BRING A FRIEND RECEPTION
WINE AND CHEESE
MARCH 20, 1990

Our 1990 membership drive is off to a grand start with the Board making membership growth a stated goal for this year. With that direction and your support, we anticipate our membership to reach an all-time high in 1990.

To help reach this goal, the Association is hosting a party on Sunday evening, March 20, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Pacific Hotel. The purpose of the evening is to provide you, our members, with a pleasant opportunity for introducing the Historical Museum to your friends. We will also officially celebrate the reopening of our beautiful new Gift Shop.

Complimentary wine and cheese will be served, and Mignon Gibson, Museum Director, will present a slide program highlighting the growth and development of the Historical Museum. Wes Peyton, author of our 1990 premium book, San Jose: A Personal View, will be present to autograph copies of his book.

We urge you to take this opportunity to share the pleasures of Museum membership with your friends. Members in addition to receiving a copy of San Jose: A Personal View, Museum members enjoy many other benefits. These include free admission to the Museum (except for designated special events), a 10% discount in our Shops, invitations to special events and exhibits openings, and notification of lectures, tours and volunteer opportunities.

As a special thank you to our valued supporters, Museum Association members will receive a special 20% discount in the Museum Gift Shop on the evening of March 20.

All current members of the Museum Association will soon receive an invitation to this special event. We look forward to seeing you and meeting your friends!

SACRAMENTO RAILROAD MUSEUM AND TRAIN RIDE
SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1990

WHEN: Saturday, April 7, 1990
WHO: Association Members and their guests
HOW: Royal Coach Bus — leaving and returning to the Phelan Avenue parking lot of the San Jose Historical Museum
TIME: 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Bring a hot beverage and we will serve doughnuts on the bus in the morning.)
COST: Members $26.00 (lunch not included)
Non-Members $31.00 (lunch not included)

We will begin our Sacramento Tour at the California State Railroad Museum. We will view a film introducing us to the history of the railroad in the West. Then we will have a docent led tour of the Museum, which is the largest interpretive Museum of its kind in the world. There are 21 restored locomotives and cars, ranging from the steam-powered 29' C.P. Huntington built in 1863 to the 126 Southern Pacific Cab-forward of 1944. Among the rolling stock is a restored Pullman car and a mail car.

After the tour we will have time to explore the Museum at our leisure, visit the Central Pacific Passenger Station in Old Sacramento and other historical buildings. Also at this time we may choose from the many unique restaurants in Old Sacramento to have our lunch.

We will gather in the early afternoon at the Central Pacific Freight Depot to take a seven-mile train ride on one of the restored trains.

Reservations for this trip are limited and refunds will be made only when there is a waiting list for the trip. Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association (SJHMA) and sent (along with the coupon below and a SASE) to the San Jose Historical Museum, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. Attn: Earline Shields.

SACRAMENTO, RAILROAD MUSEUM: SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1990
(7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

NAME: ____________________________
ADDRESS: _________________________
PHONE: ___________________________
NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS _________
RESERVATION CONFIRMED: [ ]

See Monterey Adobe Tour Page 8

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM
635 PHELAN AVENUE
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95112

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Welcome to the Rotary Club of San Jose
The Rotary Club of San Jose is targeting March 1990 as the date they'll take occupancy of the Gordon House. Already the Gordon House is making a major impact on the northeast corner of the Historical Museum grounds. The house is an example of a rehabilitation versus a strictly historic restoration. The Gordon House will have its headquarters' offices there, allowing the public access to see the interior at scheduled times. The exterior will serve to draw the Museum grounds while drawing the public towards our entrance area.

The Trolleys are on Track
It was with a heavy heart that the trolley restoration volunteers bid goodbye to one more trolley and shipped it downtown for the Transit Mall. Car 931, the Australian car, was retitled on January 26, 1990. It represents the fourth out of a total of six cars to be restored for the downtown trolley Corporation. Car 931 is quite distinctive from the other trolleys, being of a later vintage, much lower to the ground, and with the conductor separated by glass from the riders.

The trolleys are one special feature in downtown San Jose that is blending the old with the new through the efforts of the Redevelopment Agency and the business community. For those who "haven't been downtown in years," it is well worth the visit and one can ride the historic trolleys for only 25c an hour.

Call the Historical Museum for downtown walking tour information.

Mignon Gibson
Museum Director

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Board Goals Set
In January the Association's Board of Directors agreed to establish a Board Retreat. Through intense interaction we accomplished what we set out to do, including the adoption of a Mission Statement for the Association which states:

"The purpose of the San Jose Historical Museum is to support the San Jose Historical Museum and to promote the preservation of the Santa Clara Valley's heritage."

Goals for the next three years were determined:

1. To increase membership by 10% a year.
2. To actively support completion of the Museum Master Plan.
3. To promote the Museum.
4. To implement on-going lobbying efforts.

We even came up with a slogan:
"Preserve yesterday for tomorrow."

To help us perform more efficiently and accomplish our stated goals, several committees have been established which will involve more people and give us a broader working base. If you would like to volunteer for a committee, please call Kathleen Muller, Museum Board secretary.

With all of us working so well together, we will be able to keep up with the growth that is occurring. Things are only going to get busier.

Plan for the Past
At our Annual Board Luncheon on January 23, we had the opportunity to learn about the "Plan for the Past." Judy Shabale, our chairwoman on the City Council, reviewed the highlights of the Plan as developed by the Mayor's Committee for the Past. Each of us read a copy of the written Plan. (I noticed later the City had officially adopted the Plan on that auspicious day, October 11, 1986.)

Gift Shop Remodel
By now many of you have seen (or at least read about) the remodeling of the Book/Gift Shop in the Pacific Hotel. It's hard to believe we moved out and got back in operation with hardly a glitch and on schedule! Carol Carlson, Shop Manager, should be congratulated on the smoothness of this transition which left hardly any "down" time.

Wine & Cheese Reception
This year is off to a great start. I enjoyed meeting new members at the new Member Orientation on February 24 and look forward to visiting with all of you at the Wine & Cheese Reception on March 20.

Patricia Boro McDonald
Association President

FROM THE EDITOR
Progress on Development
As reported in Patty McDonald's "President's Message," one of the four stated goals of the Museum Association Board of Directors in 1990 is the further development of the Historical Museum.

Those of you who have been Association members for some time know that the Museum's Master Plan is both ambitious and exciting. It calls for a total of 74 buildings, combining living, working exhibits with commercial entities in an historical configuration.

The Development Council of the Association was organized to provide community input to the City of San Jose, through the Association Board of Directors. To accomplish their work in 1989, the Council Chairman, Craig Minnesweaver, and his Steering Committee have divided the Council into committees. These standing committees, composed of staff, Council members and other interested volunteers, will address specific areas of concern including:

- Landscape issues
- Collections
- Interiors/Exteriors/Exhibits

Master Plan
It is our hope that the committees will have the opportunity to further the Master Plan by identifying issues to be addressed and gaining a greater understanding of the possibilities for further development of the museums in specific areas, identifying issues to be addressed and gaining a greater understanding of the possibilities for further development of the museums in specific areas, identifying issues to be addressed and gaining a greater understanding of the possibilities for further development of the museums in specific areas. This is particularly important this year as we continue to work on updating the Master Plan for the Historical Museum and Kelley Park.

Kathleen Muller
Association Administrator

IN THE COLLECTIONS
Artifacts, Objects and Things

Museums collect, preserve, research, exhibit and educate. Most of these activities are centered on artifacts. These tangible objects are what museum curators, on behalf of their institutions, collect, preserve, exhibit and use to educate.

In the process of collecting, each item must be evaluated. At the San Jose Historical Museum, we ask such questions as: How does this object relate to the history of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley? A part of this evaluation is establishing the physical condition of the object. To whom does it belong? Who used it? How was it used? When and how did it get here? What is its significance? Without the answers to these questions, we can't determine how wonderful or otherwise desirable the object does not belong in our Museum's collection.

Once potential eligibility for inclusion in the collection has been established, a number of other factors must be considered. The condition of the object is very important. It is not reasonable to accept objects in questionable condition (broken, parts missing, deteriorated) which may render them meaningless. Materials which are hazardous to the collection or the people (live ammunition, for example) also cannot be accepted.

Preservation of the objects in the collection is another very important activity. It is through caring for and preserving artifacts that museums have collections to exhibit and interpret. Preservation activities include maintaining appropriate records on each artifact. This includes the history of the object before and after it was acquired by the museum. It is this form of research that will provide us with information about objects that cause objects to deteriorate. Storing and exhibiting objects in a stable environment can significantly extend their life. Artifacts also need protection from hazards, such as pests and water from broken pipes or leaking roofs, as well as from disasters, such as earthquakes.

(Continued on page 3)
FROM THE ARCHIVES

Sitting Up the Seismic Event

It's now nearly six months since the occurrence of what officials have dubbed the "seismic event," but what we all call "The Earthquake." In that time normal life has resumed, but a heightened concern has been raised regarding disaster response. In our Archives the reassessment of storage, safety, exhibition techniques, and other concerns is now a much higher priority.

The San Jose Historical Museum was very fortunate that the effect of the earthquake was so minimal. Because of the general wave motion, rather than the jerking and jarring experienced in Santa Cruz and Los Gatos, most of our collection (in the exhibits, in storage and in archives) rode through the earthquake.

Other local institutions' collections were devastated. The Santa Cruz Historical Trust collection, which was stored in a red-tagged (condemned) building, had to be completely moved. Exposed to light, building damage and rain and with the possibility of additional damage due to aftershocks, the staff and volunteers of that institution evacuated materials, housing them throughout the Santa Cruz area. The Stanford Libraries and Museum, the San Jose State Library and the San Jose Public Libraries also suffered. Exhibits were badly damaged; papers and books dumped on the floors; stacks swayed and collapsed. Some of these institutions are just now reopening to the public.

A concerted effort is being made by local museums to learn from the experience, to support those who have suffered, and to prepare and protect our collections for the next "big one." Our curatorial staff has worked with the Santa Clara County Museum's program of preserving damaged materials. The Registrar's Committee of the Western Region, which is a professional subgroup of the American Association of Museums, has already held a workshop on the earthquake to survey the damage in the area and to review ways to help local libraries and museums protect collections.

We are assessing some of the problems at the San Jose Historical Museum site: how to secure materials on display without hindering the interpretation of the materials; how to secure artifacts in storage and documents in Archives; and how to make the areas in which people work safer. We are also looking at the exhibit buildings to determine if they may have suffered hidden damage and which areas need strengthening.

In the larger picture, we are also looking at the community and impact of the "seismic event." There are concerns for some of the damaged historic structures, such as the Courthouse in Downtown San Jose and the historic residences and school buildings. Local plant, agencies, as well as our historical commissions, are concerned with the potential loss of our historic structures.

In addition, we are anxious to preserve the community's reactions and recollections of this profound experience. With the coming of the anniversary of the event one of April 18, 1906, we can achieve the various experiences. We are collecting earthquake material then and now. If you have materials, photographs, or a written account of your experiences, please send the information to the Archives for the Earthquake collection.

Charles Morrow
Docent Council President

MUSEUM STAFF

Migram Gibson Director

Office

Wanda Poe Senior Staff

Jane Ingersoll Clerk/Typer

Archives

Leslie Masunaga Archivist

Education

Virginia Beck Curator of Education

Dolce Jansen Volunteer Coordinator

Nancy Freeman Project Manager

Volunteers

Everts

Maggie Duran Museum Events

Collections

Milita Rios-Samaniego Curator

Sarah Heigho Nunes Curator

Nancy Valley Curator

ASSOCIATION STAFF

Kathleen Muller Administrator and Services

Carolyn Gil Gagnon Administrative Asst.

Carol Ouellette Bookkeeper

Earl Shields Membership Coordinator

Shops

Carol Carlson Manager

Anita Kazuhara Scheduler/Supervisor

GIFT SHOP REOPENING

The Museum Association's Gift Shop in the Pacific Hotel was beautifully relocated during the first two months of this year and once again is open to serve Museum visitors.

The new configuration of furnishings in the Shop, designed by Patricia McDonald of McDonald & Moore Ltd., allows us to feature our extensive selection of books on California and local history. A row of custom-made bookcases hold hundreds of interesting volumes on many topics.

Lighted display units in the front windows of the Shop show off antique reproduction dolls and other appealing gift items. Jewelry cases display smaller gifts, jewelry, and collectibles.

The freshly painted walls and the refinished hardwood floor provide a backdrop for the framed prints and maps, vintage-style toys, and unique selection of greeting cards.

Plan to visit the Museum Gift Shop the next time you come to the Museum and join us at the official opening to be celebrated at the Association's Wine and Cheese Reception on March 30.

The next time you are looking for an interesting or unusual book, or a unique gift for someone special, visit the Museum Gift Shop. You won't be disappointed.

Photo by Virginia Hammerness

There were 52 when we went through the gate, and there were 52 when we went home.

For the second year in a row, children from the subdivision just south of the Museum grounds were guests of the Museum at Victorian Christmas. The youngsters enjoyed the crafts, hot dogs and soda pop, trolley rides and snowball fights during their visit. They went home with sacks full of goodies, including books and toys.

The event was again the result of the generosity of several organizations and individuals. Generous donations were received at the Christmas party of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara County Fair Association and the San Jose ARGouna Historical Society. Individuals included: County Fair Manager Al Hay and his wife, Marilyn; Fair Association President Mel Estrada and his wife, June; Keith Crosby; Barbara Durr; Joan and Dean Helms; Edith Ralls; Virginia McCay; Kathy Muller; Gerry Orson; Ruth Patton and Jeanette Robert.

Hopefully, next year the entertainment program for little folks can be expanded, and then we will be back again.

Patricia Loomis & Virginia Hammerness

ONE NIGHT ONLY

20% DISCOUNT IN GIFT SHOP

Join us on the evening of March 20 for the BRING A FRIEND RECEPTION!!!
MUSEUM AUXILIARY

“NOTHING TO WEAR…”

“How strange are the ways of the world — only think!
Its mortals might never despair!
Were it not for the sigh that is heard to assure
When we find we have nothing to wear…”

Vintage Reflections, the historical costume group sponsored by the San Jose Historical Museum Association, has adapted this comic ballad written in 1857 by Septimus Winner as its theme song. (Winner also wrote Listen to the Mocking Bird.) The irony of its reference to an extremely well-dressed young lady is fully appreciated by anyone who has observed the activities of this hardworking and dedicated part of the Museum volunteer community. It is represented on the Auxiliary Board by Nidia Fonseca this year, but most of the volunteers in this area give their time in addition to a primary commitment in other Auxiliary, Docent and Association roles.

Hundreds of hours are spent by these people in producing and maintaining a rental “costume bank” of authentic reproduction clothes for the community and Museum volunteers to wear at historical events in and out of the Museum. Regular monthly workshops are presented where costume experts demonstrate and explain construction and wear of period dress; these events attract most all Museum volunteers to present themselves in an attractive, authentic way to the public while they serve as docents, staff and in many special events both on and off the Museum grounds.

Norm Waters and Colleen Kelley. Photo by Charles Prevost

A corpus of Vintage Reflections members periodically present entertaining historical fashion shows in the community which have won an enviable reputation for professional standards and polished elegance. These shows have reached the San Jose Country Club, San Jose Women’s Club and the California History Center at De Anza College in recent months. Future shows are planned for the San Jose Eills Club and local church groups.

A notable feature of the recent show at the Women’s Club was a group of models representing the Club’s founders, and the fact that a few of the costume escorts were descendants of early Club members.

Proceeds from these shows and from costume rentals are used to help maintain and expand the costume bank. It is hoped that eventually some of the costumes in the Museum’s collection can be replicated by talented members of Vintage Reflections for rental use or display in future events, and that costume ideas can be made readily available to volunteers who “put their best foot forward” as they meet the public in various roles.

Mailbox

P.A.T.R.I.C.I.A.

A.T.&T. Foundation

INSCRIBED

General Electric Foundation

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

IBM Corporation

Hugh Stuurt Center Charitable Trust

Macy’s Gift Program

Santa Clara County Community Foundation

TWB Foundation

Stalla B. Gross Trust Fund

Westinghouse Electric Fund

Soutsease Academy

For personal enjoyment, Triah reads novels, goes to the movies, spends time with friends, and gets outdoors. Over Christmas, she and her 17-year-old daughter, Mindy, traveled to Florence, Italy, to visit her other daughter, Nancy, who is studying there for her senior year.

Closer to home, Triah hopes the dream of fully developing the Museum’s Master Plan and adding exhibits to the Museum will become a reality. She would like to see additional special events at the Museum — perhaps a fundraiser or summer concert series — to complement Living History Days, Victorian Christmas and the Fourth of July celebration.
MARGARET MORTEN

One of the most significant firsts for women in Santa Clara County, though unheralded at the time, was the appointment of Margaret Morten to our District Attorney’s staff on January 9, 1947. Since the creation of the office almost a century before, only males had served.

She was appointed by District Attorney Leonard Avilla (later Superior Court Judge) who made the following comment for the San Jose Mercury-Herald on the day of her nomination:

"I believe there is a definite place in the work of the district attorney for a woman deputy, and I see no merit in the old-time prejudices against women in the professions or in public service. Women have proved time and again that they can take their place in those fields without inferiority merely because of sex.

"Morten comes to us as a highly recommended young lawyer, and I am happy to welcome her to our staff."

Margaret Morten. Photo courtesy of Judge Mark Thomas, Jr.

Here is a portion of an article about her written by the patronizing style of the day that appeared on the January 27, 1949, edition of that newspaper:

Morten, small, blonde and petite, has been a lady lawyer since 1944, and with the District Attorney’s office since 1947.

Her specialty is trial work. She likes to handle criminal cases, and has proved a match for members of the opposite sex many times.

Morten was born in Canada, but came to California when she was two. Her school days were mostly spent in moving, she says, and she wouldn’t try to name all the places in Northern California that she’s lived in.

Along with a regular crowd from the County Courthouse, she commutes to San Jose every working day by train, sometimes trying cases in Palo Alto Justice Court before coming to her office in the afternoon.

Morten has no particular reason for getting into legal work. She majored in political science while an undergraduate at Stanford and became interested in the courses which had one work in them and ended up by going on to law school.

Morten received her AB degree from Stanford University in 1943 and her LL.D. from the Stanford University Law School in 1944. Later that year she was admitted to the Bar and joined the San Francisco law firm of Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro (which now has offices in San Jose).

She soon found, however, that her true interest was in public law and, therefore, applied for a position in the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s office. In 1963, she was appointed by District Attorney N.J. (Nap) Manard to the post of Chief Trial Deputy District Attorney. (It was not until 1989 that a woman held a comparable position when Paula Gutty was named Assistant District Attorney by District Attorney Leo immelman.)

In 1958, Morten married Morris Feinleib, a technical engineer with Varian, resigning her position in 1960 to raise a family. She passed away on January 17, 1976, after a lengthy illness, leaving her husband and two children.

Looking back to the forties, Morten must have faced a real challenge in dealing with the virtually all-male Bar Association, judiciary and police force. The writer, who was privileged to try a case against her and to deal with her on a number of matters, remembers Morten as a steady, firm prosecutor and very pleasant person. District Attorney Louis Bergna’s comment in her obituary in the January 20, 1976, issue of the San Jose Mercury sums it up best: "We never had a better lawyer in the office."

It would not be until 1963 with the appointment of Susannah Convery that a woman would again become a deputy of the local District Attorney’s office. By 1990, 55 of the 150 attorneys in the office are women.

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REMINDER TO ALL

Get out your red pen and May calendar and circle May 19 and 20! Preparations for Living History Days 1990 are already underway and the event promises to be educational and fun-filled once again, as we turn back the clock to a simpler age.

For the first time this year, members of the Museum Association have the opportunity to purchase advance admission tickets to Living History Days for 10% less than the general public. Purchasing advance tickets not only saves you money, but will enable you to bypass long ticket lines on either May 19 or 20 and walk right in. Tickets are good for one day on either Saturday or Sunday so you needn’t decide which day you can go until the weekend of the event.

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

San Jose Historical Museum
Attn: Living History Days Tickets
635 Phelan Avenue
San Jose, CA 95112

Make the most of your Museum membership. Join us for Living History Days and take advantage of this special offer for members only. MAIL IN DEADLINE: MAY 10

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ADVANCE TICKET ORDER FORM

1990 LIVING HISTORY DAYS

Name:
Address:
City: Zip: Phone:

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

- Adult tickets (18 and over) @ $6.00 each =
- Senior’s ticket (55+ years) @ $4.00 each =
- Children’s ticket (6-17 years) @ $3.00 each =
- Family Pass (2 adults + up to 3 children) @ $15.00 each =

Total amount at regular price: $
Less 10%: $
Total amount enclosed: $

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DE ANZA HOTEL PROJECT

Jack Douglas, a member of our Advisory Board and the man responsible for Special Collections at San Jose State University, is gathering materials for an article on the De Anza Hotel to be published when the restored De Anza Hotel reopens later this year.

Would anyone who has memories, photos, or memorabilia of the De Anza please contact Jack by leaving a message at (408) 994-2749. Thank you.
ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

During the months of January and February 1990, contributions were made to the Museum Association’s Endowment Fund/ Special Projects Fund in honor of the following individuals:

In Memoriam

Mary A. Costa
Victoria C. Lloyd
Gail A. Peterson
Charles Shields
Robert Travis

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, 635 Paloman Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. A letter of acknowledgment will be sent to the person being honored or the family of the deceased.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

SAN JOSE, SILICON VALLEY USA, is today the third largest city in California and the twelfth largest city in the United States. In the 1970s, San Jose was known as the Garden City; and in the 1980s and 1990s, it was the heart city in the Valley of Heart’s Delight.

San Jose is a special place, with a long and distinctive history that stretches from the days of the early Pueblo and San Jose’s reign as the State capital, to the present.

One of the primary roles of the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission is to identify and preserve the history of San Jose so present and future generations can share the rich history of their community.

Hennessy Historic District

On February 6, 1990, the San Jose City Council designated the historic areas of San Jose as a historic district. The Hennessy Historic District is located between Second and Sixth streets and Julian and Empire. This area of over 250 San Victor- rian residences constructed prior to the turn of the century is situated adjacent to our downtown core area.

Together with the St. James Square Historic District, the Santa Clara Street Commercial Historic District, and the City Plaza, the Hennessy Historic District will help to tie the past to the present in the center of our modern city.

During 1989 the Commission also recommend- ed historical designation be given to sites in the downtown, Blossom Valley, Almaden and Evergreen areas. Each area of our city has a unique history and sites to be preserved. The Commission will continue to selectively identify these locations and recommend their preservation.

Earthquake Follow-up

The State of California has adopted regulations pursuant to unreinforced masonry buildings. Cities were required to identify those structures within their community by January 1990. San Jose has over 190 unreinforced masonry buildings, many of which are, or can, qualify as historical structures. The City Council is establishing an unreinforced masonry building advisory committee to review the regulations and make recommendations. One of the eleven committee members will be an Historic Landmarks Commissioner.

All potentially hazardous buildings in our com- munity need to be identified and reinforced for the safety of the community. The committee will recommend mitigation procedures in a manner which allows for owners to comply and protect the historic features and uses of the structures. The committee will also review incentive programs to assist in the compliance efforts.

Landmarks Commission Meetings

The San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in Room 204 in the City Hall building. All are welcome to attend.

William A. Thomas, President
Historic Landmarks Commission
HISTORICAL FOOTNOTES
OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY

By Jack Douglas

THE 1918 FLU EPIDEMIC

The 1918 flu epidemic disrupted the lives of almost every citizen of San Jose. Before it was over, a fifth of the population would become ill and 1000 would die.

Called a pandemic because of the worldwide implications, this infection, often leading to pneumonia, could be responsible for the deaths of tens of millions of people. Its timing could not have been worse, coming as it did during the final months of World War I. Mass movements of troops and refugees contributed to its rapid spread. Dubbed the "Spanish influenza" (there was a major outbreak in Spain), it spread in three waves during 1918-1919. The first, in the spring of 1918, affected Europe but was hardly noticed in the United States. The second and most virulent came in October and caught American health authorities unprepared. It subsided in December but returned in January and February of 1919.

News of the epidemic landed on the pages of the Mercury Herald on October 9: "Influenza Steals County."

Overnight, 153 cases were reported. The next day, 400 cases were reported. By October 11, a Board of Health bulletin warned: "Influenza is now epidemic in many eastern cities. San Jose should not be alarmed, but should help prevent the disease, if possible."

On October 11, the paper announced 136 new cases with five deaths. The Board of Health decreed that all churches and schools be closed. Later, moving pictures houses, the YMCA pool and the library were added to the list. Another notice during health bulletin told the readers to "take precautions, but don't worry."

An influenza command center, under the direction of City Health Officer Dr. W.C. Bailey was set up in the Old Theatre Building on North First. From here various directives were given, and a continual appeal for volunteer nurses was made. Many teachers did nursing duty. The City was divided up into sectors to be patrolled by members of the Women's Army, a group of society matrons whose original purpose was the solicitation of monies during Liberty Loan drives. Every home was investigated for possible cases. There were reports of a constant entree into poorer neighborhoods, so these were ministered to by the younger and plumper women of the Good Cheer Club. These women were experienced in helping the town's needy, and they soon had volunteer car drivers lined up to transport the sick to the hospitals.

Numerous steps were taken to stop the spread of the flu. Streets were washed down regularly, coins were sterilized and paper money was fumigated. Sheriff A.B. Langford told the police to avoid sending anyone to jail whenever possible. Many of the sick were administered to but later evidence showed that they were of little good.

The severe shortage of hospital beds inspired Morris Bailey, President of the Normal School, to offer to transform part of his school into a convalescent hospital. Under the supervision of School Physician Dr. Jay C. Elder, the training school building rooms were quickly transformed into hospital wards for sick children. The home economics faculty and students under the direction of Elizabeth McGovern ministered to the patients.

A constant flow of beds, linen, clothing and other necessities were donated to keep the operation going. Miss Beache Cole, English teacher at the high school handled the logistics of acquiring thousands of dollars worth of free food from local businesses. A Mercury headline summed up a positive aspect of this crisis: Service develops San Jose's vision, workers who helped combat epidemic get knowledge of needs of poor.

The flu forced the closure of many local universities, including Stanford and Cal, but the doughty students at the University of the Pacific (then in San Jose) kept at their studies. To answer criticism of this, the president assured the press that each student's temperature was taken before he or she entered the classroom.

The introduction of the gauze face mask was probably the most beneficial innovation in the war on influenza. Although prescribed early on as a sure preventative, people were slow to accept the idea of appearing incognito in public. An influenza bulletin warned: 'It's better to look 'funny' than perfectly natural." Officer Jackson, the downtown patrolman, was ordered to cite anyone not wearing a mask. The Sunday Mercury Herald of November 3, under a headline "Miss Beache Cole," featured a rogues gallery of photos of prominent locals in their masks. The ladies were laced trimmed masks and the men had mustaches and beards covered.

Th e accompanying article began: Mask etiquette hasn't developed to such a point that the careless diner knows what to do with his facial covering when he slips into a restaurant, the cafe teria or O'Brien's for the meal that he must eat away from home. Mike E. Griffin of the D.A.'s office is the leading exponent of one group of people who are in favor of hanging the mask on the door as one goes into action at the table. This custom admittedly has its advantages and is especially recommended for absent-minded men, as it is difficult to forget that the mask is attached to the ear when one goes into the street from the eating place; difficulties with Officer Jackson.

By late December national health authorities had discovered that communities that didn't require masks had the same percentage of cases of flu as those that did. Local authorities continued to encourage their use however.

The disastrous autumn wave of flu began to subside as the November 11 Armistice Day approached. Crowds began massing for victory parades, parties and community singing. The final wave of infection in January 1919 brought back most of the earlier restrictions, but the election of the ending of the war seemed to mitigate the suffering and loss.

It is perhaps ironic that a plague which in a short time could bring about such universal sorrow and death could be so quickly forgotten. The so-called "Great War" called on the efforts of many, but the influenza epidemic required a similar sacrifice from the people of San Jose. They rose to the occasion with a spirit and dedication of which one could be proud.

SHH Collection: Children's Ward, State Normal School, during Flu Epidemic.

NG SHING GUNG

The Building on the Horizon

Ng Shing Gung is, indeed, nearer to a construction start:

- The Chinese Historical and Cultural Project has raised $1 million for construction.
- The contract with the City of San Jose was approved by the City Council.
- The Chinese Historical and Cultural Project has entered into contract with Marvin Bam burg and Associates as architect for the project.

Mary has been a long-time active member of the Museum Association and is presently engrossed in the Temple project to ensure a construction start as soon as possible.

Presently, Museum Curators, Sarah Nunes and Nancy Valley, are working with the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project on the Exhibit Development Committee. Also serving on this Committee is Bill Roop of Archaeological Services. The goal of the Exhibit Development Committee is to develop exhibits which reflect the history, culture and contributions of the Chinese to the Santa Clara Valley.

"A Legacy to be Remembered"

As part of the fundraising program in support of exhibits and altar restoration, the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project presents "A Legacy to be Remembered: A Spring Showcase of the Arts."

The benefit will feature a celebrity artist, Chinese artifact exhibit, international fashions, a light buffet and music. Neiman Marcus at Stanford Shopping Center in Palo Alto will host the event on April 21, 1990, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Cost per person is $40. Make your check payable to CHCP and mail to Mildred Chin, 854 Seaview Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94303. For further information please call (415) 926-5912 or (408) 284-8432.

The Museum Association and the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project look forward to planning ceremonies to break ground for the Ng Shing Gung building. Check the May issue of the Association News for the date and time.

Jean Jensen
Development Council
CHCP Board of Directors

"20 Years Teaching Experience"

VIOlin LESSONS

Former San Francisco Professional

Sen Jose Studio
Catherine Muly
(408) 925-2110

Photo from 1919 San Jose State Normal School Yearbook.
MYSTERY PHOTO

Please help us identify this residence and individuals. Contact Leslie Masunaga in the Archives 287-2990 with your mystery solution.

ADOBE TOUR
“GARDENS OF MEMORIES”
MONTEREY
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1990

WHEN: Saturday, April 28, 1990
WHO: Association Members and their guests
HOW: Greyhound Charter Service leaving and returning to the Phelan Avenue parking lot of the San Jose Historical Museum at 2:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
TIME: 2:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
COST: Members $31.00 (light lunch included) Old Whaling Station
Non-Members $36.00 (light lunch included)

The Monterey History & Art Association will be our host for their Annual Adobe Tour. This year’s theme is “Gardens of Memories.” Approximately 25 historic buildings and gardens are open for viewing; many of them for this day only. The buildings are beautifully restored and furnished with early artifacts and heirlooms. Hostesses in period costumes are available to talk about each structure’s history.

This will be a self-guided walking tour which includes a Baker’s Breakfast in the Memory Garden of the Pacific House, light lunch at the Whaling Station, and tea in the garden of the Casa Serrano. There will be a complimentary trolley service that can take you from area to area to the next set of homes.

Reservations for this trip are limited and refunds will be made only when there is a waiting list for the trip. Checks should be made payable to the San Jose Historical Museum Association (SJHMA) and sent along with the coupon below and a SASE to the San Jose Historical Museum, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. Attn: Earline Shields.

TROLLEY CAR 531

Another trolley restoration has been completed by the San Jose Trolley Corporation. Trolley Car 531 from Melbourne, Australia, was completed on January 15.

According to Master Car Builder, Fred Bennett, internationally historic Car 531 made only one trip that day on the tracks of the San Jose Historical Museum in order that photographs could be taken for a postcard and poster. The following day, the car was trucked to the Light Rail maintenance yard. This is the fourth car restored in the Trolley Barn for the Transit Mall.

The Car was dedicated and christened on Friday, January 26, in Downtown San Jose with opening ceremonies coinciding with Australia Day. Included in the event were free inaugural rides on all historic trolleys. To meet this dedication date, Trolley Corporation volunteers, including Howard Frassetto and George Kuen, put in many extra hours.

Work by volunteers continues on the next trolley, Car No. 1, which originally ran in Sacramento and later ran in Santa Cruz.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Name:
Mailing Address: (Bus.) Phone:
Signature:
Zip: (Res.) Phone: For Credit Cards
Gift of: Please indicate method of payment. [ ] Check [ ] Cash [ ] Master Card [ ] Visa
Expiration Date: (Please list all digits from your charge card)
Method of Payment:
Office Use Only
Book sent in/d:
Sold by:

March 30, 1990
"Bring a Friend"
Wine and Cheese Reception
Pacific Hotel
7-9 PM
April 7, 1990
Bus Trip to Railroad Museum and Train Ride
Sacramento
April 21, 1990
CHCIP Event
"Legacy to be Remembered"
Nelson Marcus, Palo Alto
7-11 PM
April 28, 1990
Bus Trip to Monterey
"Gardens of Memories"
Adobe Tour