El Día de la Raza

A Free Day of Family Entertainment

The San Jose Historical Museum Association is very pleased to announce a first-time cultural event, “El Día de la Raza,” on Sunday, October 9, 1994, from 12 Noon to 6 p.m. The day coincides with October 2, the official day of celebration of the fusion between the European and indigenous people and cultures.

The festival idea came from Robert Garcia, a member of the Museum Association’s Board of Directors. Robert’s festival concept received total support from the rest of the Board. Robert’s love of the arts is best displayed by the nonprofit organization Arte Flamenco de San Jose, a popular multicultural music and dance group, which he founded and whose Board he now chairs. As a Spanish teacher at St. Francis High School in Mountain View, Robert knows well the challenge of teaching San Jose’s Hispanic heritage. His role as chair of “El Día de la Raza” is of great importance because of his arts and cultural background, as well as his role as an educator. He brought together a committee of enthusiastic and knowledgeable individuals to organize and cultivate this first-time event.

The goals of “El Día de la Raza” are to celebrate Mexican and Spanish music, dance, food, culture, and crafts. An educational component providing hands-on learning activities for children, storytelling, and historical exhibits will be a significant element of the event. The grounds will provide a unique setting for artists to perform while hopefully introducing the San Jose Historical Museum to a “new” audience.

To celebrate this special day, the Museum Association is producing a commemorative program (Please See DIA DE LA RAZA, Page 8).

ESCAPE TO ALCATRAZ

The San Francisco Bay: From Alcatraz to Fort Point

WHEN: Saturday, September 17, 1994
WHO: Association Members & their guests
HOW: Royal Coach Tour Bus - leaving & returning to the Japanese Friendship Garden parking lot
TIME: 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. (approximately)
Bring your own hot beverage.
Doughnuts will be served on the bus
COST: $40 Association Members
$45 Non-members (includes lunch)

Out-of-town tourists don’t know that the fall is the best time to visit San Francisco. We do! Join us for a day on the San Francisco Bay.

We will begin our odyssey on the Bay by boarding a ferry boat at Pier 41 that will take us to Alcatraz Island. When we arrive on the Island, we will first meet with a park ranger for a customized talk about the history of the “rock.” Next, we will don our audio headsets (which are provided) and explore the Island while listening to the voices and memories of former “guests.”

Back across the bay and on to lunch at Sinbad’s Restaurant on the Embarcadero. The Bay view and the food are superb.

Our final stop will be at Fort Point where the Bay meets the ocean. Not only is Fort Point one of the most picturesque spots in San Francisco, it is one of the most historic. We will be given a special tour of the facility by a park ranger and then if time allows, explore the site further or just stand and watch the waves crash on the rocks below the Golden Gate Bridge.

Reservations for the 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, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112-2599, ATTN: Judi Henderson.

Wear warm-layered clothing and comfortable walking shoes. It can be chilly and we will be doing a lot of walking.

NAME: ____________________________
ADDRESS: ____________________________
PHONE: ____________________________
LUNCH: [ ] Salmon Florentine [ ] Hawaiian Chicken Brochette [ ] Shrimp Louie Salad

Number of Reservations: ____________________________

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

***************5-DIGIT 95070
WILLYS FECK
1-4275 SARATOGA AVE
SARATOGA CA 95070-5930
18°
President’s Message

Now the rest of the world knows what we have known all along – San Jose is one of the best places to live in the United States. Although I do not understand how four other cities were deemed better than ours!

All of us who have been working hard to make our Historic San Jose the premier living history museum in the country and the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historical Site into the gem of downtown’s re-development can share some of the credit for San Jose’s latest ranking by Money Magazine as the "Fifth Best Place to Live in the U.S.A." The livability of our community is greatly enhanced by the preservation, interpretation and display of our rich history.

The volunteers, Docents, City and Association staff and membership and the leadership who have all worked together with a cooperative and constructive attitude to continually improve these two facilities for the good of all of San Jose. You are all to be commended.

Keep up the good work.

Vic Giacalone
Association President

Chinese Summer Festival: Largest One-Day Museum Attendance Ever

On Sunday, July 31, the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project (CHCP) hosted the second Chinese Summer Festival on the grounds of the Historical Museum. 11,000 attended and enjoyed great food, entertainment, children's informational displays, vendors, the Ng Shing Gung exhibit and much more. This was the highest paid attendance of CHCP funding the costs of opening the grounds and all the event-related amenities.

Entertainment for the day was dedicated to George Shirakawa, Sr., the District Councilmember, who passed away this May. Councilmember Shirakawa was a great supporter of developing the event and the Ng Shing Gung temple project. The event was one that had many local supporters with the San Jose Mercury News and Sing Tao Daily responsible for a lot of the publicity.

Strategic Plan Process Continues

By the time this newsletter is published, the City of San Jose will have selected a consultant to conduct the Strategic Planning for the Historical Museum.

Governance of the Historical Museum is one of the focused items. Many individuals do not realize that the City of San Jose owns and operates the Historical Museum with the Museum Association, a non-profit membership organization, developed to provide social and financial support.

I welcome any comments, questions or ideas regarding this study. I will be happy to provide anyone with information regarding this process and my thoughts regarding the Historical Museum operation.

The Strategic Plan is a very important step for the Historical Museum. The Historical Museum has grown in scale over the years without appropriate levels of funding developed. I hope that the Strategic Plan will result in an appraisal of the Historical Museum that helps chart the path for future growth, physical development and public enjoyment.

Great Activities in September and October

Check the Historical Museum calendar for September and October. There are many special activities at the Museum that should be fun. In September, thanks to Susan DeYoung, our resident mystery writer, I will be reviving my role of Emma Blossom, the Pacific Hotel maid with strong career aspirations, for a new mystery to be held on the grounds on Saturday, September 10. Come out, enjoy dinner, investigate a murder, and help solve this new crime. Those attending the Association fundraiser last year all rated the mystery and after the sell-out, I hope to have a cast standing ovation. Many attendees visited all the mystery dinners in the area and said that the Association’s was the best and that the Historical Museum was an ideal location for the mystery of the year. Emma will be looking forward to seeing you.

From the Editor

Welcoming New Audiences

One of the goals adopted by the Museum Association Board of Directors at their last January meeting was to increase general public attendance at the Museum throughout 1994. To meet this goal, members of the Board and Association staff, led by Boardmember Jan Berliner and her committee, devised an innovative approach to "national activity days" on Sundays this summer. The last of these, Hats Galore, will be held on Sunday, September 18.

The committee’s purpose was to create simple programs to provide "national level of Sunday afternoon activity at the Museum. The craft and activity elements of the programs were designed for children, but each day has also featured entertainment provided by the Peninsula Banjo Band. Organizing and scheduling activities like this has enabled us to garner some calendar listings in the local newspapers and thus, hopefully, introduce the Historical Museum to a larger audience of families in the area.

Another attempt to reach out into the broader community is the El Dia de la Raza celebration being organized under the direction of Boardmember Robert Garcia. The focus of El Dia de la Raza, to be held on Sunday, October 9, is education as much as festivity. It is our hope that many families of Hispanic origin, in particular, will be introduced to the Museum through this event. The Museum grounds lend themselves admirably to the celebration of the music, dance and the crafts of a particular ethnic group are celebrated in the context of our local history. Please plan to join us for this special festival.

Kathleen Muller
Administrator

Auxiliary Report

Since I became the Auxiliary Board President last January, I have been investigating the training that is provided to Auxiliary volunteers that enables them to fulfill their important roles here at the Museum.

Docents, of course, have their areas of expertise and they all must attend a prescribed course of instruction to be able to lead tours and present some of our most successful programs.

Auxiliary Volunteers, on the other hand, tend to be very much the specialists. While some work together in teams, many more have developed unique expertise in an area that is unique. For example, I will refer to the Archives, because that is the area I know best.

In the Archives, three people work as a team selecting and identifying photographs. Another three work as research assistants and two are inventorying the map collection.

Often Archives volunteers work individually. One volunteer works on the care and preservation of deteriorating documents. One is inventing and cataloguing the pamphlet collection. Another is making an inventory of former Mercury News columnist Frank Freeman’s collection of old newspapers. One volunteer is indexing the obituaries in old newspapers to make them more accessible to researchers.

These are just a few examples of the work being done by Auxiliary members in the Archives, but each volunteer has been trained for his or her unique assignment in other areas of the Museum as well. A general class could not satisfy the special needs of each area served by the Auxiliary volunteers. Consequently, instruction is usually provided one-on-one, and it is extensive. The result is a corps of volunteers in many different capacities to support the Museum.

Jerome Munday
Auxiliary President

Docent Report

With the opening of school right around the corner, the Docents at the San Jose Historical Museum are getting ready to resume all of their educational programs.

The Docent class of 1994 has spent spring and summer training to join our ranks. They studied not only the history of San Jose, but also the history of each building on the grounds, with the use of artifacts, each building tells a story depicting the activities and lifestyles of different time periods, and how they related to the valley and the rest of the world. We welcome our docents with varied backgrounds, who share a common bond: interpreting San Jose’s history to our visitors.

Although we remain the same, each Docent offers its own very personal approach, week by week through time. Inspiring children to use their imaginations can make learning fun.

Some of our programs are in such demand that we are going to a lottery system. One of these is the Western Ho Activity for 5th and 6th graders. This last year we recruited and trained an additional 40 Docents and helpers to offer it once a week instead of twice a month. With year-round schools in the area, it has been scheduled throughout the summer. However, we still cannot accommodate everyone.

Margie McBride
Docent Council President
UPDATE ON MUSEUM PLANNING PROCESS

In early August the Core Planning Committee for the future of the San Jose Historical Museum selected The Wolf Organization, headquartered in Cambridge, MA, as the consultant team to facilitate the development of a strategic plan.

The contract with the Wolf Organization is scheduled to be signed by the City Council in September. The six month study will then commence. A schedule of meetings has not yet been set.

Michael Keating, the consultant from the City Attorney’s Office ruled that it would be a possible conflict of interest for Association Administrator Kathleen Muller to serve as a member of the Core Committee. Representing the San Jose Historical Society at the invitation of the Association Board of Directors is Molly Svensson.

Molly has been a long-time supporter of the Museum and was an active founding member of the Association, signing the organization’s Articles of Incorporation as Board Secretary in 1971. More recently she has been instrumental in the development of the Children’s Discovery Museum, serving as Board President of that institution from 1989-91 when the Museum opened.

Molly Swenson brings a wealth of expertise to her service on the Core Committee. She is knowledgeable about San Jose and of the special role of museums in a community, experienced as a volunteer leader in numerous organizations, including East- side Friends of the Library, and committed to helping the Historical Museum plan for a bright future. We are very fortunate that she is helping in this study.

In the Collections

The Bolinnet Vehicle Collection

Old-time San Joseans may remember Trader Lew’s Hillsdale Farm on Monterey Road as a combination of amusement park and antique store. “Trader Lew” was Lewis D. Bolinnet, Jr. and it was from him that the Historical Museum obtained the large collection of carriages, automobiles, motorcycles, and farm equipment known as the Bolinnet Collection. In order to house the collection, two metal warehouses were constructed at the Museum site in Kelley Park. When the Pacific Hotel and Dashaway Stables were built in 1975, motorcycles, bicycles and carriages from the Bolinnet Collection were used in the displays. Bolinnet vehicles in the Dashaway Stables exhibit include a cut-down rumble seat model which belonged to Pedro de Saiset and the doctor’s buggy, also from the de Saiset estate. The hearse and “gypsy” wagon, Studebaker, surrey and model horse and harness display are also from the Bolinnet Collection. In the Pacific Hotel Main Exhibit, the Harley-Davidson and high-wheel bicycle are from the Bolinnet Collection.

The bulk of the Bolinnet vehicle collection, however, is currently in storage awaiting large-scale exhibit space. Highlights of the Collection include:

- The Marguerite wagon “Queen of the Pacific”, used to carry excursion parties from downtown San Francisco to the Chutes amusement park and Sutro Baths at the Cliff House
- The stagecoach used to carry the mail from San Jose to Alviso before the 1870s railroad was built
- Two carriages which belonged to the Charles Lathrop family, younger brother of Mrs. Leland Stanford and business manager for Stanford Univ.
- Two carriages from the Holson family which purchased it from the City of San Jose when it abandoned horse-drawn wagons in 1920
- Antique automobiles including a 1903 Hayes Arrow (one of only two built), and International Harvester high-wheel auto buggy, a 1912 Detroit electric with dual controls in the front and back seats and a 1907 Mitchell. The Detroit electric and Mitchell automobile are currently undergoing restoration in the Trolley Barn.

Although the Museum has acquired other vehicles through donations over the years, the Bolinnet Collection has given us the ability to interpret a wide variety of early transportation methods. Together with the Trolley program and the fire equipment collection, the Bolinnet Collection adds a unique character to the Museum’s Collection and Exhibit programs.

ASSOCIATION STAFF

Kathleen Muller...Administrator
Barbara Johnson...Development Director
Judy Stable...Peralta/Fallon Director
Judy Scharf...Publicity & Programs
Dan Bingham...Public Relations & Programs
Carol Ouellette...Bookkeeper
Margaret Anderson...Membership Secretary
Toni Evans...Shops Manager
Susan Miller...Shops Scheduler/Supervisor
Julie Peterson...Shops Supervisor

From the Archives

What’s Behind That Door?

Over the years the Archives has had a number of visitors, many of whom state: “I never knew this was here.” While the concept of archives is ancient, the Museum’s Archives in relative terms is still a “new” program and still an unknown to many researchers.

Why and what does the Archives collect? We collect archival materials for future research, whether it be for the history of San Jose or the Santa Clara Valley, museum programming, genealogy, historic preservation, exhibits, publications, or pure knowledge. Our collection focuses on San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley, although we do include general materials about historic periods and events.

The primary users of the archives are individual researchers who send emails requesting transcriptions of church, and school projects are the areas which focus on the personal needs. Business users search for land holdings, toxic sites, advertising images, and census history requires researchers or researchers to fill gaps in our knowledge.

Because of the informational value of Archival material and because much of the material can be made available through some form of reproduction, you will see materials from the Archives in many different places, including the following: published materials such as brochures, periodicals, or books; exhibits for museums, historic sites or historic displays; and images for television, video programs, or CD-ROM.

Some of the local places you might spot some of our materials include the dedication program for landmarking of the Townsend Monument, in the forthcoming Peralta-Fallon Exhibit, at various restaurants in this area, at the Hayes Mansion, and in the Charles Herrold or the French INTEL videos.

So look for the Archives the next time you see historic materials, or even if not, and come and use the Archives for your own research. The Archives is open on Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. for drop-ins or from Monday through Friday, 9 to 6 p.m. for appointment. For more information, please call 227-2290.

LESLIE MAUSUNGA
ARCHIVIST
ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 1995 PREMIUM BOOK

The San Jose Historical Museum Association is pleased to announce the publication of a book of photographs by the noted local artist and photographer, Andrew P. Hill, as the 1995 premium publication for Association members. The original photograph album, entitled Scenes Along the Line of the San Jose & Los Gatos Interurban Railway, was donated to the Museum Archives by Robert Lee Williams of Ohio in 1990. The album was not dated, but the photographs appear to have been taken about 1904, when the Interurban Railway was under construction. An inscription on the cover of the album indicates it was "Presented to the San Jose Chamber of Commerce by the Company," presumably the San Jose-Los Gatos Interurban Railway Company.

We have chosen to reproduce this album to resemble the original as closely as possible, including all forty-seven of the black & white photographs. Captions have been added, however, to provide additional information for today's audience. There will also be background information on Andrew P. Hill and a map of the Railway route.

This publication has involved the efforts of numerous volunteers who have assisted staff in researching and writing the new material. The volunteers include: Linda Lancaster Boston, Kindra Donald, Frances Fox, Virginia Hamm]emess, Charles Hopkins, Patricia Loomis, Julie O'Keefe, Earline Shields, Judge Mark Thomas, Jr., and William Wulf.

Funding for this publication has been generously provided by a major grant from the Stel]e B. Gross Charitable Trust and also through a grant from the Sourisseau Academy of San Jose State University. Scenes Along the Line of the San Jose & Los Gatos Interurban Railway will be available to all new and returning members of the Museum Association after November 1, 1994. Membership renewal information will be sent to all current members at that time.

Memberships in 1995 will once again begin at $35 for individuals and $45 for families. All 1995 members will receive a copy of the premium publication as well as a subscription to the Association News, free admission to the Historical Museum and the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site during regular hours, invitations to special events, and a 10% discount in The City Store (in both locations) and Vintage Reflections costume bank.

Association Membership Light Tower Scale at 1,750

Our membership is climbing and you're doing a great job! But, we still need to reach the top of the tower by October 31, the end of our 1994 membership year. With your continued continued help in recruiting NEW MEMBERS and/or RENEWING your own membership, you will help raise the tower scale, achieving our 1994 membership goal of 2,400.

Don't forget the membership contest: each time a NEW MEMBER is recruited, you and your friend have an opportunity to participate in a special drawing for "A Night on the Town." The historic Town Theatre has offered two tickets to add to the contest prizes. Please call the Association Office at 277-3780 for contest details. The drawings will be held on October 25, 1994.

Some of the benefits you receive as a current member: Free admission to the new Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site as well as the Historical Museum, a 10% discount in both City Store gift shops, and invitations and notices of events, lectures, and special tours.

Membership in the Association has many benefits, but of all, the most important is the assurance that we can continue to support and promote the preservation of Santa Clara Valley's heritage. Your continued support and interest is greatly appreciated.

Docent Training to Begin

Last year at the time of the Fallon House opening, we sent out our first request for volunteers. Since that time, many have expressed interest in becoming Docents at the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House Historic Site. Until recently, there has not been the need for a large Docent team. Now that we have sufficient attendance to justify asking volunteers for their time, we are setting up a Fall Docent training program.

The first Docent training meeting will be Wednesday, September 21, at 7 p.m. at the Cellar Meeting Room of the Fallon House. All of those who have previously submitted volunteer forms will be contacted. Anyone else who is interested is also welcome to attend. In our first meeting, we will get acquainted with each other and discuss future meeting schedules. There will be three additional meetings which will center on the Peralta family and their home, the Fallon family and their home, and the transition of San Jose from a Spanish Pueblo to an American town. When the training sessions are completed, we will set up practice tours for each individual Docent. New Docents will not be required to lead an actual tour until they are fully prepared.

The Peralta Adobe and Fallon House are a rare combination. Both homes illustrate pivotal points in the City's history and both families were history makers, not passive observers. Don Luis Peralta was the "hands of the Spanish Kings," an agent of power, a powerful official in the Pueblo's history. The other, Thomas Fallon, was the man who claimed San Jose for the United States during the Mexican-American War and ultimately built the great home in the City by 1855. Although both were wealthy, one was pious, modest and respected, the other flamboyant, cavalier and controversial.

Our Docents have found great satisfaction in the public's response to their tours. Our guests are genuinely entranced with the 100 years of changing history personified by Peralta and Fallon. Whether they are out of town visitors or live here, the public has little concept of San Jose's years as the Spanish frontier, full of vaqueros, bullfighting, rodeos, fiestas and ranchos.

So if you are interested in sharing these wonderful histories, please join our Docent Training Program this month. For more information, please call Judy Stabile, Director of the Peralta Adobe & Fallon House, at 993-8182.

WANTED: CALIFORNIA PAINTINGS

We are interested in obtaining important examples by a few outstanding California Artists:

For Cash or Consignment

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<th>William Ritelich</th>
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<td>Arthur Mathews</td>
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<td>E. Charlton Fortune</td>
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<td>Percy Gray</td>
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<td>Dana Berrett</td>
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In the Fairmont Hotel
170 South Market St. • San Jose, CA 95113
TEL: (408) 993-1066 • FAX: (408) 993-0735
PLANNING AHEAD
Remembering SJHMA in Your Will

"Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received—only what you have given: a full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage." — Saint Francis of Assisi

Including a provision in your will, insurance policy or living trust for the San Jose Historical Museum Association allows you to make a substantial contribution to the Museum with lasting impact. Here is some sample language to use, should you choose to include SJHMA in your Estate Planning.

"I give, devise, and bequest to the San Jose Historical Museum Association, located at 1630 Saran Road, San Jose, CA 95112, % of my estate; OR $ _ _, _ _ _ _ _ _ dollar amount of gift or description of property; OR % of the residual of my estate."

Estate Planning is needed to arrange for the careful handling and disposition of what you own. Without a plan, your loved ones are forced to pick up the pieces of a confused financial puzzle when illness strikes or an accident occurs. The toll in added grief and expense is immeasurable. We urge you to take the first step to activate your plans for your loved ones.

You should consult your legal advisor about the best way to provide for SJHMA in your Estate Planning. If you choose to include the Museum Association in your Gift and Estate Giving plans, please let us know so we may acknowledge your generosity. Call Barbara Johnson, Development Director SJHMA for further information at (408) 287-2290.

The historic Mirassou Winery on Aborn Road in San Jose, pictured here, is celebrating 140 years, making it America’s oldest wine making family. Photo courtesy of Mirassou Sales Company.

Businesses in History
Mirassou Winery

When Pierre Pellar journeyed to California in 1854 to seek his fortune as a gold miner, little did he realize his fortune would come in the form of fertile vineyards and fine wines. In 1861, Pierre purchased the original Mirassou vineyard in Evergreen. He combined the rich California soil with grape cuttings from his native France to produce wines that would later achieve a worldwide reputation for excellence. In 1881, Pierre’s oldest daughter Henriette wed neighboring Frenchman and vintner Pierre Mirassou, who joined his father-in-law in the family wine making business. In the years that followed, the second and third generations faced some serious setbacks, including an outbreak of phylloxera in 1894 that destroyed virtually all of California’s vineyards, and the advent of Prohibition in 1919. As the city of San Jose crept beyond the vineyards the family decided to search for additional orchards. In 1960, the Mirassou’s acquired Mission Ranch at Soledad and later became the first to plant vineyards in Monterey County, where they currently hold 800 acres. Prior to 1966, Mirassou had limited distribution outside of California. Now the wines and champagnes are available nationwide, as well as in 12 foreign countries. In its fifth generation, Mirassou is celebrating its 140th anniversary, making it America’s oldest wine making family. Today the winery is owned and managed by brothers Daniel, Peter and Jim Mirassou.

In 1993, Mirassou was nationally ranked as the seventh most award-winning winery and has been in the top 12 most-awarded wineries for the past three years. Their fine, varietal, still wines are produced at the historic San Jose winery on Aborn Road. Los Gatos is home to the century-old champagne cellars.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

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BENEFACTORS
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The Swenson Foundation

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Vallejo Pipe Fitting
Wilson Glen Funeral Chapel
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SUSTAINING
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J. Leigh Beveridge, D.D.S., Inc.
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Law Office of Richard Harris
Innovate-Design Development
Ireland Direct Mail Advertising
Johnson & Higgins
Just Blinds
Lans Guarantee Insurance Services
March Development
Markovitz & Fox
MBA Architects
Anthony J. Marcanton, Attorney at Law
Mirassou Vineyard's
Norlander Chardonnay-Plumtree
Norus Danna High School
Olsen & Pierro
O'Brien Travel Service, Inc.
Papad & Hunt Accountancy Corp.
Peachtree Resources Group
Phant Printing
David J. Powers & Associates
P.R.K., Inc.
Runa Bakery, Inc.
Rybal Cook Tours
San Jose Blueprint Service & Supply Co.
San Jose Construction Co.
San Jose Wine Company
Silicon Development Companies
Stapleton - Spinnings Packaging Company
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William Glenn Transfer Agency
Winchester Mystery House
Richard Whitlam
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I.B.M.
Macy’s
The St. Paul Companies
San Microsystems
Symbiont Communications
T.R.P. Foundation
United Parcel Service
Wessex Consulting

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS
Hugh G. Center Trust
Santa Clara County Community Foundation
David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Stella B. Green Trust Fund
Sweeney-Cunnessy Foundation
The Valley Foundation
Historical Footnotes of the Santa Clara Valley
San Jose Pioneers Who Came With Stevenson's Regiment in 1847
By Jack Douglas

Captain, later General, Naglee was not alone among the men of Stevenson's Regiment in finding the Santa Clara Valley a welcome and profitable place to settle. The record shows that more than twenty men chose this as home when the war with Mexico ended in 1848. The men were recruited in New York with the express purpose that they should stay in California to help develop it as an American territory. Most of them had useful occupations which could lend themselves to settling the sparsely populated countryside, but others, recruited at the last minute off the streets of New York City, were to become troublemakers. Fortunately San Jose had more of the former.

San Jose Pioneer Sherman O. Houghton.
Sherman O. Houghton

A native of New York City, Sherman Houghton enlisted as a Private in Company K of the 1st California Regiment. He rose from private to lieutenant in the course of his two years of service. He was with the small band, under Lieutenant Colonel Burton, who were surrounded near La Paz. They held out for days until relieved by Captain Naglee's cavalry.

After the war Houghton joined several fellow officers in a mercantile establishment to supply the gold miners. After a series of failures, he found himself in San Jose in November 1849 where he formed a partnership with a Mr. Peasley in supplying beer and mutton to the hungry legislators who had arrived that rainy winter for California's first legislative session. Once again his luck failed when the paper script then in use turned out to be almost worthless.

After several attempts to seek the office of City Clerk and Sheriff, Houghton started farming near Milpitas. In 1854 he finally succeeded in being elected to the City Council and served as Mayor of San Jose in 1855 and 1856. During this time he studied for the bar, gave up farming and joined the law firm of T. Wallace and C.T. Ryland.

Houghton married Mary M. Dommer, survivor of the Donner Party, in 1839. Mary died of complications after the birth of their daughter, and a year later he married her younger sister Eliza with whom he had seven children. Houghton gradually rose to prominence in San Jose, becoming a trustee of the Wool Manufacturing Company in 1869 and a Director of the Santa Clara Valley Railroad and Transportation Company in 1870. He served as a Captain of the local militia during the Civil War. In 1871 he was elected to the U.S. Congress and served 1872. He ended his career as a land developer in Long Beach.

Kimball H. Dimmick

Kimball Dimmick, a lawyer by profession, commanded a company of volunteers which he raised in Norwich, New York. Company K, which arrived in San Francisco on the Loo Choo, was assigned to man the garrison at the San Francisco Presidio. From the diary he kept we learn that, unlike most of the other officers, he disliked socializing and spent his time off writing home to his wife and reading.

Adolph Pfister

Adolph Pfister was born in Strasburg, Alsace in 1821. After attending school there, he traveled around Europe for two years before finally settling in New York in 1844. He enlisted in Captain Dimmick's Company K as a landsman. He had several musicians, very often German, who made up the regimental band. The New York Volunteer's Band was stationed at Army headquarters in Monterey.

Upon discharge, Pfister went to the gold fields, filled his pockets with nuggets and returned to San Jose, the new state capitol. A practical man with some business acumen, he made the decision to invest by building the Washington Hotel. He later sold it and went into the mercantile trade. His store provided supplies for the miners and served as an unofficial bank in the early years.

In 1859 Adolph married Louisa Glein, the sister of an old friend from Germany. They had two sons and a daughter and built their home at 370 Main Street (later South 5th) next to the lot where City Attorney Victor Scheller would later build his. Pfister was elected to the City Council and served two terms as mayor of San Jose in the early 1870s. During his term he created the Free Public Library and donated his mayoral salary to get it started. He stated: "It is my desire that, in the establishment of such a library, care should be taken to keep it free from sectarianism, and to make it, in fact as well as name, a public library." He was instrumental in acquiring Alum Rock Park as a city attraction.

A founding member of the Santa Clara County Pioneers, he was one of its oldest survivors at the time of his death in 1905.

Thomas A. Vermeule

Of all the New York Volunteers, Thomas Vermeule's story is perhaps the most curious. A lawyer by profession, he was commissioned a lieutenant in Company E. He arrived in California on the steamship Brauns and months after the main party's arrival. Assigned to garrison duty in Los Angeles, he was on a drunken spree, after which he was charged with deserting his post, damaging private property, assaulting arresting officers and insulting the most prominent family in the area. He admitted his guilt at the court martial and was dishonorably discharged, thereby becoming the only officer in the regiment so dishonored.

Moving to Stockton, he immediately became involved in politics. As a delegate to the constitutional convention he was a strong advocate for making San Jose the capital. With statehood he was elected to the State Senate from Stockton, but resigned that post to be elected Attorney for the newly chartered city of San Jose. He later served as City Treasurer and wrote for the local newspapers until his early death in 1857.

Dead End for William Campbell & David Davis

Some men, when discharged, found it easier to prey on the miners than dig for gold themselves. Such was the case of privates Campbell and Davis. They, along with another desperado named Matthew Freer, robbed and killed two German miners, one of whom talked to the authorities before he died. Ironically, Thomas Fallon had been previously accosted on the road by this same gang, and suspecting that they were up to no good, managed to convince them that they were down on his luck.

Campbell must have been surprised to be brought up on charges before Kimball Dimmick, his old company commander. A jury of prominent pioneers was selected, including: James L. Ord, foreman, Thomas Campbell, James Frazier Reed, Isaac Brannum, F.T. West, Josiah Beldou, James Stokes, R.C. Keys, Samuel Young, Thomas West, Julian Hanks and John Cross. Their verdict for the three men was death by hanging, and the sentence was carried out the following Monday, Dec. 18, 1848. This was a sorry end in a promising place where so many others found wealth and opportunity.


Endowment Fund
DONATIONS

From June 28, 1994 through August 22, 1994, the Endowment Fund of the San Jose Historical Museum received the following donations:

In Memoriam: Sandra Livingston
Clorinda Geoffroy
Pat Condon

In Honor of: Markovits and Fox

In Celebration of: Cathy and Terry Graft's 25th Wedding Anniversary

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, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112-2599. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the person being honored or the family of the deceased.

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The San Jose Historical Museum Association welcomed Andre Hunt to its Board of Directors as a Member-At-Large last January.

Andre's interest in history stems from some of his cultural experiences growing up in Detroit, Michigan. It was there where Andre gained an understanding of different historical perspectives after being exposed to some of the finest museums and galleries in the country.

"Comparatively," Andre says, "San Jose is museum-deficient." However, Andre is confident, that in time, San Jose can be an art and cultural center. Andre says that each local museum must find its niche in order to be successful.

"In a city that is so ethnically diverse, the museums have got to be inclusive of the different groups." Being ethnically diverse, he says, will help the Historical Museum grow because it will be able to "convince the community that there's a reason to celebrate it."

As a first year Board member, Andre is concentrating on gaining a real understanding of the Association's constituency. He has described his role during his first year as to "be seen, not heard," and is currently evaluating where his skills might be of the most benefit to the Museum Association.

Those skills are numerous. After receiving a degree in Communications from the University of Michigan in 1975, a friend convinced him to come to California and work in a Title Insurance company in San Diego. A job promotion brought him to San Francisco, and after three and a half years, Andre ended up in San Jose. Currently, Andre is busy making "residential investment deals" with Holland Properties.

While working in the property business, Andre says he has "learned a lot about everything." But his skills aren't limited to his occupation. Andre is heavily involved in youth sports programs as a coach and manager.

Not only does he coach a San Jose PAL youth football team, but he is also the manager of a PAL baseball team and the assistant coach of a National junior basketball team.

"Many of the lessons I learned in life came from the sports programs I was involved with in my youth," he says. "This is my way of paying back the community."

Andre met his wife Modestine in San Diego, and they have been married for 17 years. The Hunts live in San Jose with their three children.

DeLuz Garage Resurrected by Volunteers

Next time you're wandering around the Museum grounds, be sure to stop at the newly renovated DeLuz Garage at the rear of Dashaway Stables. Thanks to an impressive volunteer effort, the garage now sports a new roof, new exterior paint, new windows, and most impressively, new garage doors. What's more, each architectural detail like new siding and trim, fumigation of the building, perimeter trenching, and seismic retrofitting were completed to make the small 1905 building the newest in a line of fine exhibit structures on the Historical Museum grounds.

What was once viewed as an "eyesore" sitting on a concrete pad now has an estimated finished value of $34,000 thanks in large part to a dedicated group of volunteers and the generous donation of materials and services. The volunteer team, consisting of Jim Zetterquist, Michael Bethke, Jack Rouleau, and Craig Minweasser, donated an estimated 760 hours to finish the project. Add this volunteer labor to approximately $12,000 in donations and the original gift of the building, and the DeLuz Garage Exhibit becomes a nice "gift" to City of San Jose and the San Jose Historical Museum.

Although the DeLuz House and Garage were bequeathed to the Historical Museum Association by Kristina DeLuz in 1986 (the buildings weren't moved to the Museum grounds until February of 1987), plans for the property's restoration focused on the house, leaving the "horseless carriage house" unmoved and unused. As part of the original project, architectural drawings were completed for the garage. In stepped members of the Development Council, headed by Zetterquist, who responded to the call for help and agreed to accept the project as their own. Soon, donations and volunteer labor came pouring in. The Keystone Coffee Company Shareholders and friends, John Luckhardt, Charles Luckhardt, and Darryl Dukas saw the garage as an opportunity to house the Keystone Coffee Truck, and donated a combined $6,000 to the project. Best Electrical Company, Buckles Smith and Consolidated Electrical Distributors volunteered services and donated the electrical wiring, and the fumigation was done, free of charge, by Homestead Exterminators. Combine those donations with free building inspections by Will Johnston, AIA, and the A/E division of the Public Work Department, and the DeLuz Garage renovation was complete.

The four volunteers (Zetterquist, Bethke, Rouleau, and Minweasser) did far more work than was originally anticipated. The garage doors, for example, became much more elaborate. Initially, there were plans for two sliding doors, but then the request came to open the entire front with six panels folding back in order to showcase the Keystone Coffee Truck.

The new exhibit will eventually include the Keystone truck as well as typical garage items from the period. The Keystone truck makes regular runs on the Museum grounds as part of the Historical Museum experience.

San Jose Historical Museum Association News

KEYSTONE COFFEE TRUCK

The Keystone Coffee Truck was donated to the Historical Museum in January 1990 by Dorothy Down Helzer, Henry J. Down, Jr. and John Down Luckhardt in memory of David R. Helzer and Henry J. Down.

The vehicle is a 1913 Ford Model T Delivery Truck. It was purchased from Jackie Cooper of Columbia Pictures, Inc. in 1969 and restored in the early 1970s. According to the donation records, the Keystone Company purchased the truck because it was a duplicate of the vehicle they had used for their deliveries during the early years of this century. They used the duplicate vehicles in parades and car shows, and it proved to be great advertisement for the Company name and product.

The Keystone Coffee Company took great pains in restoring the vehicle to its original state. The Model T Truck has gas lights and non-removable rims on its front and rear tires. It has a solid brass spider (hub legs) on the 15-inch outside diameter steering wheel, Kerosene side lamps with square tops and bases mounted on a firewall, and a brass single twisted bulb horn. The lower half of the front windshield slopes back and the top half folds forward. The Model T Truck is painted red with black fenders and gold lettering that says "Keystone - First Model T to deliver coffee in San Jose" on the sides of the body of the truck. The vehicle is still in very good condition.

Additional information provided by the Model T Ford Club of Southern California in 1972 states that the body of the truck was made by some company other than Ford, as they did not make delivery trucks between 1912 and 1917. The original price tag of the bare chassis truck was probably $410, and the buyer then had another manufacturer install the delivery body.

The Historical Museum was very pleased to receive such a valuable artifact and wishes to say "thank you" to Dorothy Down Helzer and her family for the Keystone Model T Truck and its accompanying historical documentation.

Updated article from the May 1990 Association News, written by Curator Milita Rios-Samaniego
Broadcasting's Forgotten Father: Charles Herrold

Perhaps you have passed right by the Charles Herrold exhibit in the old Coyote Post Office on the Museum grounds without really understanding the significance of Herrold's story to the development of broadcasting. Now a new television documentary by San Jose State professor Mike Adams tells the complete story of this important local pioneer. "Broadcasting's Forgotten Father: The Charles Herrold Story," will be aired by KTEH-54 on Monday, September 19th at 8 p.m.

This unique look at an extremely interesting turn-of-the-century inventor has been three years in the making. Its production was made possible by the Perham Foundation Electronics Museum, San Jose State University, and KTEH-TV.

Portions of the program were filmed on the Historical Museum grounds, with appearances by some of the Museum volunteers. Because Herrold had a wireless college beginning in 1909, his story had to show how the wireless hobby completely captivated the young man who became his students. Drama students from the San Jose State Theatre Arts department portrayed Herrold's students, and the Pacific Hotel, the Trolley, the Light Tower, and one of the Museum's restored homes serve as a perfect backdrop.

Producer Adams visited many locations of significance to Herrold, including his boyhood home on 5th Street near Washington, his wireless college and laboratories on First Street, and his final resting place at Oak Hill Cemetery. The story is told using pictures and film, some of it supplied by the Museum's Archives.

Charles Herrold was certainly a pioneer in the broadcasting industry. He developed his own radio audience and served them with entertainment and information programming on a regular schedule, which we term today broadcasting.

The majority of historians still believe that the idea for broadcasting by radio can be traced to the 1916 "Radio Music Box" memo by RCA's David Sarnoff. It begins: "I have in mind a plan of development which would make radio a 'household utility' in the same sense as the piano or phonograph. The idea is to bring music into the house by wireless. How was this revolutionary idea? A search through the 1916 microfilm records of the San Jose Mercury-Herald reveals at least a half dozen stories about Charles Herrold which clearly prove that since 1912, hundreds of people from San Jose to San Francisco had been regular listeners to music in their homes from Herrold's wireless!

Although radio historians know of Herrold's revolutionary technology, he virtually is unknown to local and mass audiences as a broadcasting pioneer. Why did Charles Herrold disappear from history and how did his new technology work? These questions and more are answered in the new video. Don't miss the opportunity to see it on September 19, or for your own copy, contact: The Electronics Museum of the Perham Foundation, 101 First Street, Suite 394, Los Altos, CA 94022 or call 734-4453.

An Evening of Portuguese Heritage at the Museum

On Wednesday evening, October 5, the San Jose Historical Museum Association, in conjunction with the California Council for the Humanities, will present a film entitled "Flight of the Dove" in the Pacific Hotel Meeting Room. The film, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. and be followed by a facilitated discussion, will be free to the public.

"Flight of the Dove" is a film about the Portuguese-American dairy farming community in the Chico Valley of Southern California and it focuses on that community's most important annual celebration, the Feast of the Holy Spirit. It shows how this festival strengthens participants' sense of being Portuguese, as they share and celebrate their rich cultural heritage. The film speaks to issues of cultural identity, voicing the fears about the loss of their culture and their effort to maintain traditions from their homelands.

Viewing of the film, which is 28 minutes in length, will be followed by a discussion facilitated by San Jose State University Professor Heraldo Da Silva. Dr. Da Silva currently lectures in Portuguese and Brazilian Language, Culture and Literature at SJSU and was a visiting lecturer this summer at the University of California, Santa Barbara. We are fortunate to have a highly qualified humanities scholar to direct the discussion.

The Museum Association is sponsoring this program in anticipation of the ground-breaking for the Portuguese Cultural Museum of the Portuguese Heritage Center which once stood near the present location of Five Wounds Catholic Church on East Santa Clara Street.

The film was produced by the Arts Foundation of San Benardino County and will be shown by the Museum Association through a grant from the California Council for the Humanities. There will be no charge for this program, but we would appreciate reservations at 408-287-2290.

Summer Daze

The lazy haze of summer is almost gone, but the Programming Committee of the Museum Association is celebrating the end of summer with one last enhanced activity day, Hats Galore will be held on Sunday, September 18 on the Museum grounds. The enhanced day will feature children's crafts and storytelling, Noon - 2 p.m.; a children's parade at 2 p.m.; and musical entertainment by the Peninsula Banjo Band, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The craft activity is an opportunity for children to decorate their hat to model in the parade. If children do not bring a hat, they will be able to make and decorate a simple hat with materials provided.

Come to the grounds and enjoy the nostalgic sounds of the Peninsula Banjo Band. If you have not been to the Museum recently, September 18 would be a perfect day to visit. As a member of the Museum Association, you are entitled to free admission. For information, please call 277-3780.

Día de la Raza, from page 1

that will include messages from civic and political figures, businesses, and others who wish to express their support of the family multicultural celebration. For information as to how you can support the event by purchasing space in the program, call Barbara Johnson at 277-3780.

Come and celebrate the Mexican & Spanish heritage of the Santa Clara Valley. The City of San Jose has waived the admission charge for this event.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 10 Mystery Night Party "Valley of the Heart's Deep Fright" 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM Museum Grounds

September 17 Bus Trip to Alcatraz & Fort Point 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM Meet at Japanese Friendship Parking Lot

September 18 Summer Daze "Hats Galore" 12 Noon - 4:30 PM Museum Grounds

October 5 An Evening of Portuguese Heritage 7:00 PM Pacific Hotel Meeting Room

October 9 "El Día de la Raza" Free Day of Family Entertainment 12 Noon - 6 PM Museum Grounds

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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