1991 LIVING HISTORY DAYS

June 22 & 23

The San Jose Historical Museum will come alive with memories of a century ago on Saturday, June 22 and Sunday, June 23, 1991. Come join us for the twelfth Living History Days, to be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day!

This annual event brings thousands of visitors to the Museum grounds to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of days gone by. Costumed volunteers participate in historical re-enactments, explain artifacts on display, and demonstrate period arts and crafts in historic San Jose.

KRON-TV 4 will once again be a co-sponsor of Living History Days, together with the San Jose Mercury News, the City of San Jose Recreation, Parks & Community Services Department, the San Jose Historical Museum Association and, for the first time this year, KBAY and KEEN radio.

KRON personalities will take turns strolling the grounds in turn-of-the-century costumes mid-day Saturday and Sunday. At KRON’s booth you will be able to pick up free balloons and buttons, have your photograph taken with Victorian cutouts and purchase souvenirs Living History t-shirts.

The admission to Living History Days is $6.00 for adults; $4.00 for seniors; $3.00 for youth; and free for children 0-5 years. A Family Package (2 adults and up to three children) is available for $15.00. Associate members who purchase tickets in advance (see details and coupon on p. 5) will receive a special discount.

The event will feature two full days of entertainment, vintage crafts, historical vignettes, children’s activities and displays by local ethnic, cultural and historical groups. A printed program, handed out free at the gate, will direct you to the activities of your choice each day.

At 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and on Sunday a colorful old-fashioned parade will wind through the Museum streets to delight visitors. KRON personalities will be featured guests in the parade each day. Antique autos, high-wheel bicyclists, and equestrian entries will complement the costumed characters and marching bands.

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A variety of food and drink booths will be available to sell refreshments throughout each day. O’Brien’s Ice Cream Parlor will serve ice cream cones and soft drinks, and our Museum Gift Shop will be featuring unique gifts, books and souvenirs for purchase.

The Living History Days event is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends to visit the Historical Museum. Today’s high-tech children enjoy the chance to jump in the straw, churn butter and challenge their friends in sack races, while the adults enjoy the entertainment, the historical vignettes and the informative displays.

Proceeds from Living History Days are used to support programs of the San Jose Historical Museum. So come out and enjoy the event, knowing you will be helping us to preserve the history of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley at the same time!

FORTH OF JULY PICNIC & FIREWORKS

Join us for our 4th of July party THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1991. Current Association members will be sent an invitation in June.

Peninsula bus trip details on page 8.
**President's Message**

**Woman of the Year**

I would like to congratulate Mignon Gibson for the award she received recently as a "Woman of the Year" at the San Jose Historical Museum. Mignon has been a leader in the community for many years, and her contributions to the museum have been invaluable. Her dedication to preserving the history of San Jose is truly commendable.

**Historic Art Advisory Committee**

On the other hand, Mignon and I have had the honor to serve on the Historic Art Advisory Committee (HAAC) for the City of San Jose. This committee has been instrumental in the selection of Historic Public Art and to resolve the Fallon statue controversy. The participants have come from all walks of life and represent many different ethnic groups.

Our first task was to decide what should happen to the Fallon statue. A great deal of thought, research, and discussion went into this process. We were presented with information, both oral and written, from several local historians. We also heard public testimony many times from the citizens.

The following is an excerpt from a memorandum to the Mayor and City Council from Alex Stanford, Chair of HAAC, dated November 7, 1996.

The Historic Art Advisory Committee completed its review of the Thomas Fallon statue issue on October 24, 1996. Our recommendations are made to City Council:

1. The Fallon statue must not be placed on the North Island of Plaza de Park as originally proposed by the Redevlopment Agency.
2. The Fallon statue should be sited in the downtown.
3. The Fallon statue should be sited on the traffic island adjacent to Peter Park.
4. The statue should be stored in storage and not unveiled until four other works of public art are ready for simultaneous unveiling.

The issues which fomented controversy over the Fallon statue have not been resolved by the HAAC's recommendations. It is hoped, however, that some resolution may be reached as the City embarks upon the second phase of its responsibility — selecting a priority list for future commemorative works of art. The HAAC's recommendations are made out of respect for differing viewpoints, and in the hope that San Jose can move forward with a commemorative art program of which all its citizens can be proud.

The Committee recommended that something that depicts the diverse cultural heritage of San Jose should be appropriate on the North Island of Plaza Park.

We have now broken up into our sub-committees to study three time periods: Pre 1850 (Chaired by Leon Atwood); 1850 through World War II (Chaired by Edmund Hughes); and Post World War II to Present (Chaired by myself).

It must be said that our task of resolving the Fallon statue controversy was very much over-whelming, and this phase has been much more pleasant. But, too, has been hard work for it is difficult to narrow down many people and events into a short list of five.

The Committee has learned so much about our community, and we have really worked well together towards a common goal. In May our recommendations for Commemorative Art will be forthcoming. I'll keep you posted on the result.

Thank you,

Mignon Gibson

**From the Editor**

Introducing Friends to the Museum

One of the questions contained in our recently completed membership survey (see page 5) was "What do you think are the best ways to attract new members to the Museum?"

An overwhelming majority of people who responded to the survey indicated that the best way to attract new members is to bring them to visit the Museum.

Their response confirms a feeling that many of us have long had that most people do not appreciate the value of the Museum until they see it. You only have to listen to the comments made by guests at an event like our "Last Chance Receptions" in April to realize that people are very often taken by surprise on their first visit to the Historical Museum. They have not been exposed to the rich history of turn-of-the-century San Jose and they are charmed by the old-fashioned ambiance of the buildings and the people who volunteer for the Museum, and the feeling of going back in time.

As members of the Museum Association, you can help us expand our base of support by introducing your friends and relatives to the Historical Museum. Please consider bringing guests to Living History Days or inviting a friend to accompany you on the bus tour to Balboa Park and Sunset Magazine advertised in this issue of the Association Newsletter. It is important that the introduction of the Museum in this way is all that is needed for the Museum to gain a new supporter. We would be very grateful.

Kathleen Muller

**In the Collections**

Archaeological Collections at the San Jose Historical Museum

Recognizing the value of archaeological resources, the City Council adopted a policy statement on August 18, 1987, calling for the local preservation, in situ, and exhibition of historic and prehistoric artifacts found on public projects in the City. The Historical Museum, as the City's underequipped for artifacts and memorabilia, was directed to take the lead in developing a program for the management of the City's archaeological resources.

Archaeological monitoring of construction in downtown San Jose over the past five years has resulted in very significant collections of artifacts from early Mexican, Chinese and American settlements. The Redevelopment Agency has turned the Historical Museum over 50 boxes of archaeological materials from various Agency projects, including the Fairmont Hotel at the San Jose Historical Museum.

These two projects occupy the original site of San Jose's first Chinese community, "Market St. Chinatown," which was destroyed by fire in May 31, 1887. The material recovered from these projects contains the largest collection ever recovered from a single site in California. Many of the artifacts are the only known examples of their type. They form a particularly well-preserved and important collection that will contribute to the knowledge of San Jose and Central California during the Nineteenth Century.

continued on page 5
IN THE COLLECTIONS
continued from page 2

This collection will be incorporated into the Museum's programs in a variety of ways. Artifacts from the collection will be selected for display in the initial exhibit in the Ng Shing Gung replica, which is scheduled to open September 29.

The Museum will be working with the Redevelopment Agency to develop a long-term curatorial program that will include further analysis and research access for archaeologists and historians. Responsibility for this collection is one more aspect of what the curatorial staff oversees on behalf of the Museum programs.

Sarah Heigh Ninges
Curator

DOCENT REPORT

Museum Magic

Our Museum can swallow up more people than the Bermuda Triangle... make them disappear completely. A person walking onto the grounds at 11:15 a.m. on an average morning thinks, “The place is empty. No one is here.”

Then the visitor catches a glimpse between buildings of a lady in a long dress and unidentifiable kids following her. Well, there are a few people here.

And therein lies the rub. Most buildings are looming with invisible-from-the-sidewalk people. Museum staff is working in its office in the Pacific Hotel, two of the houses, and the Trolley Barn. By this time our visitor looks around, the student groups — each with one adult escort and a docent — are in the Gift Shop, the Umbarger House and the Chichi House.

There are several Auxiliary members at work serving the public: three in O’Brien’s, one at the Pacific Hotel desk, two in the Gift Shop, three in Archives, four in the Trolley Barn and three helping in the Collections.

In the Firehouse meeting room there are 32 safety personnel from city departments. A class of 32 second graders, a teacher, an aide and two downtown elementary school kids in the Pacific Hotel meeting room enjoying a presentation of our Historic Transportation Experience program. In the upstairs conference room, 25 members of a sub-committee are working on one phase of Living History Days.

Is that all? No, the 9:30 a.m. tour students are now occupying the public rooms downstairs in the Hotel: ten students and a teacher in O’Brien’s, eleven and an escort in the Main Exhibit and ten with an escort in the Gift Shop.

So, let’s see how many invisible people were at the "empty" Museum? Over two hundred people.

So that deserted, shunned group of buildings is now a place for recording the habits of patients in their institutions, the building preservation and fun. And don’t forget, at this 11:15 a.m. moment there may be four of our seven (or 20) educational programs operating on the school’s or in downtown San Jose. Members of our Association Board, our Development Council and our Advisory Council may be devoting a large portion of their busy day to promoting the Museum. And how can we estimate how many of our 480 volunteers might be doing just something for the Museum in town at that moment?

Many of us and our visitors speak of the "old time quiet," the serenity of our grounds. The San Jose Historical Museum magic is far different from the evil magic of the Bermuda Triangle. Our docents, sooths, entertainers and then lets everybody go on his or her way.

Now when people ask you why you keep going back to “your” Museum, tell them, “I'm going back for another satisfying shot of that wonderful Museum Magic!”

Charles Walton
Docent President

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Toward a California Preservation Program

An ongoing and growing concern is how the Archives will be able to care for our historic documents and records when the need is so great and the resources so limited. One approach to this problem is the sharing of resources and expertise with other collections in the area; another is the development of regional special facilities such as conservation labs.

One project which attempts to address this issue is the development of a state-wide preservation cooperation plan. The plan would encompass the sharing of the needs of archives, academic and public libraries, special collections, and historical societies — in short, any organization which holds and takes care of records for research historic documentary materials.

Through the California Library Networking Task Force, the California State Library and the University of California at Berkeley, a initial series of conferences was held throughout the State to begin the discussion of preservation priorities both at local and at State levels.

Not surprisingly, a major priority was the preservation of local historical and unique records. Major statewide priorities included resources, facilities, and expertise.

This conference was the first stage in the development of the cooperation plan. The second stage will be to assess the capacity of facilities as a sample of needs. From the information gathered, a group will be formed to draft a statewide cooperation plan.

One example of the kind of program envisioned is that of the Inland Empire Libraries Disaster Response Network. Regional teams were formed and trained to support each other in the event of disaster; teams were taught how to evacuate material and how to deal with emergency situations such as water-soaked books and records. Recent events, such as the 1989 earthquake, have made it clear there is a great need for such support. Since most historical organizations have limited staff, if any, the ability to deal with the problem for such an event is critical.

This type of program will assist us in the future as our collection grows and the preservation issues become even more important. The California Preservation Cooperation Plan will become a key step in the preservation of historical materials.

Leslie Munagana
Archivist

ARCHIVES

Open Saturdays:
May 4 and 5; June 8 and 9, from 1 to 4 p.m. for research.

Please call Archives for an appointment (467-4017).

MUSEUM ANNIVERSARY

It is anniversary time at the San Jose Historical Museum. Twenty years may seem like a long time ago, but on June 18, 1971, the Museum in Kelley Park held a champagne party to formally open its doors to the public.

It had been a long time coming.

The Kelley Park property had been purchased by three public-spirited citizens, Alden Campen, Ernest and Emily Remser, in a contractual deal amounting to $142,000 to be paid back by the City of San Jose. This was forty years ago, in 1931! The seller was Mrs. Louise Kelley for whom the park was named.

Originally there was no plan for a museum in the park. However, on March 10, 1944, the San Jose Historical Landmarks Commission requested acreage be set aside for a museum. This was the idea of another benefactor, Therese Fox, who was president of the Commission. The request was opposed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Planning Commission (which opposed the specific acreage but not the concept); but after City Manager A.P. Hamann approved the plan, the City Council on September 21, 1964, gave it its blessing with a vote of 5-0.

The first unit of the park was the children's playground called Happy Hollow. Opened in 1961, Happy Hollow is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. This was followed in 1965 by the Japanese Tea Garden. Groundbreaking for the San Jose Historical Museum complex was held on December 6, 1965, and the following year veterans in San Jose approved a bond issue to provide for construction of the museum.

The antique collection of "Trader" Lew Bohnett was purchased in 1967 in another lease-purchase agreement between the City of San Jose and Ernest Remser. The collection was housed in barns on the Bohnett property and at the Statehouse Museum on the County Fairgrounds until it could be moved to the Kelley Park complex and stored in two warehouses built in 1968.

The San Jose Historical Museum Association came into being twenty years ago, in early 1971. Its first general meeting was held on April 14. It was at this meeting plans were made for the champagne opening. Mrs. Sylvia de Benedetti was acting president.

So many attended the party, publicized with photographs by Marjorie Pierce in the San Jose Mercury.

Phase One development was announced as including a replica of the Pacific Hotel, Empire Firehouse, Dashboard Sally's, Knapp Plow Works, Chinese Temple and Statehouse.

Twenty years have gone past and many of the dreams of those early believers have been realized. Nobody seems to be pushing for the Knapp Plow Works, but the Statehouse has been completed, and the Museum complex boasts another twenty structures in the shadow of the electric tower.

Patricia Loomis
INTRODUCING TIM STARBOARD

There isn't anything very interesting to tell," he said at the beginning of the interview. Timothy Hall Starbird may be a bit reticent, but he is a very interesting Association Board Member, as well as Chairman of the Advisory Board and the Lobbying Committee. Tim is a fellow who looks comfortable in his professional role as President of Hall and Rambo Insurance; yet, Tim has been known to don work clothes at every opportunity and head for the hills above Milpitas to his ranch property bordering the Calaveras Reservoir.

As well as having a fund of knowledge for San Jose, Tim has ties to Milpitas and acknowledges that in the past he frequented the former Fat Boy Restaurant and Crocodile's store (before it sold food). Tim has watched Milpitas change — a far cry from a one-street town. Tim has hopes that the City of Milpitas will preserve the historic two-story Alviso Adobe at Piedmont and Calaveras Boulevard which he passes on his way to check his livestock.

The San Jose Historical Museum has found Tim Starbird a mass accepting of modern San Jose, but not willing to leave behind his love of ranching. Mushing the two has been a long trail.

Tim's bond with San Jose began back in the 1980s when he lived in England and then, via New York, found his way about 1853 to the Valley.

W.A.Z. was a County Supervisor, rancher, and the artesian well inspector. His son-in-law, C.A. Hall, was the founder of the family business that began in 1896 with cannery insurance. W.T. Rambo joined the firm in 1913. Tim recently lost his 104-year-old aunt, Marietta Rambo (MRS. W.T.), whose company and family stories were a delight.

It won't be long until Tim is recognized as a 25-year member of the San Jose Rotary. He supported the decision in 1989 to make the Gift-Plan House at the San Jose Historical Museum the home of the Rotary Club. Tim visited the Gordon House when it was still the Villarreal home.

The Starbird side of Tim is both Welsh and English. A great uncle, Ray Starbird, was in one of Stanford's early graduating classes and later became chief of detectives for the San Jose Police; another Starbird was a doctor; and in the 1950s, Tim's father, George, even served the City of San Jose as Mayor and councilman.

Tim doesn't dwell on the past, however. He's done his own fair share for this community, evidenced by his long-term relationship and participation on the boards of the W.A.Z. Memory Association, the San Jose Historical Museum, and the Los Altos Historical Preservation Group. Tim has been a member of the Los Altos Historical Preservation Group since its establishment in 1958, the Cultural Resources Preservation Board (CRPB) has been involved in the designation of 13 structures and sites. With the approval of Milpitas City Council, the CRPB recently has accomplished:

- Designated Cultural Resource street signs;
- A historic inventory that details 42 sites and structures;
- Approval of funding for a Historic Master Plan for the City;
- Approval to bring the Higuera Adobe up to earthquake standards;
- Approval of a structural survey for the Ansel Adams Adobe;
- Documentation of demolished buildings;
- Review of planning requests near a Cultural Resource;
- Sent two members to the Adobe's 90 Conference held in New Mexico.

José Loreto Higuera Adobe

Some of the goals for the CRPB in 1991 will be:

- To gain a repository for collection of artifacts;
- A designated City staff Preservation Officer;
- Assist with preservation of Laguna Cemetery;
- Add to City's Cultural Resource brochure;
- Attend the California Preservation Conference in Santa Barbara;
- Acquisition of property.

The members of the Milpitas Cultural Resources Preservation Board look forward to meeting the challenges of the future for preservation of Milpitas cultural and historic resources.

Preservation Efforts in the City of Milpitas

Why do we preserve? Future means growth and change. It is inevitable that much of the old will give way to the new. Careful planning, we have found, can preserve significant pieces of the past for the enhancement of the future. The citizens in Milpitas are acquiring growing awareness of preservation.

The Milpitas Cultural Resources Preservation Board currently consists of board members Steve Munzel, Marsha Grilli, Carolyn Gagnon, Vice Chair Jim Arthur, and Angela Anthony, Chair. Since its establishment in 1958, the Cultural Resources Preservation Board (CRPB) has been involved in the designation of 13 structures and sites. With the approval of Milpitas City Council, the CRPB recently has accomplished:

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**MEMBERS ONLY**

**DISCOUNT TICKETS FOR LIVING HISTORY DAYS**

June 22 & 23, 1991

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Get your red pen and June calendar and circle June 22 and 23! Preparations for Living History Days 1991 are already underway and the event promises to be educational and fun-filled once again, as we turn back the clock to a simpler age.

This year members of the Museum Association have the opportunity to purchase advance admission tickets to Living History Days for 10% less than the general public. Purchasing advance tickets not only saves you money, but will enable you to bypass long ticket lines on either June 22 or June 23 and walk right in. Tickets are good for one day on either Saturday or Sunday so you needn’t decide which day you can go until the weekend of the event.

A ticket form appears below. Just fill it out and mail it to the Museum with your check made payable to SJHMA and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

San Jose Historical Museum
Attn: Living History Days Tickets
1050 Senter Road
San Jose, CA 95112

Discount offer good only through advanced purchase by mail.

Make the most of your Museum membership! Join us for Living History Days and take advantage of this special offer for members only. Form MUST BE RECEIVED BY MUSEUM BEFORE JUNE 16.

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**ADVANCE TICKET ORDER FORM**

**1991 LIVING HISTORY DAYS**

Name:_______________

Address:_______________

City:________ Zip:______ Phone:________

Please send me the following General Admission tickets which are valid for one day:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adult ticket(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6.00 each =</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior’s ticket(s) (65+ years)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$4.00 each =</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s ticket(s) (6-17 years)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3.00 each =</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Pass (2 adults + up to 3 children)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$15.00 each =</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total amount at regular price: $________

Loss 10%: $________

Total amount enclosed: $________

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**ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS**

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

- In Memoriam
  - Jane Doerr
  - William Hart
  - Jean Hleinsch
  - Clare Heilman
  - Sylvia Hoffsman
  - Curtis James Lucas
  - Paul Pugh, Sr.
  - Selma Pullan
  - Todd Quick
  - Nestor “Wally” Wahlberg

- To Honor
  - Birthday of Laura Perusa
  - Birthday of Sally Reed
  - 50th Wedding Anniversary of Josephine and Gaylord Gagnon
  - 50th Birthday of Dennis Bandzazo

59th Anniversary of Maude & Walter Trumbull

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, 1050 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the person being honored or the family of the deceased.

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**MEMBERSHIP SURVEY COMPLETED**

In early January a questionnaire was mailed to 400 members of the Museum Association, selected at random from the general membership. The purpose of the questionnaire, developed by the Association’s Public Relations Committee, was to determine the level of satisfaction our members feel for the Museum and the Museum Association, and to garner new ideas for special events and other programs of interest.

Congratulations to Bob Doerr, who won a gift certificate for participating in the survey. A remarkable 50% of the individuals who received a questionnaire took the time to complete it. Many people wrote at length about programs and activities they wanted to see at the Museum in the future.

The questionnaires have been analyzed and the information gathered from them has been directed to appropriate committees of the Board, i.e. Special Events, Membership, Development. The information will be very useful in setting priorities and developing new programs and events for the enjoyment of our members.

Below you will find a summary of the survey results. We wish to thank everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaire and return it to us. Your willingness to respond with new ideas is greatly appreciated!

**Summary**

By an overwhelming number, the people who responded to our survey have been members of the Museum Association for more than one year. The average respondent visits the Museum three or four times a year and feels he receives adequate information with regard to Museum activities.

The average age of the respondents was about 55 and most of the questionnaires were completed by women. By far the majority of the respondents were members of the Association who are not currently volunteers at the Museum. Most of them had been introduced to the Museum through friends or relatives, although they do read about the Museum in local newspapers and occasionally hear about us through other media.

The most important benefit of membership in the Association for many respondents is the knowledge that they participate in the preserving of local history. They appreciate the unique items available for purchase in our Gift Shop and enjoy Living History Days, Victorian Christmas, the 4th of July party, lectures and bus trips.

The best way to attract new members to the Museum, in the opinion of our respondents, was to bring people out for a visit. This could be for a public tour any day of the week, or for a particular special event. They spoke of the Museum “evoking memories” and “bringing the old alive again” for visitors.

In suggesting changes or improvements, the most often repeated comments had to do with faster building restorations and other site improvements. There was a call for more promotion of the Museum and the desire for new and changing exhibits. Specific ideas for new special events were suggested, along with general satisfaction with current programs.

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**Endowment Fund**

DURING THE MONTHS OF MARCH AND APRIL 1991, CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO THE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION’S ENDOWMENT FUND/SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND IN HONOR OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

- IN MEMORIAM
  - JANE DOERR
  - WILLIAM HART
  - JEAN HLEINSCN
  - CLARE HEILMAN
  - SYLVIA HOFFSMAN
  - CURTIS JAMES LUCAS
  - PAUL PUGH, SR.
  - SELMA PULLAN
  - TODD QUICK
  - NESTOR “WALLY” WALHTBERG

- TO HONOR
  - BIRTHDAY OF LAURA PERUSA
  - BIRTHDAY OF SALLY REED
  - 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JOSEPHINE AND GAYLORD GAGNON
  - 50TH BIRTHDAY OF DENNIS BANDZAZO

59TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAUDE & WALTER TRUMBALL

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, 1050 SENTER ROAD, SAN JOSE, CA 95112. A LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WILL BE SENT TO THE PERSON BEING HONORED OR THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED.
1991 LECTURE SERIES

The 1991 lecture programs are open to Association Members and guests. They will be held throughout the year in the meeting room of the Pacific Hotel. The Gift Shop will be open a half hour before and after each lecture.

The cost is $2.00 for Association Members and $5.00 for non-members. If you are a $50 or above 1991 Association Member, please contact Earlene Shields (277-3780) for your two passes to the lecture of your choice.

MONDAY, MAY 20, 1991, 7:30 P.M. — SENATOR JAMES D. PHELAN
Dr. James P. Walsh will speak on James D. Phelan's life at Villa Montalvo. Dr. Walsh, Dean of Social Sciences at San Jose State University, is currently writing a biography of James D. Phelan at Montalvo with Timothy O'Keefe of Santa Clara University. Senator Phelan was a three-term mayor of San Francisco and served as a United States Senator from California. He is remembered as a major patron of the Arts. He built Villa Montalvo in 1912. Here he entertained in a lavish manner presidents, kings, social and political dignitaries, as well as many musical and literary figures. Among his guests were President Wilson’s Vice-President Thomas R. Marshall; then Secretary of Navy Franklin Roosevelt; Jack London; Edwin Markham; and Kathleen and Charles Norris.

Please make your reservations by phoning the Association at 277-3780. Entrance to the Museum will be through the Phelan Avenue Gate.

THE 1905 HALL OF JUSTICE

The old Hall of Justice was located on the southeast corner of Market and St. James Streets, on the same ground where the present Market Street courthouse now stands. Its cornerstone was inscribed “AD 1905” to commemorate commencement of construction. Opening was scheduled for 1906.

The great earthquake of that year caused so much damage, however, that the building had to be demolished to the basement and rebuilt. A column in the San Jose Daily Mercury edition of Friday, February 11, 1910, relates the circumstances:

OFFICERS MOVING INTO NEW HALL OF JUSTICE

There is quite a busy stir today about the new Hall of Justice erected by the county just back of the Hall of Records on St. James and Market Street, as some of the county officers formerly housed elsewhere are moving into the newly completed building.

During the week, two of the Justice Courts, that of Justice Wallace, formerly on North First and Devine streets, and that of Justice Brown, which since 1905, has been in the Hall of Records, have been moved into the elegant stone and brick structure.

Location of Offices

The latter two men have a good proportion of the first floor, while the two Justice Courts are on the floor above. There is still considerable space in the building that has not yet been assigned by the Supervisors to any of the county officers. The basement of the building fitted up at first partially as a place of confinement for tenants, patients is not being used for any purpose at the present time.

For District Attorney

The offices formerly used by the Tax Collector will be remodelled to some extent and given over to the use of District Attorney Free.

ANNUAL CORPORATE MEMBERS

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Victorian Preservation Association

ASSOCIATE
Arch Electric Company
Becking Air-Conditioning — Fred Wohl Jr.
Fox & Creeksdon Better Homes & Gardens, Los Gatos
Garden City Construction
KRAUSE
Lima Family Mortuaries
Misrano Vineyards
Muller Construction Supply, Inc.
Provenzano Brothers Building Materials
Rush and Ong, Inc.
Southern Lumber
Valleym Heating & Cooling Co.
Welsh Building Contractors
Winchester Ranch

SUSTAINING
Alger and Lee, CPA
Law Office of Victor H. Beaussay
J. Leigh Beveridge, D.D.S., Inc.
Berliner, Cohen & Biagioni
E. Keith Brown & Co.
CPI Properties
Caldo Oil Co.
Capelo Associates
Cooksey Hargrave
Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company
Cooper, Collins & Pers Accountancy Corp.
Cortes Bros.
Cross Land Surveying, Inc.
Delmas — Cederick — Delmas
Dan Davis, D.D.S., Inc.
Friends of the Winemakers
Gibson Properties/Better Homes & Gardens
Hall and Rambo
Hanley House
HMH, Inc.
Jaworski Gallegos
Johnson & Higgins
Keystone Equipment Company
Leonard & Associates
McCormack Associates
Merritt Development
Markert & Fox
George F. Muth & Assoc.
Normandin Chrysler-Plymouth
Olson & Pierce
O’Brian Travel Service, Inc.
John V. Plizzo & Assoc., Inc.
Plaza Commerce Bank
California Bank
Royal Coach Tours
Staynich Equipment Leasing
Santa Clara Co. Building and Trade Council
San Jose Blue Print Service & Supply Co.
San Jose National Bank
San Jose Water Company
Steptoe — Spencer Parking Co.
Tabletop Meetings
Thelen, Marrin, Johnson & Bridges
John C. Ulrich & Associates
Valley View Packing Co.
Western Sales Engineering
Witens Gien Travel Agency
Winchester Mystery House

MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES

AT&T
Sankamura Foundation
Carter Hawley Hale
Chubb & Son Inc.
Equitable Foundation
General Electric
I.B.M.
Macy’s
Martin Marietta
Tandy Corp.
TRW Systems

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS
Hugh Stuart Center Charitable Trust
Santa Clara County Community Foundation
Stella B. Green Trust Fund

THE PRESENT PLANS ARE THE WORK OF ARCHITECTS PAGE, BINDER AND WOLF: THE WORK WAS DONE BY Z.O. FIELD. THE ORIGINAL COST OF THE BUILDING WAS $125,000, WHILE THE REPAIRS COST ANOTHER $76,000.

On August 10, 1925, the Law Library was moved from the Knox Block to the top floor of the Hall of Justice. It would remain there until 1949 when it was moved to 215 North First Street, a former automobile sales building converted to a Court Annex.

The Hall of Justice saw a number of changes. The basement was later used as the women’s jail and for detention of juveniles.

The status of the judges rose to municipal in 1952 as a result of the California constitutional amendments of 1960. At last the Hall of Justice held the courtrooms of Judges Grandin H. Miller, John P. Dempsey, Percy O’Connor, Edward J. Nelson, Albert F. DeMarco, George H. Barnett, and Wayne M. Kanemoto. The structure was demolished in July 1962.

Louise J. Spencer remained as law librarian for a total of 21 years, retiring in 1938. She was replaced by Albert C. Wagner who himself would remain in the position for 23 years. Wagner was so highly regarded that in 1966 he was made honorary member of the Santa Clara County Bar Association.

Judge Mark Thomas, Jr.
Advisory Board

J. MULLER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

1230 YARD COURT
SAN JOSE, CA 95133
(408) 284-7737

Photo courtesy of Judge Mark Thomas, Jr.
ISTORIC FOOTNOTES
SANTA CLARA VALLEY

- Jack Douglas

UR BINDER AND CURTIS BUILDINGS

We are currently witnessing the development of a new cityscape in downtown San Jose — new
rises, theaters, banks and office towers. Most of
plans for these buildings came from architects
practice beyond the boundaries of Santa Clara
ity. This building boom is not the first in this
duty; it merely replaces the results of an earlier
town renaissance which occurred between 1920
and the Great Depression of 1929.

The prime mover in the earlier development of
town was the local real estate tycoon T.S.
ontgomery (1855-1944). He needed a talented
hit to fulfill his vision and he found one in
William Binder.

William Binder (pronounced Bnder), a native of
San Francisco, began his career as an apprentice
chan in 1890. He polished his skills working
the prominent local architect G.W. Fage until
ning out on his own in 1897. For the next 57
ur his name would appear on the blueprints of
y of our City's landmark buildings. In 1918 he
de his talented young assistant Ernest N.
t a partner in the firm which would one
efate be known as Binder and Curtis.

A large portion of the Binder and Curtis
utes survived the ravages of time and urban
cul, but those which are left are significant
marks which have been or are soon to be
erved. To give the reader a feeling for the types
structures that Binder and Curtis designed and
n the memories of old-timers who may have
gotten a vew city, here is a chronological
nt of some of the buildings.

One of Binder's first projects was the
novation of the old St. James Hotel (which
illed 1910). This was a structure
uted with an elevated movie house in the oldest theater.
A bigger project was the old Hall of Justice at
et and St. James. This sandstone
structure narrowly finished when the '60 quake knocked
many of its more decorative elements. Perhaps
most significant Binder building was the
on City Bank Building at South 1st and San
ando. It was our first steel-framed skyscraper
story), and it would become the headquarters of
T.S. Montgomery enterprises. Before its
struction in the early 1970s, it housed the Wells
on of City Bank, and later on, the City Bank
Company. When it was razed, the grocery store at the
first floor (facing Mission Street) and the City Bank
n the second floor, signified the beginning of the City's
rthward. The Mission style firehouse at

In 1917 Binder and Curtis provided plans for a
skyscraper, the Twoby Building, across from
the Montgomery Hotel. This five-story office tower
once the location of many of the town's doctors and
dentists, is waiting to be renovated for further office
uses. Also appearing that year was the Sunnset
office building at San Antonio and Market.

1919 saw the addition of the American Theater
at 261 South 1st. This theater underwent two
changes, the State and the U.A., before it
was razed in the late 70's. The ten-story
Commercial Building on North 1st was the big
project for 1926. The top two stories of this still
impressive building housed the facilities of
the Commercial Club, an important meeting place
for the valley's businessmen until 1934. The entire
building was taken over as the headquarters for
the Seventh Army during World War II. In 1936
Binder and Curtis also designed the addition to
the San Jose Hospital. Projects completed before
the downturn of the Depression were the Manseome
at St. John's Cemetery, the Hester/Town Theater and
the Willow Glen Theater.

T.S. Montgomery contracted with out-of-town
architects for all of his buildings south of San
Carlos, which included the California/Pox
Theater, the Sainte Claire Hotel and the Sainte
Claire Building, but he returned to Binder and
Curtis for the Civic Auditorium in 1934. This was
Montgomery's most important contribution to
the City and the capstone for the architectural
firm.

Few would claim that any of our early
architects, Binder and Curtis included, were
either original or trendsetting, but they worked
with great skill in producing a multitude of
pleasing designs in a variety of styles that put a
stamp of distinction on our city. San Jose is
finally mature enough to realize that it must
integrate the best of the past in order to create
a unique and appealing environment. William
Binder and Ernest Curtis should be remembered
for their considerable contribution.

Christian Assembly/Petit Trianon

In 1919 the Petit Trianon was a small theater on
North 5th Street (adjacent to the United
Methodist Church which was partially destroyed
by fire in March). The Christian Assembly practiced a form
of healing somewhat akin to Christian Science. Not
long after the church was built, Binder, who
suffered from chronic headaches, subjected
himself to their treatments and was cured.
The church gave up its location in 1922 in order
to consolidate their Willow Glen parlor.

This gem of a building has been recently
refurbished by Keith Watt who purchased it to be
the headquarters of Mother Ooon's Inns. Renamed
The Petit Trianon, it still looks exactly as it did in
1923 when Binder designed it. The reception hall
is a warm balcony room with a large fireplace
and graceful stairways. The main sanctuary/
auditorium is nicely appointed and makes an
excellent hall for concerts, films and other events.
The management encourages community groups to
use the meeting rooms and offices.

First Street Postcard from the collection of Jack Douglas.
A DAY ON THE PENINSULA
RALSTON HALL
LUNCH AT THE
ALLIED ARTS GUILD
SUNSET MAGAZINE

WHEN: Wednesday, June 5, 1991
WHO: Association members and their guests
HOW: Royal Coach Tour Bus — leaving from and returning to the
Phelan Avenue parking lot of the San Jose Historical Museum
TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
COST: Members $30.00 (lunch included)
Non-members $35.00 (lunch included)

Ralston Hall, located on the campus of the College of Notre Dame in Belmont, will be our first stop of the day. It was the summer home of William Chapman Raletson, San Francisco financier, founder of the Bank of California, and builder of the California Theater and the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. We will have a docent-led tour of the 56,000 square foot modified Italian Villa, which is now a California State historical landmark and a registered National historic landmark.

Our next stop will be the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park. It was once part of the Spanish land grant known as the Rancho de las Pulgas. Stone and brick pathways will lead us through a beautiful garden and courtyard lined with a series of small shops and artists/write spaces. It resembles the great crafts guilds of Europe and was built in the 1930s. Lunch will be served in the Tea Room.

We will end the day by going on a guided tour of the home of Sunset Magazine in Menlo Park. The tour begins with a brief history of the magazine and then a tour through the three major areas of the building: the editorial offices, the entertainment center and the test kitchens. We will have time to stroll the garden before returning to San Jose.

Reservations for this trip are limited and refunds will be made only when there is a waiting list for the trip. Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association (SJHMA) and sent (along with the coupon below and a SASE) to the San Jose Historical Museum Association, 1800 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112. Attach: Earline Shiehides.

PENINSULA: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1991
(8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

NAME:
ADDRESS:
PHONE:

RESERVATION CONFIRMED:

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS:

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ON YOU!

Rejuvenate yourself and give something positive back to the community by becoming a valuable volunteer with the Museum Auxiliary.

There’s a spot for you! Phone Volunteer Coordinator Dulcie Janzen at 287-2290 or send this coupon in and Dulcie will contact you!

Name:
Address:
City:
Zip:
Phone:

Please mail to: San Jose Historical Museum, 1800 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112.

And thank you for your much needed involvement and support.

Rhet Reingher

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Name__________________________
Mailing Address____________________
Zip__________________________

BUSINESS WEEK: MARCH 1991

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

☐ 1991 Renewal
☐ New Member

Gift of:
☐ Mission Circle ($1,000)
☐ Public Circle ($500)
☐ Board Circle ($250)
☐ Century Circle ($100)
☐ Contributor Circle ($50)
☐ Family ($40)
☐ Individual ($30)
☐ Senior Citizens ($30)

Expiration Date:

(If applicable, please list all digits from your charge card)

Signature:________________________

Credit Cards:
☐ MasterCard
☐ VISA

Office use only

Sold by______________________

**HELP US IF YOU CAN MEMBERSHIPS OF $50 OR MORE ENABLE US TO COVER MORE THAN THE COSTS OF OUR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM. If you are employed by a matching gift company please obtain the appropriate form from your employer. Unsure? Give us the name of your employer and we will check for you. Your gift may be the doubled - even tripled - at no expense to you.**