THE MARJORIE PIERCE STATEHOUSE FUND

Marjorie Pierce, a member of the Museum Association's Advisory Board and long time friend of the San Jose Historical Museum, recently retired from a distinguished career with the San Jose Mercury News. As a tribute to her and in gratitude for her many contributions to our community, a group of her friends have established The Marjorie Pierce Statehouse Fund, which will one day provide the means to house the reconstructed capitol building in San Jose.
San Jose was California's first state capitol, chosen in 1849 by the First Constitutional Convention meeting in Monterey. The first statehouse building, site of the meetings of the state legislature which convened in San Jose, was completed in 1850 by the 1849 Legislature. The second capitol building was finished in 1860 and the present statehouse was completed in 1930. It is the oldest capitol building still standing.

VISIT
The Turn-of-the-Century-Town of Benicia

The State Capitol Building and the Camel Barns
WHEN: Friday, July 29, 1988
WHO: Association members and their guests
HOW: Royal Coach Tours
Leaving and returning to the Phelan Avenue parking lot of the San Jose Historical Museum
TIME: 8:00 A.M. - 5:15 P.M.
COST:
Members $16.50 (lunch not included)
Non-Members $20.00 (lunch not included)

San Jose had labored hard to attract the designation as State Capitol — but in 1849 the town was small, poor, unincorporated pueblo without a single structure large enough to house a legislature. The two-story adobe hotel was then under construction. At 40 x 60 feet it would have been capable of serving as the statehouse if the town could raise enough money to buy it. The purchase price of $34,000 was finally provided by a coalition of nineteen public spirited citizens and the Legislature was convened at their new statehouse on December 17, 1849.

English visitor William Kelly described the modest quarters where both the Senate and the Assembly met. The Senate occupied the downstairs where "each member had a rush bottomed arm-chair and a small desk with stationery, which was in much requisition...the floor was covered with a number of little carpets, of various shapes and patterns, looking as if every member contributed a patch to make up the robe, which had quite a mosaic appearance, the idea of antiquity being assisted by the threadbare state of the whole."

The Assembly, which met upstairs, had a room with better light and ventilation, but only rush matting on the floor.
The winter of 1849-50 was apparently one of the worst in San Jose's history. Rain was incessant and the resulting mud and poor travel conditions occasionally made a journey impossible. Despite the weather and other

INSIDE ASSOCIATION NEWS
The Marjorie Pierce Statehouse Fund
Tour of Benicia
Staff and Volunteer Reports
Introducing Sue Robbins
Living History Days 1988
Annual Corporate Members
Book Review: Kill Devil Hill
J.J. Montgomery: Local Flight Pioneer
San Jose City Council, 1900
Historical News Items
Volunteer Spotlight on You
Endowment Fund Donations
Carol Henning: The Girl From the Class of '24
Endowment Fund Purchases
Hike on Mine Hill, New Almaden
Mystery Photo
Tour of Alcatraz and Treasure Island
Dates to Remember

BENICIA, July 29, 1988

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE: ______________________ NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: ________ 

RESERVATION CONFIRMED: ___

BOARD BUS IN THE PHELAN AVENUE PARKING LOT
See page 8 for August trip to Alcatraz

Mark Thompson, weather reporter with the KRON-TV 4 evening news team in front of a 1927 Eagle biplane at Living History Days. Photo by Jackie Fickett.

San Jose Historical Museum
635 Phelan Avenue
San Jose, California 95112

Address Correction Requested
ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
New Exhibits and Building Restorations

One of the highlights of every Association president's tenure is the opening of a new exhibit that might be the result of years of planning and preparation. This year we are fortunate to have two buildings currently being restored under the direction of the San Jose Historical Museum Association. Both the Stevens Ranch Fruit Barn and the David and Lucille Packard Foundation and the California Council for the Humanities.

This project is jointly funded by grants from the County of Santa Clara, Historical Heritage Community Development Block grants, and funds from the San Jose Rotary Club, the San Jose Historical Museum Association; the Stella B. Gross Chair in History, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation and the California Council for the Humanities.

The exhibit "Passing Farms: Enduring Values" was designed and developed by Yvonne Jacobson and donated to the San Jose Historical Museum and will be displayed in the Barn along with appropriate equipment and exhibits.

The Zanker House, which is completed, will house a collection of George Washington manuscripts and memorabilia donated to the Museum by Joseph F. Jenkins. This project is partially supported by the San Jose Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services and the Capital Improvement Project Funds. Both of the exhibit openings will be publicized in our September issue of the Association News through special invitation, so watch for this information.

4th of July
Another upcoming special event is our 4th of July party on the Museum grounds, open only to Association members and their guests. We gather on the lawn for an evening of fun and games and a spectacular fireworks display sponsored by the City of San Jose. If you have attended this before you know you won't want to miss it! In time you are guaranteed a good time. Put it on your calendar, and I hope to see you there.

Brian Spira
Association President

San Jose Historical Museum
ASSOCIATION NEWS

The purpose of the San Jose Historical Museum Association is to support the San Jose Historical Museum through membership, fundraising, education and to include services and the development of the image of the Museum in the community.

Kathleen Muller Executive Editor
Mignon Gibson Editor
Sharon Haggard Associate Editor

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658 palm Avenue
San Jose, California 95112
(408) 287-2920

FROM THE EDITOR

San Jose is Growing Up

There has been a lot of talk in the media about San Jose growing up, and there is no doubt that in history is evidence of this community's growing confidence in itself.

More and more, individuals, businesses, and organizations are seeking the assistance of the San Jose Historical Museum to research, to donate memorabilia for preservation, for use in phot copies, to use as a site for an event or as an educational exhibit, which they can make a volunteer commitment.

Individuals and the community seem to be more interested than ever in their roots of heritage. The past is being seen as a key to understanding the present and as a planning tool for the future. Historic photographs, artifacts, documents and structures are receiving more respect than ever. The ideas, memories and accomplishments of the past are seen as valuable resources for the present and future.

History is being viewed as part of San Jose's identity and part of what makes its image unique.

The San Jose Historical Museum is growing, not just in size, but in impact as well. The Museum is being viewed as the community's center for a wide variety of historical interests.

While the interest in history can be very healthy for a community San Jose's history is unique, with many outstanding individuals contributing to its past. The past can be a strong foundation for the future and building on such a past is an indication of growing up.

San Jose is growing up from the historical perspective, is really growing up.

Mignon Gibson
Museum Director

DOCENT REPORT

With summer, the Docent Council begins a quieter time at the Museum. It is the time when our docents are away on vacation or in retirement. There is a time for a new year. It is also a time for reflection on the number of people the docents have served in past 12 months. This year of 1987 has quite impressive statistics: approximately 47,000 people have come to the Museum on public tours, pre-scheduled tours, special events on the grounds like Victorian Christmas and Living History Days. This number also includes people to whom we've given a tour while working through the outreach educational programs.

It is not included, but is equally as impressive, is the number of people we've reached by going into the community for public relations type events, such as the Volunteer Fair at Oakridge Mall where we had a display of costumed volunteers, and the Children's Day at the new museum. There were several special events of this type where thousands of people came acquainted with the Museum. Also NOT included in the 47,000 is the number of people who've come to the Museum for Association sponsored programs, touring the Museum's grounds and people who have come to the Museum for research work or to use the collection.

It is interesting to the docents to see how many times the educational programs have been given during the school year, and it is greater than one kind of program, one can see how busy we've been.

Onsite Programs:
Museum tours: 219 (pre-scheduled and drop-in visits (122, 97 visits per year)
Historic Transportation Experience: 23
Tariffs Tours: 23

Outreach Tours:
Historic Downtown San Jose Walking Tour: 4
Japanese Friendship Garden Tours: 23

Outreach Kits:
Adult Outreach Kit: 4
Victorian School Kit: 81
Indian School Kit: 80

In reviewing the many ways the Docents contribute to the Museum it is not hard to understand that the Docents donated over 15,000 volunteer hours from July 1, 1987 to August 31, 1988.

Carol Provanzo
Docent Council President

MUSEUM AULILARY

The San Jose Historical Museum Association's Photography Contest ended on May 27th. Contestants turned in several photographs of downtown street scenes and buildings, as well as images of some of the downtown's most striking landmarks.

The committee submitted in the contest will become a part of the Museum's Archives to be used by future historians and scholars.

The judges, having decided to share the contest, and representing the most significant and representative will be used in a future Museum publication. A great deal of the judging was done by the judges, including Frank Taylor, Director of the Development Agency; Ron James, President of the Chamber of Commerce; Director of the San Jose Museum of Art; and Al Mancuso, Superior Color Lab in Willow Glen, will choose the winning entries. The names of the winners will appear in a future edition of the Association News along with more information on when the photographs will be displayed.

Thank you to all who participated in the contest.

A Special Thank You

As the Museum Association has moved into a position of shared responsibility for the physical development and growth of the Museum, we have been fortunate to receive the generous assistance of individuals and corporations in the field of architecture, engineering, and construction. To all those who have contributed, we wish to acknowledge those who have helped on current development projects. Thank you especially to Chuck Buckle and the Buckle Building Group for their professional bid package for our various projects; to Tom Lister of Liston & Associates for mechanical drawings for the Stevens Ranch Fruit Barn; Viole Stannness and Marvin Schamburg, architects, who have given an endless time to complete plans for the Markham House foundation; Gail Boettcher of Design Advantage Group for architectural design assistance on the DeLuiz House; Ruth Prange of Inc. for foundation plans for the DeLuiz House; and Dick and Vera Markham for the Zanker House; Patricia McDonald of McDonald & Moore for the re-design of O'Briens and for interior design assistance on the Zanker House; and Craig Minnewear of Minnewear & Associates, who has agreed to do preliminary structural drawings for a proposed pharmacy building.

The donations of these individuals and firms represent a tremendous amount of time and effort devoted to the Museum's development and growth and the generosity of service to the community. We are truly grateful to each of these individuals and firms for the gifts which are making the further growth and development of the Museum possible.

Kathleen Muller
Association Administrator

Once a year the members of the Museum Association are honored with a brunch, which this year was held as a celebration of a milestone. The Association has reached a membership of 2400. It was a great day at the Saratoga Springs Country Club. With the generous contributions of each individual volunteer are rewards. As we look back daily, the brunch serves as a collective "thank you" to each of you for your support of the Museum Association. It also serves to acquaint new members and to introduce other members of the staff whom we may see only occasionally. In such a large institution with so many volunteer activities if any one of our brunch guests, to get us all together at once.

All volunteers receive a special "thank you" at the annual brunch for their dedication to the San Jose Historical Museum. Recognition is given to those who have achieved the following levels of service: 100 hours, 500 hours, 1000 hours, 25 years and 35 years of service.

The Museum is continuing to grow, and it is always in need of new volunteers. If you think you have the time and the interest to donate to the Museum, please contact Diane Janzen, Volunteer Coordinator, at 287-2920.
C & P Corps recruiting will begin the month of June, and the C & P Corps will be held September 19 & 26, and October 17 & 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Empire Firehouse Meeting Room. Those joining the important volunteer group please register with the Millita Rio-Samaniego.

A C & P Corps Program is the lecture/workshop "Connoisseur Series" which was instituted in the Spring of 1987. This series is an educational program on the methods used in the conservation and preservation of antiques, works of art, and collectibles. The series provides an introduction to the problems of conservation faced by many of our local historical museums and serious amateur collectors.

Visiting lecturers are chosen from the regional conservation organization, Bay Area museums, local colleges, and our Collections Staff. Topics for the series are drawn from the care of wood furniture and how to preserve your family photographs before you select a conservator to how to care for textiles.

"Connoisseur Series" is a success and the 1989 program will continue to be scheduled for late March and early April. Among some of the topics to be presented are 19th Century Landscaping — design and maintenance, and the care of oriental art.

Another aspect of conservation being pursued is the Preservation Project Support Grant. Priority I, offered through the Institute of Museum Studies, (IMS), Washington D.C. The 1988 grant application, Priority I, provides funds for the matching-in-kinds funds to conduct a general assessment of the Museum’s collection and environmental conditions, including the evaluation of existing written long-range collection management plans with assistance from conservation professionals.

With the awarding of and the completion of the Conservation Project Grant, we will pursue further conservation projects grants offered through I.M.S. Additional grants are available for the determination of environmental conditions, training of museum staff in conservation; research in improved conservation techniques; and treatment of museum collections.

We have undertaken an enormous responsibility in establishing the San Jose Historical Museum to the preservation of the history of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley. Our first step has been to ensure the preservation of these collections for this generation and for the generations who follow us.

Milita Rio-Samaniego Director

**HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION CORNER**

This will be the last column I write as Chairperson of the Historic Landmarks Commission as I will be joining the Planning Commission in July. In the three years I have served on the Commission, the Historic Landmarks Commission has been fortunate to participate in the preservation of many fine historic buildings. And, unfortunately, I have witnessed the loss of many historically significant structures. I have watched as the Historical Museum grew tremendously in terms of projects, events, and the addition and restoration of historic buildings.

Downtown San Jose is nearing the end of redevelopment which has included the preservation of historic buildings and districts. However, the Historic Landmarks Commission effort will continue as there are still many fine buildings which need the continued support of the Redevelopment Agency and the Historic Landmarks Commission.

Colleen Cortese will serve the Historical Landmarks Commission as interim Chairperson. I would like to thank her and the Commission and thank them for allowing me to be a part of their good work.

Leslie Parks Chairperson

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Leilie Masunaga Curator

Virginia Beck Curator of Education

Volunteers

Dale Bogue Volunteer Coordinator

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Events

Monte Duran Vice President

Collections

Along with San Jose and the Santa Clara County, the Japanese American Resource Center, and the Gilroy Hispanic Archives are gathering materials from these communities to hold for future study. As historical studies of these groups are made based on research and preservation maintenance, the program will continue. In the future, we will build a more accurate and complete interpretation of the history of the Santa Clara Valley.

The Archives are open from 10:00-4:00 P.M. on the following Saturdays: July 9, 23, August 13, September 10, 17. Please call for an appointment.

Leslie Masunaga Curator

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**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

The Community Resource

Last month I participated in a panel at the annual conference of the Society of California Archivists on the subject of "The Archivist as Social Historian." The primary concerns of this panel were "What is the function of social history?" and "What types of documents are considered stores of social history data?"

One of the primary issues is that of collecting material that is personal to the lives of community members. While City records and other such governmental documents tell us about the official life of the city and other records—they do not give us a picture of the everyday life of the average citizen, nor accurately reflect the politically visible segments of the community.

For this, we need to focus on specific materials in the archives as well as seek out additional information from within the community.

For example, a scholar interested in researching women's economic contributions to the business history of San Jose would be directed to the Archives' copy of Sole Trader. This is a bound volume of hand-written legal documents dating from the 1850's to 1916 authorizing married women to transact business in their own names as sole traders. Contrary to popular opinion women were not only involved in such traditional women's businesses as dressmaking on the teaching of music but in ranching, farming, hotel and saloon keeping, real estate investing and keeping a wide variety of retail and mercantile operations.

Note Caroline Covert's choice of business from an 1854 entry:

Be it remembered that on this the 30th day of January A.D. 1854 Caroline E. Covert and wife of Stephen N. Covert resided within the jurisdiction of San Jose...states and declares before me that from this date she intends to carry on the business of retailing and selling oil...dressed in County of Santa Clara in her own name and account.

Study of this one volume, Sole Trader, produces a much more complete picture of the active role women played in the economic development of the community, as well as an important contribution to our perception of the kinds of work women did.

As the consciousness and the concern of the community grows, the need to seek roots has increased. Much information is still stored in attics and garages, but such organizations as the Black History Society of the San Jose Valley, the Japanese American Resource Center, and the Gilroy Hispanic Archives are gathering materials from these communities to hold for future study. As historical studies of these groups are made based on research and preservation maintenance, we will continue. In the future, we will build a more accurate and complete interpretation of the history of the Santa Clara Valley.

The Archives are open from 10:00-4:00 P.M. on the following Saturdays: July 9, 23, August 13, September 10, 17. Please call for an appointment.

Leslie Masunaga Curator

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One of many popular children's activities at this year's Living History Days was the Maypole Dance. Photo by Wanda Foss.

16,000 PEOPLE ENJOY LIVING HISTORY DAYS, 1988

An ever-increasing number of people, over 16,000 in 1988, are enjoying Living History Days. On Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15, families, senior citizens, children and singles experienced Santa Clara Valley's rich history from the frontier era to the swinging 1920-30's. The days were a true community effort as over 2,500 participants including volunteer service groups, demonstraters and entertainers came together for this family-oriented event. The days' success was due to a wide variety of individuals and wouldn't have happened without the generous donation of their time, effort, and talents. The three Living History Days co-sponsors, the San Jose Historical Museum Association, City of San Jose Recreation, Parks and Community Services, and KRNTV, Channel 4, wish to thank these groups and individuals.

In addition, this special event received the support of many local businesses. These include:

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Virginia Kay Beck
Curator of Education
Living History Days Chairperson

The San Jose Historical Museum is part of the City of San Jose Department of Recreation, Parks and Community Services.

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Academy
BOOK REVIEW
FEATURED BOOK FOR JULY – AUGUST

KILL DEVIL
DISCOVERING THE SECRET OF THE WRIGHT BROTHERS
BY HARRY COMBS WITH MARTIN CAIDEN
FOREWORD BY NEIL ARMSTRONG

At noon Wilbur Wright crawled onto the lower wing of the newest Wright Flyer, buckled himself into the hip cradle that was part of his flight controls, checked his steering engine, nodded to his brother Orville, pulled free the restraining wire and pushed himself into history.

It was a cold wintry day on the blowing sands of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, where this spectacular feat demonstrated to the world that powered flight was no longer just a dream. The date was December 17, 1903.

Harry Combs has done an excellent job of telling the Wright Brothers' story. A seasoned pilot himself, it is with a sure and knowing hand that he leads us through the intricate problems that faced those early would-be flyers. They had a dream, but they were not dreamers.

The Wrights were members of a family headed by Milton Wright, sometime itinerant preacher, later a Bishop in his church, who in 1839 married Susan Koerner in Hartville, Indiana.

Together they had five children. Wilbur was born in 1867. Orville, their youngest child, Katherine, born in 1874, was an important part of her famous brothers' effort.

We are told that the Wrights became interested in flying in the late 1890's. Reading all they could find on the subject they were particularly interested in the experiments of Otto Lilienthal, a German scientist who worked with gliders and established tables for the construction of lifting surfaces. After much work, two glider-flight experiments, and Otto was killed in a crash in 1896.

Searching for a place to conduct their flying experiments they asked the Weather Bureau for recommendations and in the fall of 1900 they left their home in Dayton, Ohio and made their way to the Outer Banks of North Carolina, to a place called Kitty Hawk, and set up shop near a sand dune called Kill Devil Hill. Here they built and flew models, increased their knowledge, and built and tested full sized gliders. The following fall they returned to Dayton to continue their experiments and when finished that year they decided they had mastered controlled gliding and were now ready for powered flight. No engines were available for their plane so they designed one and assigned the task of building — from scratch — to an employee. When finished, the four-cylinder engine developed about 12 horsepower.

The Wright brothers were only bicycle mechanics with little schooling, but they had excellent minds and they had the ability and tenacity to stay with a problem until they found a solution. Moreover they possessed the imperturbability and strength of character to identify a goal and work steadily toward its attainment, mistakes and distractions, notwithstanding. And in the final analysis they were also lucky.

Death was so frequently the end product of the early manned glider experiments, because the control systems were inadequate. During wing stall, when the glider's wings increased their angle of attack and the center of lift moved critically forward of the center of gravity, a condition of uncontrollable instability was induced. The Wrights were lucky because of their use of a forward elevator, which they mounted in front of their airplane rather than behind it. This serendipitous device — the Wrights called it a "forward rudder" — saved them from the lethal stall condition, for as the wing began to stall the large forward control surface forced the wing back down and into a safe flying condition.

With fourord more flights behind them the brothers decided that they now had a salable product and they approached our government and foreign ones for production orders. There was little interest. Few if any believed that they had actually flown. The brothers grew stormier as they began further tests and improvements in an open field near Dayton, not related to Kitty Hawk until 1908 for a few further flights.

Author Combs believes the Wrights grew disheartened following that first successful flight of December 17, 1903 when almost no one believed that they had actually flown and when their efforts to sell their invention to the War Department were mostly rejected out of hand. From November of 1906 until May of 1908 they did not fly at all.

In his Foreword Neil Armstrong describes author Harry Combs as an aviation "writer from the vantage point of one who has known the Wright Flyer and the Wrights all his life."

An authority on world aviation, Combs first assisted in 1928. He has been actively involved with every facet of the hobby since then. It is by now a compelling story; so compelling that he has written a fascinating history of two remarkable brothers and the birth of an industry.

Jack D. Bruce

Jack Bruce is a resident of Carmel, California and a retired naval aviator. Kill Devil Hill, hardbound, 387 p., is available in the Museum Gift Shop for $24.95. Association members receive a 10% discount.

J.J. MONTGOMERY
LOCAL FLIGHT PIONEER

Lockheed, Varnian and Ames are names which remind South Bay citizens of the importance of the flight industry. In this chapter Montgomerie, associate those beginnings with World War II, when in fact, experiments in flight technology began in the South Bay nearly a century ago.

John J. Montgomery was experimenting with gliders in the early 1880's. When he accepted a position at Santa Clara College (later University) as a science instructor in 1896 he moved his home and workshop to Santa Clara.

Thereafter his gliders and experiments were conducted in the Santa Clara area.

By Spring of 1909 Montgomery had built and tested a glider large enough to carry a man and lift him above the ground sufficient to give him a chance to control the glider. He constructed a small control surface which could be used to direct its descent. One of his students at the Santa Clara College's aeronautical school was light enough to lift off the ground. A hot air balloon was used to lift the glider to a height of some 2500 feet where it was released to make a long gradual descent.

Dubbed the Santa Clara and painted the colors of red and white, it carried "aeronaut" Daniel J. Maloney, who was a rather flamboyant figure dressed in acrobatic tight of red and white. This demonstration and others in San Jose and San Francisco, that spring received widespread coverage in the newspapers. Photos of the glider and balloon received nationwide attention. It appeared that Montgomery's work would have a good chance of attracting the financial support he needed to continue his experiments.

Unfortunately this springtime of such promise ended tragically on July 18 when Maloney was killed during one of these demonstrations. This disaster, followed by the great earthquake of 1906 which destroyed Montgomery's workshop, put an end to his experiments for five years.

A replica of this glider was recently constructed by members of the Northern California chapter of the American Aviation Historical Society. It has been loaned to the San Jose Airport where it is currently on display in the terminal building.

Montgomery eventually resumed his glider experiments. (Despite the success of the Wright Flyer which demonstrated in 1903 the feasibility of powered flight, Montgomery never attempted to build an engine for his gliders.) John J. Montgomery lost his life in 1911 while conducting one of his glider experiments in the Evergreen area near San Jose.

"Winged Man Sweeps Skyward"

"Most Daring Feat"

"Taking Lessons from the Birds"

HISTORICAL NEWS ITEM

From San Jose Daily Mercury, January 12, 1906
OLD SAN JOSE THEATRE

The San Jose Theatre was the first place of amusement ever built in the Garden City. Located on North First Street, the two story frame structure was erected in 1859 by James Stark.

The building was built with a frontage of three numbers and a depth of about 125 feet. It was of frame construction and was equipped with all the ordinary stage apparatus. The opening night was October 10, 1859, when the play "Richelieu" was given. Mr. Stark played the role of the Cardinal, and Mrs. Stark took the part of Julie de Mortimer. The remainder of the cast was taken by local San Joseans.

Mrs. Stark sold the property to Judge W.T. Wallace and high class performances continued. The curtain was lowered on the final performance on the evening of March 16, 1867. The building was converted into a carriage and wagon factory, then it became the home for the popcorn and peanut factory and later by the Hines Candy Factory, a restaurant and a barber shop.

researched by Leolo Haves

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ON YOU!

Spring into action! Rejuvenate yourself and give something positive back to the community by becoming a valuable volunteer at the Museum.

There’s a spot for you! Phone Volunteer Coordinator Dulcie Janzen at 287-2590 or send this coupon in and we will contact you!

Name __________________________ Address __________________________ City ___________ Phone __________________________

In addition to such popular volunteer positions as Tour Guide, Collections or Archives Assistant and Lobby Desk Attendant, we now have openings for Office Receptionists.

Please mail to: San Jose Historical Museum, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. And thank you for your much-needed involvement and support.

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

During the months of May and June, 1968, contributions were made to the Museum Association’s Endowment Fund/Special Projects Fund in honor of the following individuals:

In Memorium
Lloyd Batchelder
Patrick McCue
Mary Lois Haagaard

To Honor
Dulcie Janzen for program for the San Jose Women's Club

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

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D ELIVERING PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND QUALITY MATERIALS SINCE 1904.
CAROL HENNING: THE RRL FROM THE CLASS ’24

Addling author Jack Steinbeck may not have a looking for a woman who could be positive and yet critic, able to amused, and satisfied to live in near with a man who was reclusive and not totally absorbed in his art, but he met in the literary set at Stanford or in the tough York newspaper world, but in a fish cherv at Lake Tahoe.

Carol Henning, the woman who became his muse and helpmate during the years of bitter and eventual success, was born in San and raised in a house near the San Jose campus. The two met by chance when they found they were working on the same thing. They were however, and little boys and boot blackers and laborers, it people with souls don’t like her much. (Benenson, p. 116)

Though solidly middle class, Carol was well read and well traveled. The inn was a Row crowd who hung around Ed’s lab. After their marriage in 1930, Carol was much supported John until his first real success, Of Mouse and Men, was published in 1937. During those lean years Carol typed all of John’s unfinished manuscripts and was his most ardent critic. It was she who suggested the titles Of Mice and Men and Grapes of Wrath. The latter he dedicated to Carol who inspired this book.

The success of these two books thrust the author upon the public stage. Carol’s role as a lover of the writer and the world around her, and the important function of critic, was taken over by her agent Elizabeth Otis. After a memorable voyage to the Gulf of California with Ed Ricketts and the crew of the Western Flyer, Carol and John were separated and then divorced in 1943. The end of their relationship also signaled the end of what was perhaps the most significant period of the author’s career.

In an attempt to help the war effort and forget John, Carol enrolled in a merchandising course at Fort Ord and graduated at the head of the class. After the war she became a career public information officer for the Red Cross in Carmel. During that period she married William Brown, a prominent Monterey resident. They lived in Carmel until her death in 1983.

In order to discover more about Carol prior to her meeting with John, I have done some research into her life in San Jose. Carol was the eldest of two daughters of Wilbur and Nellie Henning. Wilbur Henning rose to be vice president of a leading real estate and investment firm and was active in community affairs. The family lived in a comfortable home they had built in the then fashionable Naglee Park neighborhood. Carol and her sister Ida were only a year apart in school and were apparently very close. They attended San Jose High School when it shared a Washington Square location with San Jose State College.

The rare photo of Carol as a young woman, which is reproduced here, is from the high school yearbook of 1924. Most of the traits to which Steinbeck was attracted seem to be reflected there. The apparently self-applied captions were not meant to be serious, but they are interesting in retrospect. Perhaps a reflection of her independent nature or maturity in the fact that she was not listed among the members of any club or organization.

A further indication of such qualities was her departure after graduation for San Francisco. She first worked as an executive assistant at the August Schilling Co., later at the time she met Steinbeck, she was working as an advertising assistant at the San Francisco Chronicle.

Although they didn’t know her well, classmates such as Ernest Renzel, Theron Fox and Virian Chabot whom I interviewed, all remembered her with respect, and none were surprised that she had married a famous writer.

Some might consider it an act of fate that she met and fell in love with the aspiring young novelist. What would his work have been like without her? And what might he have written if circumstances had allowed them to remain together?

ENDOWMENT FUND PURCHASES

The Museum Association Endowment Fund Committee met recently to decide on the expenditure of the interest earned by the Endowment Fund in 1987. Contributions to the Fund remain in an interest bearing account. The principal is never spent, but every year the interest is used to purchase special items for the Museum.

In addition, all contributions to the Special Projects Fund are spent every year to benefit the Museum.

This year the Committee had a total of $7485.58 from the two Funds to use for Museum purchases. Suggestions for purchases came from the Wishbook, staff and volunteers. It was decided to spend the money on improvements to the Educational Outreach Kits, for improvements to the Museum entrance and for new equipment for Audio Tours.

Three special slide boxes and a new microfilm reader-printer enlarger lens were purchased for the Archives. Leslie Masunaga reports that the boxes and the lens are extremely valuable additions. The lens will enlarge the tiny print of the microfilmed documents so they can be read and reproduced in a larger size. The special drop-in slide file kits will help protect some important slide collections which contain images of sites and structures no longer in existence.

Work on the entrance and the Outreach Kits is proceeding and will be reported upon in a future Newsletter.

Those wishing to contribute to the Endowment Fund in honor of a special person or occasion in memory of a friend or relative may send a contribution to the Fund by mailing it to the Museum Association, in care of Barbara Atkins, Administrative Assistant.

HIKE ON MINE HILL
NEW ALMADEN

City Historian Clyde Arbuckle will lead a hike on Mine Hill, New Almaden, July 16, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Those planning to attend should bring lunch and a drink. Rides up the Hill will be provided from the parking lot at Tobar’s at the south end of New Almaden.

Patricia Loomis

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- O’Brien’s & Gift Shop
- Weekdays & Weekends
- Four hour shifts
- Help support the Museum
- The Shops are a fun place to volunteer

Contact Anita Karuba or Dulcie Janssen at 297-8250

House that John and Carol Steinbeck built in the mountains above Los Gatos in 1928. John completed the manuscript for Grapes of Wrath here. Photo from the Steinbeck Research Center, San Jose State University.
A DAY ON THE BAY
Tour Alcatraz and the Treasure Island Museum

WHEN: Wednesday, August 17, 1988
WHO: Association members and their guests
HOW: Royal Coach Tours
Leaving and returning to the Phelan Avenue Parking lot of the
San Jose Historical Museum
Red and White Fleet — Pier 41
TIME: 7:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.
COST: Members $22.00 (lunch not included)
Non-members $25.00 (lunch not included)

Join us for a special trip to Alcatraz and Treasure Island! Our bus will take us to Pier 41 to board a ferry to Alcatraz.

Upon arriving on the island, we will be given individual tape players and tapes that will take us back in time. It’s been 24 years since the last of the prisoners and guards vacated the notorious federal penitentiary on Alcatraz Island. Now they’re back — not in the flesh, but on tape, narrating a fascinating recorded tour of the massive cell-house. The tape is a first-hand account of the details of daily prison life — as well as the intense dramas of escape attempts punctuated by the sounds of echoing footsteps and slamming cell doors.

After our escape from Alcatraz, we will return to Pier 41 and will be free to have lunch along Fisherman’s Wharf or at nearby Pier 30.

After lunch we will board the bus for Treasure Island, a man-made 400 acre island which was the site of the 1933 Golden Gate International Exposition. We will visit the Treasure Island Museum housed in one of the art deco structures built for the Exposition.

We will return by bus to the San Jose Historical Museum by 5:30 P.M. 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 to the San Jose Historical Museum, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. Attn: Earline Shields

ALCATRAZ/TREASURE ISLAND, August 17, 1988
NAME: ____________________________
ADDRESS: _________________________
PHONE: ___________________________
NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: ______
WEAR WARM LAYERED CLOTHING — IT CAN BE VERY COLD ON THE BAY AND IN THE CELL BLOCKS.
RESERVATION CONFIRMED □
BOARD BUS IN THE PHELAN AVENUE PARKING LOT

MYSTERY PHOTO

Does anyone recognize the car, the driver or the location of this photograph? On the poster in the window can be read the words “Auto Races.” Another word appears to be “DiPalma.” If you have any information, please contact the Archives at 287-2290.

May Mystery Photo
Alas, alas! We still do not know anything about the Santa Clara Tank or the gentlemen in the picture. If you can identify any of them, please contact the Archives.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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DATES TO REMEMBER

July 4, 1988
Museum Association Picnic
Musum Grounds
Arrive 6:00 P.M. — 7:15 P.M.
Fireworks at Dusk

July 29, 1988
Tour of Santana
Departure from Phelan Ave.
parking lot at 5:00 A.M.

August 17, 1988
Tour of Alcatraz and Treasure Island
Departure from Phelan Ave.
parking lot at 7:30 A.M.