance, Santa Clara University.


February 27: Doll Collection with an Emphasis on Black History. Program presented by Eleanor Gisclalone and the Garden City Doll Club of Santa Clara County.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Holiday Party and Membership Tea

Association members and guests will be invited to a Holiday Party and a Membership Tea during December. The party will be on Thursday, December 5, at 7 p.m., in the Pacific Hotel. The Membership Tea will be on Saturday, December 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. Author Connie Young Yu will be at both parties to autograph her book. Keep an eye open for your invitation in the mail.

Building a History Exhibit

You have from now until March 7 to visit De Anza College to enjoy the Historic Building Survey in the Santa Clara Valley. This exhibit, which is on display until April 4, includes a collection of drawings and artifacts documenting seventy-five years of this region's historic structures.

Library Silent Auction

Martin L. King, Jr. Library will be the site of the Friends of the San Jose Public Library's annual Silent Auction on December 7 and 8 in the McDanel Community Room. This popular event draws book lovers, collectors and aficionados from all over the South Bay. This year's crop of rare, out-of-print, first editions and hard-to-find volumes will have widespread appeal. Many old-time hit songs of years ago in sheet music form will be available for music lovers as well. Call the Friends of the San Jose Public Library at 275-1015 for details on bidding at this auction and hours of operation.
HISTORICAL HERITAGE COMMISSION SPONSORS A PHOTO DISPLAY

The reader may recall articles about the history of the Santa Clara County Law Library in the past few issues of the Association News. With each was a photograph of the structures that housed the library for a particular period of time. These buildings were the Knox Block, the old Hall of Justice and the Hall of Records.

It is now my triple-pleasure to tell you all about the generosity of the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission. Expanded versions of these pictures have been framed and are now on permanent display at the present location of the law library located at 360 North First Street, three blocks north of St. James Park.

With each picture is the historical description presented in the articles. Because none of these buildings still exist, this historical recollection is all the more important. There are organizations such as the Historical Heritage Commission willing to sponsor projects such as this. To this group, I say "thank you." If you are in downtown San Jose with a couple of extra minutes, please drop by and take a look.

Judge Mark Thomas, Jr.
Advisory Board

SOURISSEAU ACADEMY RESEARCH GRANTS

The Sourisseau Academy has an on-going mini-grant funding program that supports research on the history of Santa Clara County. Grants are usually limited to $500. External Grant applications can be obtained by contacting:

Sourisseau Academy
History Department
San Jose State University
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192
(408) 924-6510

Grant application deadlines for 1991/92 are November 1 and April 15. Grant recipients will be announced in December and May. Students at San Jose State University who are working on local history research projects under the supervision of a professor are eligible for Internal Grants of $250.

The Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History was established in 1970 by the History Department of San Jose State University to administer an endowment made by Eva Sourisseau. The purpose of the Academy is to encourage the preservation, documentation, and dissemination of Santa Clara County and California history.

MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES

The San Jose Historical Museum Association has qualified to participate in the matching gift programs of the following companies:

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If you are employed by one of these firms, we urge you to obtain the appropriate form from your employer and send it to us with your 1990 membership. Your gift to the San Jose Historical Museum Association will then be increased at no additional expense to you.

Your other donations throughout the year - to the Endowment Fund and for special events, for instance - may also be matched.

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

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

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SAN JOSE, CAL.
HISTORIC FOOTNOTES OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY

by Jack Douglas

CORAL OLDER: OF ROMANCE AND ROSES

For two generations Coral Baggyerly Older was the literary liaison for Santa Clara County. She was one of the regulars at Senator Phelan’s Montalvo literary soirees and also of the San Francisco writers at the old Casa del Monte. Her excellence in the arts in this city run deep. Coral’s life after she and her husband settled into their country home in the 1920’s and 1930’s could be symbolized by romance and roses.

Cora Baggyerly Older in the 1990s
from a photo in Bannorhiana, 1972-1981.

Coral was born in Clyde, New York, on October 24, 1887, and the family moved to California that same year. The Baggyerly family lived in Santa Clara County. Coral was one of the regulars at Senator Phelan’s Montalvo literary soirees and also of the San Francisco writers at the old Casa del Monte. Her excellence in the arts in this city run deep. Coral’s life after she and her husband settled into their country home in the 1920’s and 1930’s could be symbolized by romance and roses.

Those turbulent times when Older and Rudolph Spreckels stood almost alone against a thoroughly corrupt city government were reflected in Coral’s writings of that period. Her social realist novels included: The Socialist and the Prince (1903); The Giant (1904); and Esther Damon (1911). Her articles and reviews appeared in newspapers and in the Bulletin.

All of this changed for Coral when the Olders built “Woodhill’s,” their country home. In this idyllic setting Coral became increasingly fascinated by the romance of early California. In this she had much in common with her old San Francisco friend James Phelan who had recently built Villa Montalvo just a few miles away. Life in and around the California missions during the Spanish period would be a primary subject of Coral’s writings to follow.

Fremont and Coral were early automobile enthusiasts; and on one of their trips in 1908, their car broke down in the vicinity of San Juan Bautista. While waiting to get repairs, they became acquainted with the local priest, Father Closs. In their conversation the Olders suggested that the local citizens put on a fiesta to raise funds for the mission. The fiesta, which ran for two days and included a rodeo, was a great success and netted $4,000 for the restoration of the mission.

Once established at Woodhills, Coral began researching the early history of San Jose and Santa Clara County. On September 13, 1916, she began a series of articles under the heading “When San Jose Was Young,” which appeared almost daily in the San Jose News. Her name never appeared on any of these pieces which were prefixed by the statement: A series of interesting articles of historical nature prepared especially for the readers by a famous Bay Area author and journalist. It has never been made clear if Coral chose anonymity because her name was associated with Phelan and the Bulletin or because her brother Hiland “Hi” Baggyerly was managing editor of the News.

Coral had the perspicacity to understand that there were still people living in the area who could remember San Jose from the Mexican period, and her diary of that period documented the excitement she had in locating them and getting their stories. Her novelist’s eye would seek out the romance of the simple lives of the early Californians. She tracked down and interviewed relatives of the bandit Tiburcio Vasquez, as well as survivors of the Donner Party. She wrote numerous articles about the native Indians. In one of these she wrote: One of the race tragedies is the disappearance of the California Indian under the Spanish and American conquerors. Occasional hunters meet a survivor of the old tribes living alone in the mountains, but for the most part the Indians about San Jose are pale-skinned people. Coral would return to these subjects later years in her popular books: California Missions and their Indian Villages (1930) and Love Stories of Old California (1940).

An early preservationist, Coral saved one of San Jose’s original adobe buildings which stood near West Santa Clara Street. She had it moved to Woodhills and reconstructed it as a rustic study near their swimming pool. Around it she planted roses in the fashion of a mission garden, and she asked her friends to donate one distinctive decorative tile (she called them “memory tiles”) to be placed in the walls and walls of the garden. These tiles are still a unique aspect of the garden.

She was a guiding force in the production of the Fiesta de los Rosas festivals which began in 1926. Perhaps an outgrowth of her experience years before at San Juan Bautista, the Fiesta was an elaborate four-day affair of plays, pageants, dances and a rose parade which rivaled Pasadena’s. One of Coral’s fiesta projects was a Shakespearean garden – an exhibit that included all of the flowers mentioned in the works of the Bard. Each festival featured an original play based upon an early California theme. These were produced by the students, faculty, staff and families of San Jose State and were staged under the stars using the Spanish Revival campus buildings as a backdrop. Coral’s play, The Madrinas of Monterey, was the hit of the 1920 season. The fiestas continued to be held annually until 1934 when they met their end as a result of the depression.

Coral Older’s enthusiasm for local history led her to suggest to Senator Phelan that he offer the Sainte Claire Club building to the county for a museum. Phelan had constructed the building for the club. However, Coral had many plans for the museum, including a permanent Shakespeare garden at the rear of the building. Phelan agreed to donate $5,000 for conversion. Coral, however, was up against some hard headed members of the Board of Supervisors who wanted the county to purchase the building and operate it as a county library instead. Even though the building was free and came with $5,000, they refused to accept the offer because they didn’t want the long-term expense of maintaining it. The Sainte Claire Club members must have sighed with relief when they purchased the building a short time later.

In 1927 Coral Older and Mrs. Charles Derby convinced the city council to set aside a 5 1/2 acre tract of land at Naglee and Dana Avenues for a municipal rose garden. Expert advice was solicited from the great San Francisco landscape architect John McLaren, and funds were supplied by the Santa Clara Rose Society. Coral’s unique and appropriate contribution was a collection of old mission roses from all but three of the 21 Californias mission gardens.

In 1918 William Randolph Hearst wooed Fremont Older away from the Bulletin to become managing editor of his San Francisco Call (later to be renamed the Call Bulletin when Hearst acquired the latter). Coral and her husband collaborated on a biography of Hearst’s father, Senator George Hearst. Coral followed in 1936 with a biography of William Randolph.

Fremont Older died in 1935 and was buried at Woodhills in the same plot with his favorite dogs. Coral lived on at her beloved home, continuing the tradition of Sunday dinners with important people of the day. Ex-convicts were often among the guests (one of Fremont’s crusades had been for prison reform). A number of Coral’s garden staff were former inmates.

Cora kept busy writing and officiating at numerous local PEN writers conferences and events. Her last book San Francisco: A Magic City was published when she was in her mid-80’s. Carl Sandburg called it “one of the best books done about an American city.” She was working on a book which would have included a romance story from every state in the union when she died on September 26, 1965, age 92.

One of the Older’s lasting monuments was their home at Woodhills. The house was allowed to slip into almost complete ruin until purchased by the Mid-peninsula Open Space District. Former newspaper publisher Mort Levine and his wife have leased the home from the district and lovingly restored it to its original glory. They maintain it as their home and as a showplace for those interested in the Older’s and their time there. Occasional tours are offered to the public through the Open Space District.

Fremont Older occupies a distinguished place in the pantheon of American newspapermen. Coral, whose literary output (except for California Missions) is pretty much forgotten, should be remembered for many cultural contributions she made to San Jose and environs. The next time you visit our Municipal Rose Garden remember Coral Older. The romance may be fading, but the roses live on.

Mission roses photograph by Carolyn Guggan

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THEATER PARTY TO BENEFIT MUSEUM
San Jose Repertory Theatre's The 1940's Radio Hour
Saturday, January 4, 1992

The time is Christmas, 1943...World II. Times are tough, but the show must go on, as the harried producer does his best to keep the radio show together.

This is the setting for The 1940's Radio Hour and you can be part of the audience! As a fundraising event for the Museum Association, we have reserved a block of tickets for the 9 p.m. Saturday, January 4, performance of the San Jose Repertory Theatre's popular musical The 1940's Radio Hour. Plan to put a party together and join us for a delightful evening of entertainment at the Montgomery Theater, while also benefiting the San Jose Historical Museum. Tickets for this benefit are available for $40 each, payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association. The ticket price includes a no-host reception in the Hadley Lounge of the recently-restored DeAnza Hotel after the performance.

The 1940's Radio Hour played to sold-out houses when the Rep presented it two years ago and this year will be no exception. Our block of tickets is limited and will go fast. So plan now to attend and order your tickets today!

The 1940's Radio Hour
Saturday, January 4, 1992
9 p.m. Performance

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Number of tickets @ $40 each:
Total amount enclosed:
Mail to: Association, 1600 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112.

MYSTERY PHOTO SOLUTION

Aha! We have identified the individual players in the photo. From left to right: Forman, Lindsey, Paul, Patterson, Gene Vail, Wes Erick, Kline, Earl Perry, Cupo, Collins, Manubby, Heckendorf, Dimmoch, Rhyna, Mel Pratt, and Bibinger. We still need the name of the team, as well as the first names of many of the players. Thanks to Linda Delgado who shared her album with us. Additional thanks to Jan Paul and Millie Clark who provided other leads.

DATES TO REMEMBER
November 1 – December 31, 1991
Child's Play Exhibit
Bank of Italy
Museum Grounds

November 8, 1991
Bus Trip
Russian American Exhibit
Oakland Museum
8:30 - 3:30 p.m.

December 5, 1991
Holiday Party
Pacific Hotel
7 - 10 p.m.

December 7 & 8, 1991
Victorian Christmas
Museum Grounds
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

December 19, 1991
Holiday Membership Tea
Pacific Hotel
1 - 4 p.m.

January 4, 1992
Theatre Party Benefit
S. J. Repertory Theatre
9 p.m.