

# SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

635 PHELAN AVENUE

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95112

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SUMMER 1979

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## Museum Director's Report

### Contributions Received

The **Stella Gross Trust Fund** presented a check for \$8,000 to the Association Board of Directors at the July Board meeting. This gift marks the continued and much appreciated efforts of the Trust to assist the Museum through the Association. The donation allows the purchase of equipment for the Museum's graphic workroom.

The **San Jose Real Estate Board** at its June meeting also allocated \$2,300 toward the purchase of a Microfilm printer-reader. This machine is badly needed to help preserve the Museum's collection of bound newspaper volumes which are in danger of deterioration through over-handling. Researchers will be able to use the microfilm and obtain copies of the newspapers without handling the originals.

The **Charity League** of San Jose recently gave over \$600 to purchase bookshelves for our research library.

Our thanks is given to all of these groups that realize the Museum's vital importance to the community through their giving.

### Second Annual Autumn Moon Festival Expands

Following last year's successful Autumn Moon Festival that was a fundraiser for the reconstruction of the 1888 San Jose Chinese Temple, Asian groups are planning an expanded program for 1979's celebration. In addition to traditional Chinese food, crafts, and demonstrations, other Asian groups will offer their nationalities' food specialties to the public.

The festival, open to the general public from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on October 7, benefits the building of a structure to house the Museum's extensive collection of artifacts from the original temple. If you are interested in helping at this event as a both attendant, or on a set-up or clean-up crew, please contact Mignon Gibson at the Museum, 287-2290.

### Dedication Set

The opening of the Museum's new entrance and 1927 Gas Station Exhibit will take place on Sunday, September 9, at 2:00 p.m. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided to mark the opening of these important additions to the Museum. The entrance, linking the Museum with Happy Hollow and the Japanese Friendship Garden, is the terminus of the privately-owned South Pacific Coast train ride now operating in Kelley Park. The Gas Station, moved to the Museum from Market and Julian Streets, will exhibit artifacts relating to the early gasoline industry and automotive history.



## President's Message

Dear Members:

Recently, the South Pacific Coast Railroad inaugurated service between the Museum and Happy Hollow. The commencement of this service is as significant to the Museum as the completion of the transcontinental railroad was to California in 1869. The miniature railroad which runs through Kelley Park stops just outside the new entrance to the Museum. From this train disembark hundreds of persons who previously were unaware of the Museum's existence. The happy consequence of this has been an enormous increase in visitorship to the Museum. It may well come to pass that the fate of the Museum will hinge upon the success of this railroad and vice-versa. I am sure that all of us at the Museum wish the railroad success in its endeavor and that the opening of the railroad will bring with it thousands of new visitors to the Museum and the growth that is sure to follow from it.

As the year proceeds, the Association's officers are striving to see that the Empire Firehouse and several other projects are completed by this fall. The new entrance is now complete and should be open this month.

If you have not been out to the Museum recently, I hope that you will come out and see the changes, and while you are here, I recommend you take the opportunity to ride the South Pacific Coast Railroad.

Sincerely,

*Paul E. Jacobs*

Paul E. Jacobs

## Gift Shop

The Museum Association Gift Shop can use volunteers for Saturdays or Sundays, 12-4:30!! Please call Carol Carlson at 374-1438 if you can donate one day a month.

Also, remember the Gift Shop for gifts of books, etc. and the 10% discount you get as an Association member.

## Fruit Barn Recycled—Museum Gets New Building

Through a cooperative agreement between Caltrans, the State of California's Transportation Agency, and the San Jose Parks and Recreation Department, the Museum has received a 30'x60' fruit storage barn, originally located on the Malech property, two miles south of the town of Coyote.



The building, dating from approximately the turn of the Century, is a well-preserved redwood structure that was used to store apricots and prunes that had been processed on the ranch. Because of the routing of the new Highway 101 Bypass, the barn was scheduled for demolition. After lengthy negotiations between the City, Caltrans, and the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a plan was worked out to move the building to the Museum in three parts and to reassemble it on its new site. Plans call for the building to be moved and to be used as an exhibition pertaining to the Santa Clara Valley's fruit industry. **Donald O. DeMers, Jr.**

### Special Exhibit Opens

"Mindprints: An Archaeological Puzzle" will be a feature exhibit at the Museum from September 15 through January of next year. The exhibit explores the techniques of historical archaeology and features artifacts from the controversial Holiday Inn Archaeological Excavation in San Jose.

## Out of Town

If your travel plans have been paralyzed by high gasoline prices and busy airports where people push and pull to redeem their discount coupons, you might like to try something a half-day's drive from San Jose. San Ysidro Ranch, on the outskirts of Santa Barbara has been making history ever since the mission days of the Spanish Padres. It was originally part of the holdings of the Franciscans of Mission Santa Barbara, founded December 4, 1786, by Father Fermin Francisco de Lasuen. Until the secularization of the mission in 1834 it operated as a citrus and cattle ranch high above Santa Barbara in the Santa Ynez Mountains. Still standing is the old adobe built in 1825 by the Fathers. In 1893 it became a guest ranch where visitors still dine in a stone building once used as a packing house for citrus. In the 1930s and 1940s it became a fashionable spot for the who's who in the arts and politics. Sir Winston Churchill wrote part of his memoirs there while Hollywood celebrities sought refuge under its oaks. After an infamous romance Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh were wed in its gardens and later the John F. Kennedys honeymooned there.

It did go through some years of decline but is definitely back on the top once more. The cottages are tastefully decorated and many have fireplaces. Celebrities may still be found on the premises at 900 San Ysidro Lane, Montecito, 93108.

How many of you recall the Alfred Hitchcock classic, *Vertigo*? If you were lucky enough to have seen it you may remember that part of it was filmed at a mission located somewhere near San Francisco. Some of you may know that the mission was San Juan Bautista. Chances are you didn't know that the belltower which so traumatized Jimmy Stewart was at one time a New England style steeple. If this bit of trivia fascinates you, for more of the same, try visiting some of California's 21 missions.

Though often taken for granted by many of us living nearby, they are a truly unique part of this country's past and peculiar to California alone. Many have been meticulously restored. Others are as they were built from 1769 to 1823. Take a ride on El Camino Real and have a look.

- San Francisco Solano— Spain St., Sonoma, Hwy. 12
- San Rafael Arcangel— 5th Ave. & A St., San Rafael
- San Francisco de Asis— 16th & Dolores, San Francisco
- San Jose de Guadalupe— Mission San Jose, Hwy. 21
- Santa Clara de Asis— Franklin & Grant Sts., Santa Clara
- Santa Cruz— Emmet & School Sts., Santa Cruz
- San Juan Bautista— San Juan Bautista, S. US 101
- San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo— Carmel; near Hwy. 1
- Nuestra Senora de la Soledad— 3 mi. S. Soledad, 1 mi. W. US 101
- San Antonio de Padua— Off US 101, 23 mi. SW King City
- San Miguel Arcangel— Off US 101, in town of San Miguel
- San Luis Obispo de Tolosa— Monterey & Chorro Sts. S.L. Obispo
- La Purisima Concepcion— 15 mi. W. US 101 & Buellton
- Santa Ines— Solvang; 3 mi. E. of US 101 & Buellton
- Santa Barbara— N. on State St. to Laguna, Santa Barbara
- San Buenaventura— Main & Figueroa, Ventura
- San Fernando Rey de Espana— 15151 San Fern. Miss Bl.
- San Gabriel Arcangel— Mission Dr., 10 mi. E. Central LA
- San Juan Capistrano— San Juan Capistrano; Interst. 5
- San Luis Rey de Francia— San Luis Rey; on Hwy. 76
- San Diego de Alcalá— Off Hwy. 8 in Mission Valley

## The Umbarger House

Built in the 1890's by David Umbarger, the Umbarger House exemplifies the fine craftsmanship and intricate decoration common to homes of the era. The ornate design gracing the exterior of the Umbarger Home is today generally termed "gingerbread" or "carpenter's gothic" since it was usually the carpenter's task to laboriously produce an original and handcut decorative pattern.

One of the gold mining '49ers, David Umbarger was an early pioneer of south San Jose. Some twenty years after purchasing 136.5 acres off of Monterey Road in 1851, he built this house at 2662 South First Street, probably at the time of his marriage. Although survived by a wife and son, he bequeathed his house and land to his sister in 1891. Since then the house has passed through several owners and in this century has commonly been known as the Holt House after David Holt, a prohibition resort owner who owned the home for several decades. In August of 1970, the home was moved to the Museum grounds. Come and see it today!

## I'll Have Mine with Ketchup, Thank You.

Have you often wondered about the origins of some foods which are peculiar to these United States. Or perhaps you've been puzzled by the importation of such continental delicacies as French fries or hot dogs. Here follows a brief history of some of those foods we so often find ourselves ravenously biting into.

1. French fries were introduced by Thomas Jefferson and were often served at White house dinner parties.
2. Graham crackers first appeared in the 1880's and were named for Sylvester Graham, a food fadist who in the 1830's preached the value of a diet high in fiber.
3. Peanut butter, though often thought of as children's food was developed for people with digestive problems by a doctor in St. Louis. Grocery stores picked up on it and began selling it commercially.
4. Apple pie found its way here with the colonists who also planted the first apple trees.
5. Ice cream cones accidentally were invented at the 1904 St. Louis Exposition when an ice cream vendor ran out of dishes. A nearby waffle concessioneer came to the rescue when he rolled his pastries into cone shaped containers.
6. Potato chips were invented in 1853 to spite Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt while dining when he complained of too thick fried potatoes. The chef sliced up paper thin potatoes, emersed them in hot oil and "voila" we have a favorite American "junk food."
7. Hot dogs came from Germany but were served in buns in 1883 by a St. Louis sausage vendor. In 1901 T. A. Dorgan, a New York cartoonist coined the term hot dog when he characterized the sandwich as a barking dachshund in a bun.
8. Iced tea stole the scene at the 1904 St. Louis exposition when on a hot day an English tea exhibitor couldn't promote the hot drink so he ingeniously poured it over ice.
9. Popsicles or Epsicles were discovered when Frank Epperson left a glass of lemonade—spoon and all—near a window on a cold 1926 day. It froze and kids have loved them ever since. So do many husbands!

While on the topic of food, see if you know any of the old names for American dishes listed below:

- Apple Pandowdy—Deep-dish apple pie with a biscuit-dough top instead of pie crust.  
Barefoot Bread—Corn Pone  
Boatsteers—Clam fritters  
Cape Cod Turkey—Codfish balls  
Chitterlings—Small intestines of a pig, dipped in batter and fried.  
Corn Pone—Cornbread made without milk or eggs, and baked or fried.  
Corn Dodgers—Hard sticks or cakes made from corn-pone batter.  
Dirty rice—Rice mixed with ground chicken giblets.  
Fannydaddies—Fried clams.  
Grunt—Stewed berries with dumpling topping.  
Hangtown Fry—Oysters and beaten eggs fried in butter.  
Hoe Cakes—Biscuit dough baked on the blade of a hoe in an open fire.  
Hoppin' John—Black-eyed peas and rice.  
Hush puppies—Spoonfuls of corn bread batter fried in deep fat.

- Jerky—Dried strips of meat, beef, buffalo or venison.  
Jolly boys—The fried center of the doughnut, cut out when the doughnut is made.  
Limping Susan—Braised rice and okra.  
Red-Eye Gravy—Gravy made from the pan juices of fried ham.  
Shoofly Pie—Crumb-crust pie with filling of molasses, brown sugar and spices.  
Snickerdoodles—Cookies rolled in sugar and cinnamon.  
Stack of Wheats—Pancakes.  
Streak of Lean—Salt pork.  
Stickle Sheets—Pennsylvania Dutch coffeecake.


### *Celery Victor*

Celery Victor was named after Victor Hirtzler, the San Francisco chef who created it at the St. Francis Hotel.

To serve 6

- 3 bunches of celery, about 2 inches in diameter  
1½ cups chicken stock, fresh or canned  
An herb bouquet of 4 sprigs parsley, 1 bay leaf and celery leaves tied together  
Salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
3 Tablespoons white-wine vinegar  
½ cup olive oil  
12 flat anchovy fillets  
12 strips pimienta  
6 slices hard-cooked eggs (optional)  
1½ teaspoons finely chopped fresh parsley

Remove the outer stalks of the celery, leaving a heart about 1 inch wide and 6 inches long. Cut each celery heart in half lengthwise. Cut away all but the small leaves and trim root ends. Use the cut-away leaves for the herb bouquet. With a sharp knife, scrape the outer stalks if they seem coarse. Continued next page



UPSTAIRS/OLD TOWN/LOS GATOS  
50 UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
354-0991

*A FAVORITE OF THE BRITISH ISLES  
FOR OVER A CENTURY!*

The Cornish Pastie consists of generous portions of lean cubed beef, garden fresh potatoes, a subtle amount of turnip and onion and fresh herbs. This wholesome food is delicately seasoned and enfolded in a thin blanket of tasty crisp pastry and baked to a golden perfection! Come in and try one!

Arrange the celery halves side by side in a 10 or 12 inch skillet, preferably enameled or stainless steel, and pour in the stock, using more stock or water if the celery is not completely covered. Add the herb bouquet, with as much salt and pepper as suits your taste, and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to its lowest point, cover tightly and simmer the celery for about 15 minutes, or until it shows no resistance when pierced with the tip of a sharp knife. With tongs or a slotted spoon, transfer the celery halves to a deep platter that will hold them in a single layer.

With a whisk, beat the vinegar and the oil together and pour over the celery while it is still warm. Refrigerate for at least an hour before serving. To serve, arrange the celery halves on individual chilled plates and crisscross 2 anchovy fillets and 2 strips of pimiento over each serving. Or instead, garnish the celery with a slice of tomato and a slice of hard-cooked egg. In either case, moisten the celery with a spoonful or so of the vinegar-olive sauce and sprinkle with chopped parsley.

## Antiques for Children

Many collectors of antiques specialize in one particular area. In the much sought-after realm of child-size antique furniture, the following addresses may be useful:

The Early American Shop of Georgetown, 1319 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20007

Harold Smith, Antique Furniture, Rte. 30, Dorset, Vt. 05251

Ray B. Stump, Route One, Oak Grove, Ky 42262.

Examples of what these dealers offer are: child's rocker in pine, pine high chair, hooded walnut cradle, Windsor rod back chair, child's dry sink, and child's pine desk.

## QUICKSILVER DIGGIN'S

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## Gas Station Dedication Set for September 9, 1979:



## GAS STATION

When Henry Ford's first Model T rolled out of the factory in 1903 the automobile was still a novelty, but within 10 years it had become a fixture in American life. A significant part of the economy developed around it as well, as automobile-related businesses such as repair shops, parts stores, auto insurance agencies and gasoline stations evolved to serve ever-increasing numbers of automobile owners.

As automobile travel became more popular, a demand was created for improved roads. This, in turn, made long-distance travel a possibility. The gasoline station appeared to fill the need for replenished supplies of fuel on the road so trips no longer had to be limited to the distance allowed on one tank of gas.

Built in 1927 at the southwest corner of Julian and Market Streets, this station was one of a chain owned by the Associated Oil Co. Later it was owned by private parties - Max Rosenthal from 1930 to 1945 and Guy Brouse from 1945 to 1971 - but Associated products were still featured for many years.

Oil crises and rising gas prices eventually took their toll, and the station had been vacant for several years when the City of San Jose scheduled it for demolition. But with the help of volunteers and financial gifts the structure was saved and moved to the Museum grounds in August, 1978.

### EXCLAMATION POINT!

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*Classes - Blocking and finishing  
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## By the Way — Museum News

If you haven't been to Sacramento lately then you may not be aware of the Old Sacramento State Historic Park. Formerly an eye sore located on and around Front Street, this area has been beautifully restored and is alive with shops and restaurants. For you railroad buffs, there is the California Railroad Museum with displays of steam locomotives, passenger coaches, a private car of Victorian vintage, and an exhibit of 1920's freight cars. Located in the former Central Pacific Railroad Depot, it is open daily from 10 to 5 for the admission price of 50 cents.

## Fifth Annual Do-Si-Do

For those of you who missed the May 11 barbecue and square dance or overlooked Marjorie Pierce's May 24th writeup of the event, it was fantastic. This year it was decided to move the affair outside to the plaza so no one would be constrained when it came to dancing to the sounds of veteran caller Bill Brown or eating the delectable menu prepared by Mt. Charlie Chapter of E Clampus Vitus. For dessert most of the participants sashayed over to O'Briens for an ice cream which many ate under the glow of the Light Tower. Many thanks should be given to Penny Lowe and her committee for their time and enthusiasm which made this year's barbecue and stable stomp a smashing hit.

## Who's Who at the Museum



Yo Ogawa, Museum Secretary, has worked at the Historical Museum for eight months. Yo handles scheduling for the Docent tours and volunteers and is responsible for all of the Museum's clerical work. Yo also maintains the Association's membership lists and prepares the mailings.

Her career with the City began with her work in the clerical pool in 1972. In later years, Yo worked for the police and fire departments, and in 1977 she went to work for the Parks Planning Division.

Yo and her husband, Yukio, who has his own gardening business, have three children—Leslie, Laurie and Joanne. The Museum is lucky to have such a capable and dedicated secretary.

## "Saratoga's First Hundred Years"

by Florence R. Cunningham - edited by Frances L. Fox

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## Docent News

Excerpts from outgoing Docent Council President, Nancy Valby's end of year review: Our organization has more than doubled from about two dozen docents to over 50. This year's training class was most successful, thanks to the hard work of the trainees, staff and experienced docents.

In the "internal housekeeping department," we really got our act together. The Docent Council Board of Directors now has monthly scheduled meetings. General meetings are planned on an annual basis. By-laws were written and approved, which provide a workable framework of operation. In addition, we established a monthly newsletter to help improve communications.

Our Docent Room upstairs in the office area is now our "home." It has been furnished with a table and chairs, and a bookcase is on order, thanks to the generosity of the David Osborn Memorial Fund. David Osborn, who passed away last May, was a docent himself for over four years. He was extremely active in organizing the Docent Council originally and was very much admired by all who worked with him. With our thank you's to his widow, Evelyn Osborn, we docents now have a furnished place in which to complete our projects and conduct our research.

### Annual Docent Appreciation Luncheon

A luscious luncheon of salad, sandwiches and strawberries served on crystal plates was enjoyed by 39 docents and members of the Museum staff on Monday, May 21, in the Meeting Room of the Pacific Hotel. While everyone was enjoying themselves and were so well decked out for the occasion, a photographer was snapping portraits for the docent bulletin board. Next time you give a tour, you can check to see who was sitting across from you at the luncheon. Awards were presented to all docents who so diligently gave their time to guide the many visitors through the exhibits this year. Don DeMers, Museum Director, gave an update on buildings to be finished or added to the Museum grounds. Claudia Jurmain expressed her appreciation of the fine job the docents have done this year. Gay Southwell, along with her committee, Loraine Vick, Nancy Leonard, and Karen Schroeder, gave a demonstration on how to use the "Touch of History" baskets in the main exhibit and the Umbarger House. The new slate of officers and the Docent Council by-laws were approved unanimously by the membership. The new officers are: Nancy Leonard, President; Lee Gothan, Vice-President; Sheri Woodhouse, Secretary; Peggy Smith,

Community Relations; and Betty Brown, Admissions. All in attendance agreed that it was a delightful luncheon and that next year's program was off to a great start.

#### Meet the New Docent Board

President, Nancy Leonard, has a Bachelor's Degree in Natural Sciences and Elementary Education. She taught 4th, 5th, and 6th grades for a while before tackling a home and children. Nancy enjoys gardening and bicycling with her family among other outdoor activities. This is Nancy's first time at being president of an organization. Good luck, Nancy!

Vice-President, Lee Gothan, will be in charge of docent scheduling. Lee has a Bachelor's Degree in History from Albion College in Michigan. She has been an active leader in several organizations, including Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Little League, and Sunday School. Lee's hobbies are oil painting, sewing, cooking and gardening.

Secretary, Sheri Woodhouse, will be your newsletter editor. Sheri is a 4th generation San Josean, who is looking forward to adding to her knowledge of local history. Her hobbies are quilting and gardening.

Community Relations Chairman, Peggy Smith, will be arranging for publicity and advertising as well as contacting schools with information. Peggy has a Bachelor's Degree in Home Economics. She is interested in cooking, sewing, history, and traveling.

Admissions Chairman, Betty Brown, is a retired schoolteacher and a graduate of Stanford and Berkeley. She is originally from the New England area, but has found herself learning a lot of local history in order to entertain out of town guests. Betty enjoys traveling in her spare time.

### SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

635 Phelan Avenue  
San Jose, California 95112

287-2290

#### HOURS

WEEKDAYS - 10 - 4:30

SATURDAY - 12 - 4:30

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