

# SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

635 PHELAN AVENUE

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95112



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VOLUME 1, NO. 4

AUGUST, 1978

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## Museum Director's Report Gas Station Makes Last Trip

### President's Message

July 18, 1978

The Board of Directors of the Museum Association is presently engaged in mapping the course which the association will follow during the coming year. Among the items under consideration are, an increase in the minimum membership dues, changing the membership year to coincide with the calendar year, and a fund-raising drive to increase membership, and increase the association's capital. The Board anticipates that by undertaking some of these proposals, we can raise sufficient funds to undertake increased construction at the museum. As yet, no decisions have been made. I hope that you will give the Board your wholehearted support for any efforts which we undertake to raise funds for the museum.

I am sure that the members of the association will join with me to thank Jean Jensen for the excellent work she did as president of the association this past year.

Paul E. Jacobs  
*President*

### Train Ride Nears Completion

From Happy Hollow Park and Baby Zoo to the Museum's north entrance, a miniature railroad has been constructed to carry visitors through the 121-acre Kelley Park.

Advertised as a 1/4-size replica of the South Pacific Coast Railroad, the ride will be operated on a private concession basis, with a round-trip ticket costing 50¢. The train will operate after its planned August opening during the summer, winter weekends, and all holidays.

The original South Pacific Coast Railroad started in the East Bay in Newark in 1875 and eventually made stops in San Jose and Santa Cruz, much to the delight of San Jose's picnickers.



The Museum has acquired another building that was slated for the wrecker's ball — the 1927 metal Associated Oil Company building located at Market and Julian Streets in San Jose.

The building was threatened by the construction of the Guadalupe Expressway and was originally purchased from the right-of-way by Jim Alves of San Jose, who had hopes of moving the structure and making it into a restaurant.

Running afoul of the bureaucracy, Mr. Alves was forced to abandon his plans, but he offered to donate fuel pumps and other old station equipment to the Museum if the building came to Kelley Park.

The Association Board appropriated \$4,000 to pay for the moving, foundation work, and painting of the gas station, with the Swenson Construction Company furnishing a portion of the materials for the foundation.

On July 14 the new addition arrived. The interior will be furnished as a gas station office of 1927 and the exterior will be restored to the appearance as shown in the photograph of one of its sister stations in the Associated Oil chain.

## Stella Gross Charitable Trust

The Association again received another substantial gift from the trustees of the Stella Gross Charitable Trust which assists a number of educational and charitable projects in the Valley.

Our thanks to the officers of the Stella Gross Charitable Trust for their continued support of the Historical Museum.

Donald O. DeMers, Jr.  
Museum Director

## Peralta Adobe Project to be Turned Over to Historical Museum

The restoration of the Peralta Adobe and the development of a one-half acre city park surrounding the Adobe was a major bicentennial project of the City of San Jose.

In March 1975 the Junior League approved a \$15,000 project proposal to develop a comprehensive educational program at the Peralta Adobe Historic Site.

On June 4, 1975 the San Jose Bicentennial Commission, Inc. voted to accept the "Junior League Peralta Adobe Bicentennial Project" as an official part of San Jose's Bicentennial Celebration.

Because the city owns the Peralta Adobe Historic Site and because the San Jose Historical Museum oversees the interpretive program, it was with the cooperation of both that the Junior League implemented its program.

During the past two years Junior League volunteers have given tours to school children in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades. Over 8,000 children have had an opportunity to learn about the significance of the Peralta Adobe in San Jose's history.

The Peralta Adobe Project was originally a two year project with a termination date of June 1978. Adhering to the Junior League policy of turning over successful projects to the community, the Peralta Adobe Project has been turned over to the San Jose Historical Museum which will assume administration of the project.

## QUICKSILVER DIGGIN'S

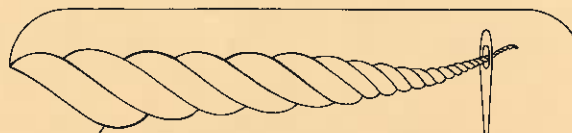
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## Coming Events

### Autumn Moon Festival — Volunteers Needed Chinese Temple to Benefit

On Sunday, September 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the Chinese-American Women's Club of Santa Clara County will sponsor a festival on the Museum's grounds to assist in raising money for the reconstruction of the 1888 Chinese Temple. The Association Board, at the June meeting, endorsed this project.

The Museum has the complete interior furnishings to the original Temple including the silk tapestries, altar pieces, urns, ceremonial staffs, and other artifacts. All profits from the festival will be used for the construction of this building so that this unique collection may be enjoyed by the public.

The festival has several names, and was instituted during the Yuan dynasty (1280 A.D. to 1368 A.D.) when the Chinese rose against their Mongolian overlords and placed Mongolia once more under Chinese rule.

Chinese food, music, and dance will be featured at the one-day event, with admission being 50¢ for adults and 25¢ for children.

Volunteers from the Association are needed to help staff the admissions and food booths. If you are interested in assisting this worthwhile project, contact Mignon Gibson at the Museum at 287-2290 for more details.

**Authors and Artists:** The Youth Science Institute Guild which raises funds for the Youth Science Institute in Alum Rock Park, is hosting an Authors and Artists Party on October 22 from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. This event will be held on the museum grounds and all museum members are cordially invited to attend. For more information call Julie Moore at 258-5459.

# Out of Town

## Welcome to Amador County

For those of you seeking some weekend diversion of an historical type, you might try jumping into your car and heading east on Highway 580 through Tracy to Manteca, Highway 5 north to Stockton and Highway 88 northeast to Jackson. Here is the jumping off place for historic Amador (love of gold) County. Begin your stay with a tour of the Amador County Museum on Church Street, followed by a walk through the nearby National Hotel. This hotel has been in continuous operation since 1862. If all this exercise has worn down your heels and sharpened your appetite, then drive over to one of three family-style Italian restaurants located on Jackson Gate Road. On this same road are two restored tailing wheels open for your inspection. After lunch you can continue on Jackson Gate Road, through Martell onto Highway 49 and into picturesque Sutter Creek. When this town's numerous shops and antique stores have lightened your pocketbook and weakened your legs, you can check into the Sutter Creek Inn (providing you have phoned ahead for a reservation — 209-267-5606). This gracious old home was built in 1859, and although being modernized for today's standards, still retains all the charm and style of its glorious past. Each room is unique and may contain such delights as a Franklin stove, sunken bathtub, or colorful wicker furniture. It is located at 75 Main Street and is open the year round.

Another day in Amador county could include a visit to a pottery factory in Sutter Hill or a wine tasting in Amador City. If you happen to be in Plymouth on the second weekend in August, then by all means don't miss the county fair. Then in Sutter Creek on Labor Day Weekend you won't want to omit Sourdough Days. But if you do, you can catch the fall colors and Halloween Parade back in Jackson.

All this may sound like a promotion by the Amador County Chamber of Commerce, so check with them to avoid possible disappointments. Their address is Box 596, Jackson, CA 95642.

## Docent News

### Docent Program

Through the efforts of twenty-five very dedicated docents and docent trainees who gave countless Museum tours during 1977-78, thousands of children and adults more fully appreciate the heritage and the changing nature of our own Santa Clara Valley.

Although the public's demand for specialized and in-depth tours is rising, fortunately the docent program is expanding to meet the challenge. In fact, 1978-79 is proving to be not only "the year of child," but also the year of the docent, for already fifty new people have responded to the Museum's call for additional docent support. Docent training, for anyone interested, begins Tuesday September 12th and runs for seven weeks with approximately one morning session per week. This year, the Museum's docent program will also include the educational program of the Peralta Adobe, San Jose's only surviving adobe from its early pueblo days.

For more information, please contact Claudia Jurmain (287-2290) or Nancy Valby (259-2534).

### 1978 Fall Docent Training Lectures

All lectures are held at the Museum's Pacific Hotel:

Tuesday, Sept. 12th at 9:30 am: "The Costanoan Indians" by Marcia Wire, Ph.D. Department of Anthropology, San Jose State University

Tuesday, Sept. 19th at 9:00 am: "Spanish-Mexican Material Culture in California" by Robert Miller, Ph.D., Department of History, California State University at Hayward

Tuesday, Sept. 26th at 9:30 am: "Agriculture in the Santa Clara Valley" by Lawrence Lee, Ph.D., Department of History, San Jose State University

Tuesday, Oct. 3rd at 9:00 am: "New Almaden Mines" by Michele Leiser, Manuscript Specialist, Stanford University libraries

Monday, Oct. 9th at 1:00 pm: "San Jose's Chinese Community" by Gloria Hom, Department of History, Mission College

Tuesday, Oct. 24th at 9:30 am: "Architectural Patterns in San Jose" by William Zavalaris, Historic Preservation Consultant

**David Osborn:** He averted the usual chaos by promptly hopping up on the arriving school buses, introducing himself, and giving a brief sketch of what the students could expect to see. He was available for a last minute tour if someone else had to cancel out. He entertained us with stories of his travels to remote Northern California museums or castles in Europe. He was a member of the docent council and played a big part in the design of the docent program. If someone was a bit weak in their knowledge of a particular building, he gladly offered his help. He did much more than his share.

For those who worked with David Osborn the above description comes as no surprise. But did we really know the man? Many of us worked closely with David on a weekly basis and yet will be fascinated to learn the many facets of our esteemed associate. In an organization where much importance is placed on family origins we may be surprised that David was a descendant of a pioneer Butte County California family, who crossed the continent on the Oregon Trail, arriving in California in 1861. David carried on the pioneering spirit of his ancestors in his affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America. He began his career in 1954 and spent the next twenty years as Cubmaster, Scoutmaster and Explorer advisor, while he and his wife Evelyn raised their three sons Jerry, Mike and Rich. David was an avid rock climber and backpacker which was a specialty of his particular Post. He logged nearly 5,000 miles on the John Muir Trail. He also coordinated an annual canoe race for Explorer Posts on the Sacramento River.

Some of us knew that David had worked as an engineer for Lockheed, however it is amazing that he had worked there for thirty-four years. Amazing, because David looked far too young to have given that many years to an employer. In 1975 he retired from his profession and was able to devote more time to his hobbies of genealogy, gardening and traveling. Fortunately at this point David and Evelyn Osborn also chose the San Jose Historical Museum as a recipient of their time and talents.

The staff and docents know the rest of the story of David Osborn's volunteer career at the Museum. It ended abruptly late this spring. We will miss David, but I believe he knew we appreciated him.

**Docent Appreciation:** The Board of Directors would like to thank the following docents for their time and dedication to the 1977-78 docent program: Helen Anderson, Laura Calloway, Susan Carothers, Josephine Giovannoni, Cathy Graff, Orville Hawes, Leolo Hawes, Eric Johnson, Penny Lowe, Omar Margason, Victoria Maxon, Mildred Radloff, David Osborn, Gay Southwell, Lorene Speth, Nancy Valby and Loraine Vick. This is a small group to handle the hundreds of students and adults who passed through the museum gates, and the Board is only hopeful that the pleasure these dedicated people received was equal to that which they gave.

**Docent Coordinator Appreciation:** For the past year the museum docents have been under the leadership of Claudia Jurmain and Susan Carothers. Under their direction the program has made great strides in organization, education, and professionalism. The Board wished to thank these two capable women for their time and ingenuity.

**Summer Entertainment:** Summer was the time when many local young people easily found employment in the numerous canneries of this once primarily agricultural valley. These young people are older and mellower now, but may still turn up their noses at the thought of home canning apricots or peaches. For those people the following old American recipe is dedicated, in hopes that none earned their money for fall tuition by working in a pickle factory.

**Bread and Butter Pickles**  
To make 4 - 5 pints

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 12 medium-sized cucumbers, cut<br>cut into 1/4 inch slices | 3 cups sugar                   |
| 1 1/2 pounds onions, thinly sliced                         | 1/2 teaspoon turmeric          |
| 1/2 cup salt   | 1/4 cup mustard seed           |
| 3 cups vinegar   | 2 teaspoons celery<br>seed     |
|  | 1/4 teaspoon cayenne<br>pepper |

In a large glass bowl, combine the sliced cucumbers, onions, and salt.

Let the mixture stand for 3 hours, then pour it into a colander to drain.

Rinse with cold water, then drain again.

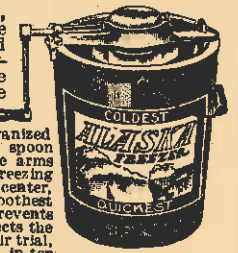
In an 8- to 10-quart saucepan, combine the vinegar, sugar, turmeric, mustard seed, celery seed and cayenne pepper. Bring to a boil, and add the drained cucumber and onion slices. Reduce the heat to low, bring just to a simmer and simmer for 2 minutes. Avoid actual boiling to prevent the cucumber slices from softening too much. They should remain crisp.

Cool the pickles you want to serve immediately and pack the rest in hot, sterilized jars.

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## Museum Grants Program

In January, the Museum instituted a program for the purpose of developing grantsmanship capabilities, researching federal, state, foundation and corporate funding sources and writing fundable proposals. We have since applied through the City of San Jose to the federal Health, Education, and Welfare Department's Institute of Museum Services and through the Museum Association to the federally funded CETA program.

The H.E.W. grant would allow for the hiring of a full-time staff person for the extension of interpretive services and volunteer programming. The amount of \$15,775 was requested and would be matched by in-kind services of the Museum staff. This grant would provide means to keep the Museum buildings open to the general public six days a week.

The purpose of the CETA program is to allow the general public, especially the handicapped population, accessibility and use of exhibits and facilities of the Museum with special emphasis on the creation, development and implementation of the library-research facility in the Pacific Hotel. This would allow the handicapped population the opportunity to visit all Museum buildings, and would allow the community access to the archival and artifact collection through use of the library-research catalogue system. The CETA request was for \$84,918 to have six public service employees.

The Museum should receive notification of these grants by mid-September. Results will be published in the next newsletter.

Judy Fowler

## Who's Who at the Museum



Joe Cardinalli, the Museum's Exhibit Designer/Builder, supervised the construction of all phases of the Museum's work, from major building construction to exhibit installation.

With an excellent background in design through San Jose State University, where he acquired his Master of Arts Degree in theatre design in 1973, to on-the-job training as a Master Carpenter for Eastridge's Liberty House, Joe has the diversified background required for his job.

Prior to coming to work for the City in late 1973, he was also employed as the Designer and Head Draftsman of Syzygy-Atari, well-known manufacturers of electronic game devices, when it was based in Los Gatos.

In addition to his work at the Museum, Joe remains active in theatre work, serving as Newsletter Editor of the Northern California United States Institute of Theatre and as a Board Member of San Jose Junior Theatre.

## By the Way - Museum News

**Oregon Historical Center**, 1230 S. W. Park, Portland, Oregon, (503-222-1741). Operated by the Oregon Historical Society — contains collection of pioneer and Indian artifacts, including journals and trail gear from the Lewis and Clark expedition. Mon. — Sat., 10:00 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

**Georgia-Pacific Museum**, 700 S. W. Fifth Avenue, Portland, Oregon, (503-222-5561). Privately owned exhibits and artifacts trace the history of the forest products industry including a section on old logging railroad Tues. — Fri., 10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.



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## New Additions to Museum Board

Nancy Valby and David Niederauer have joined the Museum Association Board of Directors for 1978-79. Nancy, who has been a docent with the museum, will become the new Docent Coordinator. David will head up Fund Raising. Nancy, a retired social worker, hails from Southern California while David, owner of Western Appliance, is a native of San Jose.

The Board is headed by Paul E. Jacobs, a local attorney and past head of fund raising for the board. Other members include: First Vice President - Mark Pierce, Second Vice President - Laura Callaway, Recording Secretary - Patti Imsen, Corresponding Secretary - Kristina DeLuz, Treasurer - Mary Stenseth, Parliamentarian - Penny Lowe. The following persons have also been elected as chairmen of the standing committees: Historic Preservation - Bonnie Bamberg, Membership - Mary Ann Foley and Betty Bocks, Publicity - Sandy Livingston, and Special Events - Marty Lion.

### SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

635 Phelan Avenue  
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287-2290

#### HOURS

WEEKDAYS - 10 - 4:30  
SATURDAY - 12 - 4:30  
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