A lot of people complain about today's mail service. But somewhere out there, an individual has a big complaint about late deliveries.

Found in one of the cracks and crevices of the Coyote Post Office during its current restoration is a letter to Floyd Patterson, addressed simply to "Coyote, California." Postmarked July 16, 1947 from South Gate, California, the now faded envelope was sent by Mrs. Elle Barron who lived on California Drive.

If you see Floyd Patterson, tell him he can pick up his mail at the Museum. Otherwise, the U. S. Postal Service will get another crack at delivering his letter.

Air Conditioning in January

Because the City's Capital Improvement Program is running somewhat behind schedule, the new lighting, air conditioning, and de-humidification system for the Pacific Hotel and the Bank of Italy will be completed about New Year's. Not to worry, however. The air conditioning and dehumidifying is done to save the archives and other artifacts from self-destruction due to surface changes, mold growth, etc. It's not designed for people comfort, although visitors and staff are expected to give the system's installation a warm reception.

Season's Greetings

Floyd Patterson—Where Are You?

Who's On First?

Efforts to re-structure the City administration have currently left the Museum under the Private Development section of the Community Services Agency of the new organization. Proposals to have the program revert back to the regrouped Parks, Recreation, and Library Department have been approved up to the City Manager's level. Final decisions as to placement will be made by the end of December.

Donald O. DeMere, Jr.

Shaker Collectibles

With the widespread interest in and skyrocketing prices of antiques it is worth noting that there still remain some "Shaker" pieces that are definitely collectible. Still priced under $100 are water basins, carriers, sewing baskets, oval trays, boxes, seed packets and bottles. Some chairs can be found for as little as $150 depending upon their age and condition.

These Shaker pieces were all produced in communities established by the Millennial Church in the 1800s. Scattered throughout New England, Ohio, Kentucky and New York, members of those communities lived a strict and disciplined life which included the practice of celibacy. The furniture they produced typified the lives they led in its simplicity, honesty and ingenuity. A chair, though straight and plain would comfortably conform to the human figure and a kitchen table may conveniently have drawers at each end.

When the communities were gradually dying it was quite easy to pick up Shaker items in nearby antique shops. However, with increased interest and the passage of time, hunting has become a challenge even for the professional. For the amateur the best point of departure is a museum with a Shaker collection or a guidebook to Shaker crafts. Since many pieces of Shaker furniture are selling for thousands of dollars, it might be wise to get started right away.

Museum Director in the News

The Museum docents, in recalling their in-depth training, cannot forget the stimulating, informative lectures presented by Professor Edwin A. Betharz, Dr. Betharz, professor at the University of Santa Clara, is currently working on his fourth book which is the story of the Spanish and Mexican periods and the Gold Rush in the city of San Jose. The Museum's own Donald O. DeMere, Jr. will be writing the American period. Congratulations Don, for being so honored.
Docent News

After experiencing a space tour schedule in the early fall, the number of tours scheduled has now markedly decreased. The docent council publicly committee, headed by Peggy Starks, has worked hard sending publicity about tours and the museum to all the schools in the area. We have also had a "Principals Day" at the Museum to further encourage utilization of our facilities by the students of our area.

Docents are available on a limited basis to give tours during the afternoon. Keep this in mind for your groups of scouts, senior citizens, social clubs, etc.

Because reduced school funds are now limiting field trips in many school districts, the council's creative programming committee, headed by Nancy Valby, is in the process of preparing school kits to be used by the docents in the schools. The first kit is on local Indian and will be ready for use in the Spring.

Recruiting for the new docent training class, which will commence at the end of February is currently in progress. Anyone interested in becoming a museum docent should contact Claudia Jorjuran at 287-8290 or Nancy Leonard at 282-6424 for details.

Claudia and Christine Manda have put together an interesting docent training class and any association member is invited to attend any of the scheduled lectures. Bring a friend as the speakers are experts in their fields and present an excellent program.

The spring schedule for both docent training and lectures open to the public follows:

1980 Docent Training—Lectures & In-Gallery Training
Monday, February 25th—9:30 am to 12:00 pm
9:00 am: Orientation to San Jose Historical Museum and Docent Program
10:30 am: Lecture on "The History of the Santa Clara Valley" by Clyde Atchuck, Historian
11:00 am: In-Gallery Training
Tuesday, March 5th—9:30 am to 12:00 pm
9:00 am: Lecture on "The City of San Jose" by Benjamin Gilbert, Ph.D., Department of History, San Jose State University
10:30 am: In-Gallery Training
Monday, March 17th—9:00 am to 12:00 pm
9:00 am: Lecture on "Spanish-Mexican Era in San Jose" by Benjamin Gilbert, Ph.D., Department of History, San Jose State University
10:30 am: In-Gallery Training
Monday, March 25th—9:30 am to 12:30 pm
9:30 am: Tour Techniques & "The Docent Doesn't"
Tuesday, April 1st—9:00 am to 12:00 pm
9:00 am: Lecture on "Agriculture In the Santa Clara Valley" by Lawrence Lee, Ph.D., Department of History, San Jose State University
10:30 am: In-Gallery Training
Monday, April 21st—9:30 to 12:00 pm
9:30 am: Lecture on "San Jose's Chinese Community" by Gloria Horn, Department of History, Mission College, Editor of The Chinese Argonauts, 1971
Monday, April 23—9:30 am to 12:00 pm
9:30 am: Lecture on "Victoriana Life"
Monday, May 5th—9:30 am to 12:00 pm
9:30 am: In-Gallery Training
10:30 am: Summary

Out of Town

If you find yourself about two hours and 100 miles north of San Francisco on U. S. 101 chances are you're in or near the town of Ukiah. In addition to the customary Dennys and Colonel Sanders you will find something worth a stop. This is the beautiful Sun House, built in 1911 as the home of Grace Carpenter Hudson. Miss Hudson won acclaim for her portrait works of Pomo Indians and did most of her work in this house. It is located at 31 S. Main Street but is unfortunately only open the 4th Saturday of each month from 1-4 p.m. Docent tours are available. The exterior of the studio-home warrants a visit.

Christmas Plum Pudding

- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon cloves
- 1 teaspoon ground mace
- 4 oz suet (1 cup chopped)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup finely chopped candied orange peel
- 1/4 cup finely chopped candied lemon peel

Mix the first six ingredients: set aside. Break apart the suet, discarding any meat that coats it, and chop finely. Combine suet with sugar, bread crumbs, and eggs, beat together. Mix in the orange juice. Alternately add the dry ingredients in thirds and the milk in halves to the suet mixture, mixing until blended after each addition. Mix in the fruits and nuts. Turn into a well-greased 2 qt. mold or two 1 qt. molds. Cover tightly and steam for 3 hours. Serve with hot sauce.

Gifts That Last a Lifetime

For gift giving time at any time of year don't forget your Association's Gift Shop. We have the best selection of our area's historical books available and you get a 10% discount besides. We have other gift items as well.

For your shopping convenience we have made the following books available by mail. These can be purchased for your own use or we will send them directly to the person of your choice. There is a $2.00 charge for postage and handling.

LAND GRANT TO LANDMARK, The story of the Roberto Adobe, By Frances Fox. $15 (item #1)

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