San Jose Historical Museum
Association News

Vol. XIII, No. 6
Published by the San Jose Historical Museum Association
November 1993

1994 Association Membership Drive Begins

The San Jose Historical Museum Association is pleased to announce the publication of the 1994 premium book, *Historical Footnotes of Santa Clara Valley* by local historian Jack Douglas.

Every new and returning member of the Museum Association will receive a copy of *Footnotes of Santa Clara Valley* for their support of the Museum in 1994.

*Historical Footnotes of Santa Clara Valley* is a compilation of 45 articles and accompanying photographs which have appeared under the title of Footnotes heading of the Association News for the past several years. The articles written by Jack Douglas, University Archivist and head of the Library Special Collections Department at San Jose State University, cover a wide range of people, places and events significant to the history of our area. They have been meticulously researched and written in an entertaining, informative style.

The Museum Association is grateful to the Stella B. Gross Charitable Trust and the Soursine Academy of San Jose State University for their generous support in making this publication possible. Membership renewal information will be sent to all current members of the Association.

INSIDE ASSOCIATION NEWS

1994 Membership Drive Begins

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Introducing Chinese Young Men...

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1993 Membership Year Surprises Goal...

Rogers Sawyer...

Victorian Christmas...

Fallon House Opening & Success...

Dates to Remember...

San Jose’s Newest
Old Building
San Jose’s Newest
New Building

WHEN: Thursday, November 11, 1993

WHO: Association Members and their Guests

HOW: Royal Coach luxury touring and returning to the Phelan Avenue Parking Lot

TIME: 10:00 a.m. Departure

4:00 p.m. Return

COST: $27.50 for Association Members

$32.50 for Non-Members

Lunch at the new Bella Mia Restaurant is included

Join us for a tour of one of San Jose’s oldest residences, the recently restored and furnished Fallon House. Owned by the City of San Jose and operated by the San Jose Historical Museum Association, the Fallon House has only been open since October 2. Furnished with artifacts and furniture from the collections of the San Jose Historical Museum, the de Saisset Museum, the Museum of Art, and private donors, it is truly exquisite.

Our tour guide will be Judy Stables, former San Jose City Councilmember and now Director of the Fallon House. Judy will share with us the history of the house and the Fallon family, the project itself, and the background on the furnishings. She is a delightful speaker and we know you will enjoy her commentary.

After the Fallon House tour, we will lunch at Bella Mia’s new restaurant on South First Street. Located in a newly restored historic building, Bella Mia brings with it a reputation for excellence.

Our last stop is the brand new San Jose Arena, home of the Sharks. We will get a behind the scenes look at the facility and visit the executive VIP luxury suites and the VIP Club. The hour-long tour will also include a video presentation, "Stick Handling", and either a tour of the locker rooms (if the Sharks are not in town) or possibly a chance to watch a scrimmage if they are in town.

This is a wonderful opportunity to see San Jose’s newest attractions. We will do the driving, the parking and the check; you just sit back and enjoy.

To make your reservation, send in your check, payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association (SJHMA) and include the reservation form below, as well as a stamped self-addressed return envelope by November 9. Mail these to the attention of Judi Henderson at the San Jose Historical Museum Association, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112-2599. Refunds can only be made when there is a waiting list.

BUS TRIP TO FALLON HOUSE & SAN JOSE ARENA
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1993
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________

# of Reservations: ___________________

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
1650 SENTER ROAD
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95112-2599

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

WILLYS PECK
1427'S SARATOGA AVE
SARATOGA, CA 95070-5930

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 1271
San Jose, CA
D I R E C T O R ’ S  R E P O R T

Historical Museum Hosts National Convention Party for 3,000

On October 23, the Historical Museum was the site of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) All Congress Social. This was the largest evening party ever held at the Historical Museum with over 150 volunteers participating in turning the galleries into a living history town for the more than 3,000 visitors. The event was a great success and a great test of our abilities to continue the success of such an occasion. The volunteers had a wonderful time showing the Museum by staffing the buildings in costume and in character, performing vignettes on the streets, demonstrating activities such as printing and blacksmithing, and of course, the trolley rides were a major feature.

The grounds looked spectacular at night with the Electric Light Tower blazing and the new streetlighting system in full operation with well-lit public access. Remember that the Historical Museum is available for a wide variety of events and that through our facility rental program your personal or professional event needs may be met.

Additional Staff Changes

On October 1 we said good-bye to Cheryl Kidd, our volunteer Coordinator of the past two years, and on October 4 the Museum welcomed three part-time individuals as new staff members. Cheryl, Julie Eichinger, and Susan Fawna, have signed on in part-time classifications with the City to work with the Museum supporting the volunteer recruitment and Auxiliary operations, and Decent programs, Museum public events, and the maintenance of the grounds and operations.

They have joined our newest staff member, Wood Rehling, who started in August as a replacement for Jeanne M. Volunteer Projects Coordinator, Nancy Freeman, who is now working full-time at Fawna, Carol, Al and Wood becoming key members of the Museum staff. They have a lot of great ideas and are full of energy. Please welcome them to the Historical Museum as staff members when you next see or meet them.

Remember to Visit the Historical Museum

Remember to visit the Historical Museum with your holiday guests this year. The week before Christmas and New Year’s is traditionally one of our busiest times. The week before Christmas is packed with the site decorated and many special items for sale in the gift shop. The holidays are a wonderful time to think about history, heritage and roots and there is no better place than the Historical Museum for such thoughts.

Mignon Gibson
Museum Director

P R E S I D E N T ’ S  M E S S A G E

As Fall brings to a close another year, so too, it brings the end of my term as Association President. In many respects it’s been a long two years; beyond that, it’s been much too short. I’ve told many friends and acquaintances that serving the Association has been the most rewarding of my non-profit experiences. It’s also been the most fun. Sometimes on non-profit boards things just happen during your tenure; sometimes you have a chance to make them happen. I’ve got every opportunity to experience both over the last two years. The past two years have been an exciting time for the Museum and for the Association. In Berlin, the Peralta House, is open and the Peralta Adobe is undergoing restoration. The master plan for the Museum has been completed by experience professionals. Our staff has grown to include a person responsible for helping our fundraising efforts (Barbara Johnson), and someone to manage the Peralta-Fallen complex (Judy Stabile). We strengthened the Board of Directors by adding individuals who could fulfill specific needs on the Board. With the membership’s concurrence we have restructured the Executive Committee in response to the changing needs in support of the Museum.

Certainly there are many other seemingly minor things that come in together, have contributed to the success of the Association over the last two years.

One of these is the way in which Kathy Muller goes about her daily task of managing the organization. Her quiet style of leadership has contributed significantly to our success. She is a pro-active problem solver. She accepts new challenges and works diligently with her staff, which includes each of us, individually. We, Board Members may be in the “spotlight” but Kathy is always there standing in the background as our support. Thank you, Kathy, for supporting my efforts for the last two years.

Several other “Thank Yous” are necessary. The Board of Executive Committee, comprised of John Mohler, Craig Minewasser, Trish Newfarmer, and Vic Giacalone has contributed collectively and certainly individually to the organization’s growth and achievements during the last two years. Joe Melchan is also ending his term on the Board after six years involved years. Thanks to all of you for your hard work.

As Vic and Craig continue their involvement on the Executive Committee, they will be joined by several other key individuals who have stepped up to assume more active leadership roles. Tim Stanford brings an intimate connection to many of San Jose’s family histories, Joe Luckhart, as a past president of the Association in the early years, provides a thread of continuity with our past. Joe Melchan, who’s breadth of history of community involvement and love of San Jose’s history, contributes to his infectious enthusiasm and energy. Sally Bingham, who’s executive director of the Peralta-Fallen complex downtown. A huge “Thank You” to this group for their willingness to provide “labor” next year and probably well into the future.

Lastly, quick but heartfelt thanks to the following:

The entire Board for their support of the many issues we looked for their guidance on.

The Museum staff for their complete dedication to the Museum and its future.

Elle Oppenheim, who’s City Department we recently came under, for her willingness to actively seek new opportunities for the Museum.

The Mayor, City Council, particularly Councilmembers George Shirakawa, Margie Fernandez, Joe Head, Charlotte Powers and Trixie Johnston, for their active support of the Museum and its future.

All of you, our members, who support the Association in so many ways. It’s the extraordinary commitment of members and volunteers that makes “our” Museum a better place. Thank You!

What do “past” presidents do? Many of the Association’s past presidents have remained involved in the organization. As mentioned earlier, one is back on the Board. Others, including Bruce Pohle, Brian Serpa and Patty McDonald have played a variety of roles which continue to support the Museum in specific ways. As for me, I’m going to spend more time working together with Judy Stabile and Patty McDonald over at the Peralta-Fallen complex.

Best wishes to Vic Giacalone as he assumes the “Helm.”

Gerry DeYoung
President

ASSOCIATION STAFF CHANGES

This has been a year of great change and growth for the Museum Association with many positive results. But one of the less fortunate occurrences for us was the recent move to Arizona of Carolyn Gagnon, Administrative Assistant and Editor of the Association News. Carolyn worked for the Association for four years and contributed greatly to our programs and the success for our activities during that time. We will miss Carolyn, but wish her well in her new endeavors.

Ably replacing Carolyn in the administration will be Judi Henderson, former City Council aide and long-time Museum supporter. Judy is also providing invaluable assistance in our current efforts to update the Museum’s master plan. We have combined the function of Association News editor and other public relations duties with program development at the Peralta-Fallen complex and also hired Daniel Bingham as a member of the Association staff.

We welcome Judi and Dan as we look forward to the new year and the many challenges and opportunities ahead. They are wonderful additions to our staff.

The San Jose Historical Museum is part of the San Jose Department of Culture and Visitor Services.

The San Jose Historical Museum Association News

The purpose of the San Jose Historical Museum Association is to support the San Jose Historical Museum through Association membership, educational, operational and volunteer services, and the development of the museum in the community.

EDITOR: Kathleen Muller.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Gerry DeYoung, Joseph Melloan, Victor Giacalone, Craig Minewasser, Patricia Neufman, Tom Compton, James Olin, Paul Aliaga, Gloria Sorensen, MaryAnn Schroer, Dotty Reischel, Jean Berrett, Linda Pieroni, Donna Merriam, Dennis Young, David Cowley, Robert Garcia, Yvonne Pfeifer, Herbert Rimbach, Timothy Rickart, John Lockhart, Steven Cox.

ADVISORY BOARD: John Lockhart, Dwight Bertel, Robert C. Kennedy, David Doolan, Peter Cowen, Thomas Fox, Lillian Good-Guy, Mary Gotchuck, Gloria Horn, William Johnson, Margaret Perez, Bruce Palm, Ernie Renzel, Brian Serpa, Judge Mark Thomas, Jr., Bob Mayer.

DEVELOPMENT COCUNCIL: Steve Cox, D. Cordelia Dawley, Marvin Bambenek, Michael Bathe, Louise Goff, John Mather, Judy Stibb, Todd Hagemeyer, Ned Richard, Jack Readus, James Zetzsche.

CONTRIBUTORS: Dotte Reischel, Melinda Chihara, Peter Cowen, Mary Ann O'Leary, Mignon Gibson, Judy Henderson, Barbara Johnson, Lilli Merriam, Kathleen Muller, Laura Pirvuss, Alexander Rodriguez, Judy Stabile, Nancy Valley.

The San Jose Historical Museum Association Newsletter is published by the San Jose Historical Museum Association and is distributed to all members of the San Jose Historical Museum Association. The San Jose Historical Museum Association, 1500 South First Street. San Jose, California 95112-2359 (408) 297-2250

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Vintage Reflections Boutique Specials for the Holidays Potpourri Sachets Needle cases $2 each

English Tudor Home Decor for a San Jose Country House

Toasted to Mother’s Angel Hair

The best looking necktie in the world. Our corded English wool tie is machine stitched and hand finished with a distinctive fringe. The English style of 17th century England. The tie is made from a beautiful iridescent white, natural wool. It is washable and the wing-tip design makes this the perfect tie for dress, business or casual wear. The tie is made in the USA and comes in five different lengths. Our English Country House is a fine choice for the patriotic American. A gift that will be talked about by all.

Bek Kitchen
“Nostalgic and Vintage Home Supplies”

John 1:25-29
FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to Outgoing Board Members

As 1993 draws to a close, there are several very special people I wish to thank for their tremendous contributions to the Museum Association. In particular, our outgoing Board President, Gerry DeYoung, whose leadership and dedication during the past two years have taken our organization in exciting new directions and resulted in so many major accomplishments. Last year, for example, Gerry was instrumental in negotiating our contract with the City for management of the Peralta Adobe — Fallon House site, and he is currently leading the team effort to update the physical master plan for the Historical Museum. He has also led the Board to new levels of comfort in the area of fundraising with the result that this year the Board hired a professional Development Director to work with them to successfully generate new revenues to provide more and better programs for our members. For his many contributions to the San Jose Historical Museum and the Association, Gerry is being honored as a Volunteer Fundraising Superstar on November 16 by the Silicon Valley Chapter of the National Society of Fundraising Executives.

For six years to the present, the Board is Vice-President Joseph Melehan. Joe has served as Chairman of the Development Council and Treasurer and is in the position of Vice-President of the Board he has chaired our Personnel Committee for the past two years. Joe has played a significant role in the leadership of the Association and has personally participated in every aspect of our activities over the years, from physical development and finance, to special events and personnel matters. The Museum Association is extremely fortunate to be blessed with talented community leaders such as Gerry and Joe who are willing to give so generously of their time to lead the organization and support the Museum. They have both been a joy to work with and their contributions will be felt for many years to come.

I also wish to acknowledge MaryAnne Schreier and Dotty Bretschneider who served on the Association Board in 1993 as liaisons to the Decent Council and Auxiliary volunteer groups. MaryAnne and Dotty and their organizations contributed greatly to the success of the Association’s activities this year as well.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a sincere thank you for your support of the San Jose Historical Museum and the Association in 1993.

Kathleen Muller
Administrator

MUSEUM STAFF
Mignon Gibson Director
Wanda Pons Senior Steno
Jeanne Kendo Clerk/Typist
Leslie Masunaga Archivist
Virginia Beck Curator of Education
Pawna Ferguson Volunteer Support
Carol Provenzano Volunteer Support
Al Spivak Volunteer Support
Wood Behling Volunteer Projects
Monte Duran Museum Events
Sarah Heigho Nunes Curator
Nancy Valley Curator
Fred Bennett Trolley Barn Manager

ASSOCIATION STAFF
Kathleen Muller Administrator
Barbara Johnson Development Director
Judy Stabile Peralta-Fallon Director
Judi Henderson Administrative Aasst.
Daniel Bingham P.E. & Programs
Carol Ouslette Bookkeeper
Margaret Anderson Membership Secretary
Toni Evans Shop Manager
Susan Miller Shops Scheduler/Supervisor
Kindra Donald Shops Supervisor
Julie Peterson Costume Shop Mgr.

SUCCESS STORIES!

Air System’s Family Fun Fest and Car Show

WOW... a successful event and fun evening. Thanks to all of the volunteers who said “Yes” when asked to give of their time and energy. Are you ready for next year? You can mark your calendars for September 10, 1994, the 10th Annual Air System’s Fun Fest and Car Show to be held again at the San Jose Historical Museum. Thanks to John and Christine Davis of Air Systems for choosing the Museum as the facility for this year’s car show. We look forward to planning for 1994.

San Pedro Square Brew-Ha-Ha

Those who attended and participated in this October 2nd event had so much fun that the Downtown Association is gearing up for their Second Annual Brew-Ha-Ha in 1994. When an event is a success, the organizers can’t wait to do another, as is the case for the San Pedro Square Brew-Ha-Ha. A 1994 date has not yet been set, but look for information in upcoming newsletters. Profit from this event in the amount of $1000, benefits the Fallon House and Peralta Adobe programs.

Mac’s Benefit Shopping Day

Thanks to everyone who bought a $10 Mac’s Shopping Day ticket for the one day event at Mac’s Valley Fair on October 5, 1993. We sold 405 tickets at $10 each, with 100% of the ticket sales benefitting the Association. Without the help of all of the volunteers, staff and Association members, we would not have done as well as we did. And that’s not all the good news... we tied for second place redeeming tickets the day of the event. For that achievement, we receive an additional $3,500 bonus from Mac’s and an extra $330 as our split for ticket sales the day of the event.

Thank you one and all for your participation, time and financial support for these wonderful events to benefit the San Jose Historical Museum Association.

IN THE COLLECTIONS

As part of the Museum’s holiday event, Victorian Christmas, an exhibit entitled Child’s Play will be presented in the Pacific Hotel. The exhibit features toys from the Museum’s collections dating from the 1870s to the 1950s.

Through play, children learn about the world around them. Often children’s toys represent the adult world in miniature. Through the power of imagination, a small toy becomes mother’s cooking pans, dad’s farm tractor, or big brother’s motorcycle. Child’s Play will open in late November and remain on exhibition through January. Located in a section of the main exhibit area of the Pacific Hotel, it can be viewed during regular Museum hours.

Originally developed in 1989 by Sarah Nunez, Museum curator, as a loan to the Olive Hyde Art Gallery in Fremont, California, a portion of Child’s Play was displayed at the Museum the following year. Included in the exhibit are such treasures as model grocery and drug stores. The painted backgrounds of the stores are complemented by three dimensional auxiliary pieces that include the cash register, roll of brown wrapping paper, little boxes of cereal, Bril- lo pads, and cough drops. Dolls and their accessories have always been popular; represented in the exhibit are Madame Alexander dolls and Nancy Ann Storybook dolls. Cars, trucks, and building blocks are also featured. There are even pull toys for the younger set.

The Collections Committee, a group of volunteers in the collections, are providing the major labor force to reproduce Child’s Play. In order to accommodate this exhibit the Harley-Davidson motorcycle and the Nell Motor coater will be removed from the main exhibit area and the wooden bicycle relocated. This vacated space will accommodate the cases for the toy exhibit. A significant advantage of the location is its availability to the visiting public.

Exhibits are the medium employed to share the Museum’s collections with the public. It is particularly pleasing to have the opportunity to present this selection of toys from the Museum collection during the holiday season. Please plan to include a visit to the Museum to enjoy these special toys.

Nancy Valley Curator

Threshold to Confidence School of Social Graces

Classes in etiquette for Young Ladies of grades 5 through 8
Mrs. William Barrett
(408) 257-8677
On October 23, 1983, eighteen volunteers from the San Jose Historical Museum participated in the Victorian Home Tour at the Levi Family Homestead, located at 724 East Cross Street. The tour included a guided visit through the home and its artifacts, providing visitors with a glimpse into the lives of the early 19th century residents. The tour was part of a series of events organized by the museum to raise awareness and funds for its operations.

The Victorian Home Tour was one of many initiatives undertaken by the San Jose Historical Museum to engage the community and preserve the city's historical heritage. Through such events, the museum aims to educate the public about the city's rich history and encourage them to support its ongoing efforts to conserve and celebrate this legacy.

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** Auxiliary Report **

**Having been away on a six week vacation trip, it was wonderful to come home and quickly find the many activities continuing at our Museum.**

**Victorian Christmas as we celebrate it at the San Jose Historical Museum is really very special! The beautifully decorated rooms in all our buildings, the decorations on the exterior, the lamp posts, the old-fashioned outdoor "snow" scenes, the Christmas sounds of the trolley bell, the carols from the carillon in the Fire House tower, and the spectacular hotel lobby display with the Victorian tree create a special ambience. Many groups bring music, caroling, and dancing to our "homes and streets". The continuous vignerettes brought to us by our talented volunteers take us back to the days gone by. We even have Father Christmas to pass out peppermint treats!**

Dotty Bratschneider
Auxiliary President

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**Annual Corporate Members**

- **Patriot**
  - Coast Engineering - Fred Weil Jr, Corporate Office Services, Inc.
  - FMC - Patent Dept.
  - Holland-Tomlinson Construction
  - Master Corp.
  - Mayfair Packing Co.
  - New England Power
  - San Jose Real Estate Board
  - Swenson Granite
  - Victorian Preservation Association

- **Associate**
  - American Industrial Coatings
  - American Wedding Supply
  - Best Electric
  - Clarion Car Wash
  - Enchanted Linen Service
  - G&T Metals
  - Frank-Lin Distillers
  - Hahn Resistance Conference Center
  - HMM, Inc.
  - Gibson Spine Co.
  - Inawale Stepper
  - K & K Remodeled
  - Minucare & Associates
  - Morgan's Jungles Restaurant
  - Muller Construction Supply, Inc.
  - P & G
  - Provenzano Brothers Building Materials
  - Ruth Pfeiffer
  - San Jose Water Company
  - Shaw Homes
  - Sun Garden Packing Co.
  - Towne & Country, Inc.
  - Valley Heating & Cooling Co.
  - Winchester Ranch

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**Sustaining**

- **Alhambra, CA**
  - The Bay Company
  - Siggs Carsons
  - Flying Support Co.
  - E. Keith Brown & Co.
  - Cochee Oil
  - Capito Associates
  - Catera Two
  - Coalby Haugery
  - Embarcadero Bank
  - Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company
  - Cooper, Callinan & Purcell Accounting Corp.
  - Corteza Bros.
  - Craig Computers, Inc.
  - Charles W. Davidson Co.
  - Darling-Fischer Chard of the Hills
  - Del Rose - Cedenne - Del Rose
  - Gable Advertising Co., Inc.
  - Gable Properties
  - Hallam & Rambos
  - The Rancho Group
  - The Seabury House
  - Office of Richard Hess
  - HPC Architecture
  - Ireland Direct Mail Advertising
  - Johnson & Higgins
  - Marine Service
  - Mark.& Feinberg
  - MIT Architecture
  - Anthony J. Martin, Attorney at Law
  - Marquis of Thymplychia
  - Notre Dame High School
  - Oliver & Lutkow
  - O'Neil & Pierce
  - Pacific Commerce Bank, Inc.
  - Pfaff & Kent Accounting Corp.
  - Prudential, David J. Powers and Assoc.
  - Procurement Equipment Co.
  - Sun America
  - Royal Coach Tours
  - San Jose Sports & Fitness & Supply Co.
  - San Jose Construction Company
  - San Jose National Bank
  - Sbrun Development Companies
  - Sherman
  - Stapp/Wilson
  - Spence Packing Co.
  - Stock's Landscape
  - Table Top Meetings
  - United Insurance Centers, Inc.
  - Valley View Packaging
  - Western Container (Continued)
  - Western Sales Services
  - Western States Oil
  - William Hull, W&P
  - Willow Glen Travel Agency
  - Wincheoscopic
  - Richard Zemlotnik, Architect
  - Zoria Farms, Inc.

**Matching Gift Companies**

- BankAmerica Foundation
  - General Electric
  - I.B.M.
  - Mac's
  - Martin-Mercedes
  - Tandy Corp.
  - The St. Paul Companies
  - TRW Systems
  - Westminster

**Trusts & Foundations**

- Hughes R. Center Trust
  - Santa Clara County Community Foundation
  - David and Leslie Check Foundation
  - Stella B. Gross Trust Fund
  - Sovereign Savings Bank
  - Valley Foundation
INTRODUCING CONNIE YOUNG YU

When Connie Young Yu was honored by the Asian Americans for Community Involvement at a dinner at the Fairmont Hotel on October 8, members of the Museum Association’s Board of Directors were proud to be in the audience. Connie and Congressman Norman Mineta were co-recipients that evening of AAUC’s highest honor, the Freedom Award, for their many accomplishments and for their leadership in the local community.

Connie’s involvement with the San Jose Historical Museum began several years ago as plans were being developed for the reconstruction of Ng Shing Gong. Her natural talent for researching and writing and her personal interest in the history of the Chinese in Santa Clara County led to Connie’s authorship of Chinatown, San Jose, USA which was published by the Association as the 1992 premium publication for our members. Her enthusiasm for the Museum and her desire to continue to be involved with our programs led to Connie’s participation on the Association’s Board Directors, beginning in 1993.

In her remarks to the audience at the Fairmont on the evening of October 8, Connie poignantly recalled that it was on that very site Asians were once driven out of town. “My grandfather Young came from China in 1881 and worked on this street as a young boy. He was a homeless refugee like a thousand others when arsonists burned down the Chinatown.”

Connie recalled that she had never intended to be a historian. But something happened to her in 1969 when she attended a lecture presented by Edison Uno, “a man who had devoted his life to tearing down the walls of racism and intolerance. Edison spoke about the little known history of Japanese Americans with dignity and clarity. He was presenting our heritage — not some alien record — but as an integral part of American history. And Edison’s message was that we have to learn from the past, less we repeat the mistakes of camp and exclusion laws again.

Then and there I thought that’s what I’d like to be, and that’s the kind of history I’d like to write.”

Connie went on to say that “the chief chroniclers of American history have had a very selective memory, forgetful of the achievements and struggles of Asians and other peoples. So it is up to us to help our country to remember... The Stanford Area Chinese Club, CHCP, and the San Jose Historical Museum Association have encouraged my writing of local history. It is the story of our predecessors, and we live in the community they shaped.”

Connie told the audience, “We all have material to contribute to this history — whether your ancestors came on a clipper ship or you and your family arrived on a 747. Your experiences are part of our heritage. We have common concerns. We can all make the connections.”

Connie Young Yu

"Using immigrants as scapegoats for California’s economic and social ills is nothing new. Nineteenth century politicians jumped upon this issue with as much shameless enthusiasm as they have now. And they thought of all kinds of ordinances and devices to harass Asian immigrants. It was wrong then and it is sure is wrong now... It is up to us to teach our elected officials a thing or two about history."

Connie Young Yu is a writer, historian and a community activist who was drawn to the study of Asian American history while a student at Mills College in Oakland. Today Connie and her husband, John, an oncologist at Kaiser Hospital in Santa Clara, live in Los Altos Hills and are the parents of three grown children.

Connie was appointed to the Legal Compliance Committee for Textbook Adoption of the California State Board of Education in 1977 as a result of her efforts to eliminate racial stereotypes in textbooks. She has also served as a trustee of Mills College, her alma mater, and she was a founding member of the Asian Americans for Community Involvement and the Legal Island Immigration Station Historical Advisory Committee, which led to the restoration of the Immigration Barracks.

In addition to Chinatown, San Jose, USA, Connie is the author of Profiles in Excellence: Chinese Americans on the Peninsula and numerous articles for various publications, including a chapter on Chinese Americans for the Asian American Almanac which will be published next year. She has served as a consultant for television documentaries, including “The Wild West” produced this year by Time-Life Inc. and “The Iron Road,” part of the American Experience series for PBS in 1989.

Besides writing, Connie has fenced competitively and was a finalist at the 1992 Pacific Coast Fencing Championship. She teaches fencing to youngsters at the Palo Alto Jewish Community Center and volunteers her time as Director of the San Jose Fencing Center.

We are pleased that today Connie serves as a member of the San Jose Historical Museum Association’s Board of Directors. Her enthusiasm for local history and her willingness to share her talents on behalf of the Museum, along with her delightful personality, make her a very special new member of the Board.

SAN JOSE SHARKS MARKET HISTORY

San Jose Sharks Season Tickets Coming Home to a New Rhapsody - 1993-1994

Season Ticket Book

I PLEASE PRINT:

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Mail to: San Jose Sharks/ARA
          Historical Museum Offer
          724 Altis Drive
          Santa Clara, CA 95054

Season Ticket Strip* $10.00
Season Ticket Cover* $10.00
Less 10% Discount -10% $-
Shipping & Handling $2.00 $2.00

Total Enclosed $-

*Limit: five per household
Make checks payable to: San Jose Sharks/ARA.
Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

The 1993-1994 San Jose Sharks’ season tickets feature highlights of San Jose and Santa Clara Valley history. 10,000 numbered commemorative strips and 5000 numbered season ticket covers are being offered for sale to the general public.

As members of the San Jose Historical Museum Association, the Sharks are offering you an opportunity to purchase a set of these collectors items at a 10% discount. Simply fill out the attached coupon to place your order today. Offer good until December 15, 1993.
MATCHING GIFTS
Do You Work for One of These Companies?

AT&T
Bank of America
Chubb and Sons, Inc.
Englebright Life Assurance
GÉ
IBM
MCI
Martin Marietta
Micro System
Synoptics/Communications
Tandy Corp.,... ation
The St. Paul Companies
TRW Foundation
University Technology (UTC)
Westinghouse
Wheelabrator Technologies

The Museum Association currently qualifies with these companies for their Matching Funds Program, which is a way of matching funds with the amount you give for membership and other donations. Whatever it is, it's all tax deductible. Give us a call at 287-2290 if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you for your help.

PLANNING AHEAD: Remembering SJHMA in your Will

including a provision in your will, insurance policy or living trust for The San Jose Historical Museum Association allows you to make a bequest of a portion of your estate with lasting impact. Here is a sample of the language to use:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the San Jose Historical Museum Association located at 1660 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112, the [ % of my estate; OR $ dollar amount of gift or description of property; OR % of the residual of my estate."

You should consult your legal advisor about the best way to provide for SJHMA in your estate plans. If you or your attorney have any questions, contact Barbara Johnson, Development Director, San Jose Historical Museum Association, 1660 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112/2829, (408) 250-2290.

If you would like to include SJHMA in your will, please let us know so that we may acknowledge your generosity.

1993 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

In the September issue of the Association News an appeal was made for 1,000 renewals. You did it! Thank you for helping to achieve the 1993 membership goal of 2,000. As advertised, the 2,000th member will receive a special gift and recognition from the Association. The winners are:

Dr. & Mrs. Charles Short, Jr.
Congratulations and Thank You for your continued support!

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS DOLL DONATION DRAWING

The Doll Donation Drawing has become a much loved part of our annual Victorian Christmas event at the past years. We offer a wide variety of unique dolls graciously donated by individuals and local businesses will be shown in the lobby of the Association. Another attraction is a majorette Father Christmas created by Gwen McGregor of Santa Rosa. Father Christmas stands 9’ tall and will be a delightful addition to everyone’s holiday decor. Keeping Father Christmas’ home will be a decorative porcelain doll created by local doll makers. Not to be missed are the unique Christmas decorations and exciting assortment of dolls that will delight young and old alike. All in all, there are close to 40 prizes to choose from.

The dolls will be on display in the Pacific Hotel Lobby after October 27. Tickets will be available from that date until the conclusion of Victorian Christmas (December 12), at the lobby desk. Drawing tickets are for a donation of $1.00 a tick- et or $5.00. Each prize has been numbered, therefore you may buy your ticket and place the stub in a numbered box, which corre- sponds to the prize you would like to win. Winners will be notified. Prizes will be available for pick up beginning Monday, December 13, at noon.

The following is a listing of individuals and businesses who so generously donated to our drawing. If you recognize any of these individuals or patrons, please tell them how much their support is appreciated.

BUSINESS
Across the Bridge, Adopt A Doll, America’s Handicrafts, Artist’s Flowers and Dolls, Brian’s Woodwork and Lawrewood Antiques, California Interiors, Carousel Creations, Cora M. Staley Dolls, Deco Treasures, Delightful Dolls, Designs of the City, Don Hyatt, Emery’s Silk Mill, Emporium, Expressions, Dinky P. Gandy, Doodles, Magenta May, Just in Time, Kate’s Bows, Katy’s Glass, Kim’s Glass Studio, Kresge’s, Knucklehead, Lucky’s, Wilson’s Bakery, Odda On (Kush Ball), Nob Hill Foods, Cosentino’s, ‘s Candy, McDonald’s, and Southern Lumber.

INDIVIDUALS
Brie and Krista, Spotts Gibson, Nancy Guin, Dean and Joan Helms, Tuan Hoang, Molly and Tim Kirkley, Geil Moffat, June Montgomery, and Edith Wallers.

Laurel Perusa

Schallenberger Halloween

The San Jose Historical Museum Association hosted the Second Annual Schallenberger School Halloween Party on October 27, 1993 for over 200 children and their families. Schallenberger is the Association’s adopted school under the San Jose Unified School District’s Adopt-A-School Program. Because of many community-minded businesses the Schallenberger community enjoyed Halloween festivities…trick or treat going, decorated classrooms, a Homecoming Parade and all of the haunting sounds at the Museum. This event is designed to strengthen the partner-relationship with the families of the Schallenberger community and provide the children with a safe and fun-filled evening at no cost to the families.

The following businesses helped to make this event a success: OE (donated party favors), Pink Truck Ice Cream, Safeway, Lucky’s, Wilson’s Bakery, Odda On (Kush Ball), Nob Hill Foods, Cosentino’s, ‘s Candy, McDonald’s, and Southern Lumber.

Thank you all for your generous contributions, helping to make this an evening of excitement for the Schallenberger students.
EUGENE SAWYER: NEWSMAN, HISTORIAN, DIME NOVELLIST

By Jack Douglas

HISTORIC FOOTNOTES OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY

Many a writer came west during the Gold Rush to experience for himself the rough and tumble life on the frontier. Some, like Mark Twain, Bret Harte, and Bret Bumline, would come, then return to the East where they became famous for their stories of the mining camps and rowdy San Francisco.

Like Twain and Harte, Sawyer had to earn his bread and butter working for newspapers. The San Jose Herald became his home base. He rose to become editor of the Herald and also a well-known man-about-town. With his cronies, Alex Murgott, Hugh A. DeLacy and Louis Lieber, he was deeply involved in the cultural life of small-town San Jose. Sawyer wrote plays and acted in productions of San Jose's first amateur dramatic company. Although he realized that he didn't have the talent to become a great actor, Sawyer, through his journalistic efforts, took credit for having helped launch the career of John T. Malone, Samuel W. Piercy, John W. Dunne and Frank Bacon.

"Best of the Worst Novelists"

"Best of the worst novelists" is how Gelett Burgess describes Sawyer in his story "Confessions of a Dime-Novelist" which appeared in the Bookman in 1902. His interviews with these authors gave him the idea that Gene Sawyer cranked out at least 75 dime novels.

Ned Buntline, the inventor of the dime novel and the man who made Buffalo Bill a household name was Sawyer's inspiration. Sawyer said that Buntline was more picturesque than any of his characters. The short 25,000 to 50,000 word thrillers were read by the best sellers, appealing to the masses who needed diversion from their routine lives. The dime novel (or "penny dreadful" in England) would be our primary form of cheap entertainment until they were supplanted, in the early part of the century, by the movies.

Sawyer was born on November 11, 1846 in Bangor, Maine. Even as a youth he gravitated toward the people and events that made the news. In his biography he mentions being present when such notables as Stephen A. Douglas, William Seward, James Blaine, Henry Ward Beecher and Artemus Ward appeared in Bangor. In 1864, at the age of 18, he traveled by boat to San Francisco via the Isthmus and after a short stay in that city, settled in San Jose. Feeling a need to supplement his high school education, he attended Freeman Gates' San Jose Institute where he brushed up classical studies.

As a young man he tried his hand at a number of occupations, including miner (in Nevada), druggist, book-keeper (in San Francisco) and newspaper publisher (in San Benito County and San Jose).

Newspapering

In 1974 Sawyer teamed up with an unknown poet/teacher by the name of Edwin Markham to found the short-lived Garden City Times. As Sawyer wrote in an interview published in the Bookman in 1902: He (Markham) was literary editor and reporter... while I did the rest, even rustling ads. Well, in four days I got the advertisement of a liquor man, and it turned out that our 'angels' was a Prohibitionist and wouldn't stand for liquor ads, which were, of course, the best paying business we had. Markham and I held a consultation and decided to go ahead alone. We paid our printers more money, and when we had paid them off, Markham and I gave up and walked out into St. James Park and divided up $37.50.

Sawyer became a reporter and contributor to a number of newspapers and magazines. He covered the capture and trial in San Jose of the bandit Tiburcio Vasques for the San Francisco Chronicle. His many interviews with Vasques and later his friends and acquaintances resulted in a book entitled: The Life and Career of Tiburcio Vasques the California Stage Robber (1875).

The experience may also have motivated him to begin writing fiction accounts of Buffalo Bill. He says: As an exploit of the alleged adventures of Buffalo Bill, my imaginative hands became steeped in gore and I might be writing of the dead scout yet were it not for the sorrowful fact that my material gave out, as I had made Bill kill, or cause to be killed, every Indian in the Far West.

Others, like Eugene Sawyer, settled down and quietly plied their writing trade. No one in San Jose in the 1890s would have guessed that the mild mannered Gene Sawyer, newspaper editor, was, in his off hours, the author of the famous Nick Carter dime novel series.

Early Life

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RAMON ARANDA, THE CALIFORNIA DETECTIVE

Photograph from The Bookman, Volume XV, courtesy of Jack Douglas.

Eugene Sawyer and his wife Belle raised a son and daughter in their bungalow at 360 North Crippenden Street (now 16th Street). In addition to his writing, he was fond of growing flowers in his garden and was particularly proud of his geraniums. He died at home on October 29, 1924 at the age of 78.

When the Edwin Markham house on the Museum grounds is restored as a showcase for Markham and other writers associated with our Valley, a room, or at least a wall, should be dedicated to that former dean of local journalists and king of the dime novel – Eugene T. Sawyer.

SAN JOSE ATHLETIC CLUB PLAN AN EVENT IN History

Built in 1924 as a Scottish Rite Temple, the San Jose Athletic Club is available for catered events. Enjoy this no-classical, historical site – the decor is unique, incorporating Art Deco and Egyptian elements. Make some history of your own in one of downtown San Jose’s beautiful historical landmarks – the San Jose Athletic Club. Call the Catering Office at (408) 292-1291.

say: Of course I never made any claims to literary quality, and never tried for a "style." My books were, frankly, "pot boilers" and I think I have some sense of humor enough to know where they stand... but though my work was all trashy, it never wandered to any depraved tastes.

Historian

After retiring from the Herald Sawyer was contracted by a Los Angeles firm to write a history of Santa Clara County. Published in 1922, this work was the most extensive history of our Valley prior to Clyde Arbuckle’s. Sawyer’s is still a valuable reference source. The bulk of the volume is made up of biographies and photos of prominent local people who contributed through subscriptions to publication of the book. These biographies were written by a variety of authors, but the most interesting of all is the biography Sawyer wrote of himself. In addition to this book, he wrote articles about local history and events for such journals as the Overland Monthly.

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

were responsible for the bulk of the over 1,000 Nick Carter adventures. In addition to Nick Carter, Sawyer contributed to the Log Cabin Library series and to serials for the New York Weekly. Of these literary efforts he had this to say: Of course I never made any claims to literary quality, and never tried for a "style." My books were, frankly, "pot boilers" and I think I have some sense of humor enough to know where they stand... but though my work was all trashy, it never wandered to any depraved tastes.

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Nick Sawyer Library story from the San Jose State University Special Collections.
SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Kelley Park
1600 Senter Rd.
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 287-3290
TOURS OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS
HOURS
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday
Noon - 4:30 p.m. Saturday - Sunday
ADMISSION
Adults $4.00
Children (6-17 years) 2.00
Seniors 3.00

FALLON HOUSE
Corner of San Pedro and St. John Streets
San Jose, CA
(408) 283-8182
HOURS
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday & Saturday
Admission: all ages $3.00

Come stroll Carmel and Tom Fallon during December at their home at the corner of San Pedro and St. John Streets. With their home decorated for comet, the Fallon's and their young family await your visit.

Thursdays & Saturdays
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Admission: $3
Free for Association Members

Enjoy Traditional Holiday Spirit at Victorian Christmas
On Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12, we invite you to step into the holiday spirit as we take a lovely journey into the past. During the Museum's traditional holiday event, Victorian Christmas, you will sample some of the sights, sounds, and smells of the 1890s.

The theme of Victorian Christmas this year is A Child's Holiday. The experience is sure to delight the child in all of us.

Strolling on the Museum grounds, you will be transported back in time. In the streets, as well as the neighborhoods, will greet you with glistening decorations, and the folks inside the buildings will be eager to wish you a "Merry Christmas." Costumed townsmen, hawkers, vendors, and musical entertainers will greet you with holiday spirit.

Our entertainment includes the Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Christmas carolers, and other musical groups; old-fashioned bicycles, trolley rides, and carriages. Nostalgic aromas of hot cider and roasted chestnuts will fill the air as you explore the decorated buildings and wonderful boutiques. Be sure to visit the Hotel lobby and view the many dolls that are waiting to go home with you. All you need to do is buy a ticket.

Children will be delighted to participate in the complimentary traditional holiday crafts in the Firehouse. There they will also hear wonderful Christmas stories.

General Admission:
$6.00 Adults
$3.00 Seniors
$2.00 Children
Children under 5 are free
Paule Ferguson, Chairperson

Fallon House Opening is a Success
The Fallon House opened to the public on October 2 as a part of the San Pedro Square Brew Ha Ha. Over 400 people viewed the Civil War era home on opening day and their approval was evident. The fifteen rooms are fully furnished and the house looks as if a family is still living there.

The Fallon House is presently open for tours on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM. When the Peralta Adobe is restored and other phases of the project are complete the days of operation will be expanded.

The interim admission charge for tours of the Fallon house will be $3.00. Admission is free for Association members.

The Peralta Adobe renovation, gift shop, office space and introductory exhibit are all begun, but are far from completed. We are optimistically expecting to be finished in March and a Grand Opening will be planned for the Spring.

There were 35 volunteers helping out on opening day, but we are still recruiting volunteers to help with our ongoing programs. If you are interested, please call Judy Stabile at 983-8192. That is also the number to call if you have Spanish Colonial or Mexican era artifacts to donate to the Peralta Adobe exhibit.

Come visit the house during December. The Garden City Doll Club has graciously volunteered to recreate a mid-1800 century holiday home. The house will lend itself beautifully to this effort.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

November 11
Fallon House & Arena Bus Trip
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Pacific Hotel

December 2
Members Holiday Party
7:00 - 10:00 PM
Pacific Hotel

December 5
Christmas Tea
10:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Pacific Hotel

December 11 & 12
Victorian Christmas
10:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Museum grounds

DATES TO REMEMBER