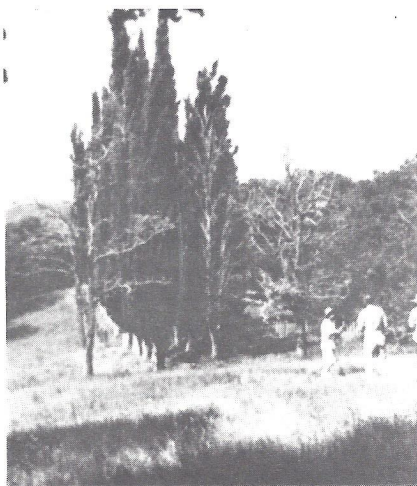


QUARTERLY BULLETIN
OF THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY
INCORPORATED 1875

Volume 26

May, 1985

No.2



Enduring Cypress Trees Monument To Early Miners Of New Almaden

Looking up as if in silent prayer these living monuments continue to shelter miners and their families in the little secluded Hildalgo Cemetery near the once picturesque mining settlement of Spanishtown above New Almaden today.

In 1938 L.R. Cody, then County Agricultural Commissioner said, "These *Cupressus sempervirens* are the offspring of the century-old aristocratic cypress trees which adorned Roman villas and gardens for two thousand years." He also affirmed the trees are remarkable in that they are true Roman cypress thin and straight and have flourished and grown on the untilled, unwatered hilltop for so long. The trees were planted in 1880 when this Mine Hill cemetery was established by the Sociedad Filantropica ve das Ahorras de Nueva Almaden on March 12, 1880.

Following services at the Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe Catholic Church, located on the open ridge at the top of Mine Hill, processions started down the winding foot and burro paths worn deep after fifty years of habitation where they entered an archway and two rows of cypress trees.

Those who know the true Italian cypress say this lofty stand of 60 to 70 feet is the largest stand in North America.

At press time, tours of this segment of the County Park System are scheduled for May 25th at 9 a.m. and June 15th at 9 a.m. For more information call 268-8331.

▼ ▼ ▼ WHALE BLAZERS ▼ ▼ ▼

This last January 8th history was oblivious to the 98th year since James Lick's casket was lowered into his mountain top vault and then sealed with a two-and-half-ton stone. Two other stones were then set in place and bolted to the foundation piers of the telescope, then the largest in the world. Lick had died in San Francisco on October 1, 1876 but construction had not advanced sufficiently to permit the burial until January 8, 1887.

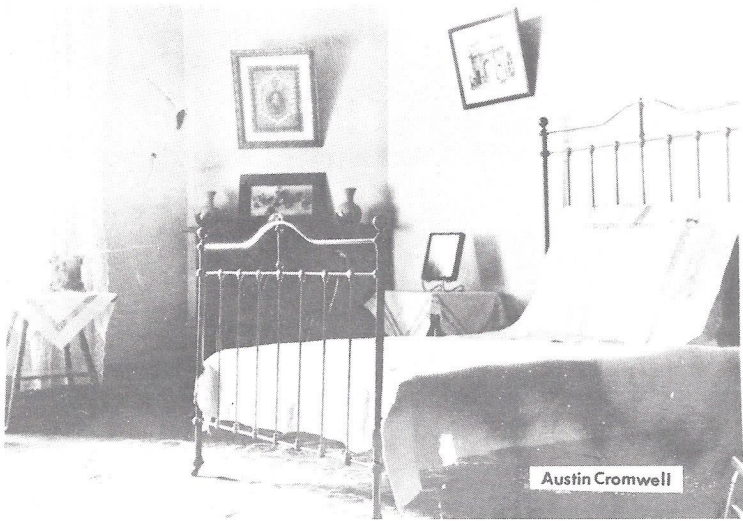
On January 2, 1926 Dr. Charles D. Herrold, 'the father of radio broadcasting,' was married among the tubes, coils and microphones of San Jose's broadcasting station, KQW. This radio romance united widower Herrold and Mrs. Belle Coleman, his assistant director. Dr. William K. Towner, pastor of the First Baptist Church, where the station was situated, performed the airway service. Ray Newby, the best man, had been Herrold's first operation engineer when the station began the world's first regular radio broadcast programs here in 1909 on the top floor of the since razed Garden City Bank Building at South First and San Fernando Streets.

SAN JOSE, May 1926: Radio station KQW was broadcasting to promote the passage by the voters of an ordinance that would provide more firemen and policemen as well as raising their pay. William E. Snow, the singing traffic cop, rendered "Oh, How I Miss You Tonight," "Tie Me To Your Apron Strings Again," and "I Love You Truly."

March 1931: Statues of two of California's outstanding pioneers; Fray Junipero Serra, Franciscan founder of the California Missions, and Thomas Starr King, Unitarian pastor and dominant figure in the early intellectual and religious life of the state, were unveiled at Washington, D.C. in the Statuary Hall. Past Grand President of the Native Daughters of the Golden West and Senators Hiram Johnson and Samuel Shortridge officiated.

SAN JOSE, June 1931: The local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post was heading a horned toad race and was in dire need of more live ants to feed their charges. The shortage of ants was handicapping the trainers since the household pests were the toads main diet. Any reasonable amount would be purchased to contain their 'contestants' until an approaching racing date.

H.C.



Before Medicare

This casual home like setting in about 1915 was by no means a guest room at the fashionable Vendome Hotel but a private room at O'Connor Sanitarium. When it opened in 1889, it was called a sanitarium as were several other valley institutions since hospital was a distasteful word in those days. A San Jose Historical Museum source states, "O'Connor boasted gas lighting manufactured on the premises, good steam heat, wonderful kitchen facilities and rooms filled with European furnishings." Not long after the completion of the Sanitarium, the grounds were to provide fresh vegetables, fresh eggs, some meat and dairy products for the residents then mostly aged and infirmed.

In the early 1900's O'Connor became a true hospital. When the late Sister Superior Stella Leacy arrived in 1921, she found pigs, cows, chickens and rabbits roaming the 14 acre site at Race and San Carlos Streets. "The first thing I did was to get rid of the pigs," she once recalled, "and then the barnyard." The sisters, however, were faithful to their horse who had served them well. He was retired in 1915 but was allowed to remain until he died in 1927.

Dr. C. Kelly Canelo, past president of our Pioneer Society and long time San Jose physician who retired in 1965 after forty years of practice, headed the O'Connor medical staff in 1933. Dr. Canelo says there were only one hundred doctors in Santa Clara County when he started practice in 1924. A private room at O'Connor's at the time he recalls was \$10 a day while a four-bed ward was \$3 a day including medicine and general nursing care.

Dr. Canelo was very active in the formation of the California Physicians Service in the mid 1930's when he became its first vice-president while Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur of Stanford University served as president. The Ser-

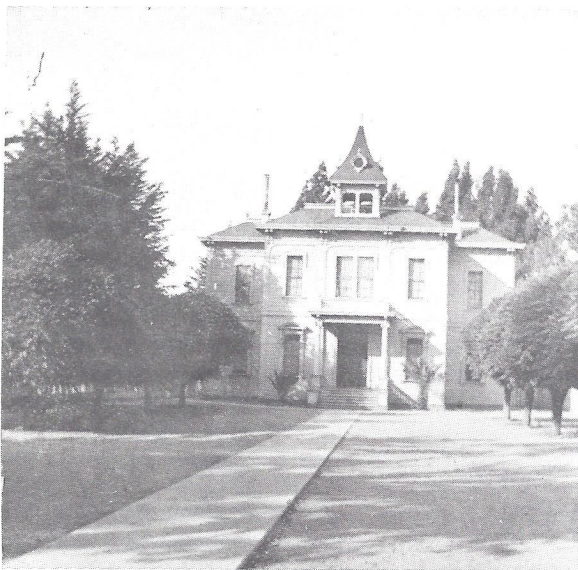
vice pioneered medical care on pre-paid basis. It is presently known as Blue Shield.

Daniel D. Hruby's "Mines to Medicine", a history of O'Connor's Hospital, tells of the founding of the O'Connor School of Nursing in February 1892. It was among the first programs initiated in California. In 1900 the first graduation class totaled nine nurses. They at first worked 12 hour shifts with a half hour off for lunch, an hour in mid-afternoon and a half hour for dinner. Pay was \$20 a month including board, room and laundry and no paid vacation. Often nurses would go into private homes to care for a patient over several months. The students were then graded by the families.

H.C.

The Alameda

By Elisabeth Bean Telfer



The word 'alameda' is defined as "a public walk shaded by poplars or other trees."

The rough dirt path which the Indians followed along the irrigation ditch from the Guadalupe River in the little Spanish Pueblo of San Jose de Guadalupe to the Mission in Santa Clara was some three miles long. In order to make it more attractive and easily followed Padre Magin Catala sent his foreman out with two hundred Indians to beautify the road. Four rows of small black willow trees were planted and carefully tended. One row was later removed, but the three rows prospered and grew into stately shade trees. This road became known as The Alameda, and was part of El Camino Real.

As time went on, The Alameda grew in importance as the select residence avenue of the community. Horse-cars made their way among its trees for

many years. The cities grew, and one day it became inevitable that the center row of trees must go to make way for progress and its electric cars. Advancement brings its sorrows, and this was a very real one for many loyal San Joseans.

And then came paving. An enormous task it was -- leveling, the grading, the resetting of the car tracks, the squabbles with the stand-patters who would have no sidewalks marring their front yards, the excitement of the children as they thought of their road to school without its inches-deep dust in summer and its sticky adobe in winter. There was dismay in the hearts of the campus boys from the University of Pacific and Santa Clara College, who would lose their "Lovers' Lane", that section just around the turn where elm suckers grew so close on either side of the walk that there was scarcely room for one. For by that time many of the old willows had died and been replaced by elms, cottonwoods and locusts.

This paving was a long, hard task. The first thing to be done was the raising of the streetcar tracks. Either through lack of foresight or abundance of faith they proceeded so as to be right in the midst of this as winter came on. And it came with a vengeance that year, overflowing creekbanks, stopping up storm sewers and generally wreaking havoc. But the children revelled in the never-to-be-forgotten flood at the lower end of The Alameda. Street-cars crept along on tracks which had but recently been raised to a height of sometimes two feet above the road bed. The boys and girls felt fully justified, even magnanimous, in corralling the railroad company's nice new redwood ties which were washed from their neat piles and floated aimlessly down the street. They built whole fleets of rafts which they gleefully and quite skillfully used to transport passengers to and from the streetcars.

Progress was in the air, and the thought of planned planting grew in the minds of civic-minded citizens. Sycamores were decided upon as the most satisfactory shade tree for this vicinity. A building boom had brought many fine new homes to The Alameda, and the scrubby old willows and dangerously spreading elms were gradually replaced by the newly favored trees. At length just three of the original black willows remained as relics of the past, and they were fast decaying. My father, George A. Bean, had lived on or near The Alameda most of his adult life, and he noted the condition of the willows with dismay. Dreading to see these relics destroyed by age or progress, he wrote a letter to the Mercury Herald in May 1931. The letter was published in the paper, and soon the project of saving the trees was taken up by the Catala Club of Santa Clara, who succeeded in getting tree surgeons from the State Highway Commission to care for them. They were trimmed and scraped and their empty trunks filled with cement.

When all was done, impressive dedicatory services were held and the trees were marked with appropriate plaques.

Tree planted in 1799 by
Padre Magin Catala, O.F.M.

Catala Club
University of Santa Clara
1934

During this time an effort was made to change the name of The Alameda. It is suggested that it include Grant and Clay Streets in Santa Clara, and

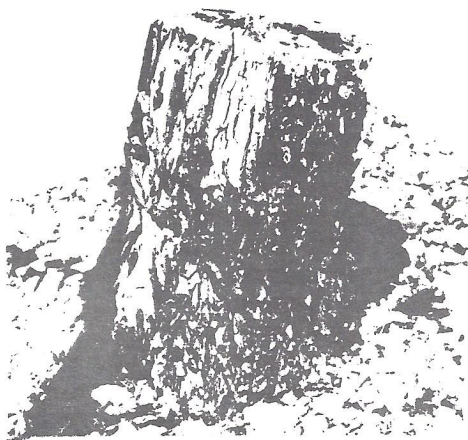
Santa Clara Street and Alum Rock Avenue in San Jose. This prompted a vigorous outcry from residents and the Catala Club, and the idea was soon dropped.

The Alameda was for many years a three-mile avenue of beautiful homes, but as the two cities at its ends expanded, business houses began to encroach from both directions. Unnoticed at first these buildings of industry crept closer together, filling in the vacant lots, replacing old outmoded residence, crowding up against some of the finest homes. At last the people were aroused and moved to save what was left of The Alameda -- its center mile. Restrictions were adopted protecting "forever" that mile that was still free from industry.

But "forever" didn't last. Families scattered, and some of the large old homes were converted into apartments. The electric cars, once the pride of the people, passed into history as tracks and trolley lines were removed and buses took over the project of public transportation. The evolution continued as small homey office buildings were allowed. A church was built. The old Hester School was replaced by a handsome concrete building, which has since been replaced by a low bungalow-type building. A Y.M.C.A. building appeared. Some of the old homes disappeared and modern office building in various types of architecture filled the vacancies. A high-rise bank building replaced the Cora Hatch Johnston mansion, the San Jose Inn was built on the Gallimore property. The Leet estate became Garden Alameda, a beautifully landscaped complex of office buildings and restaurants. Two more churches were built and several high-rises.

The magic center miles of Padre Catala's shaded public walk has become a uniquely beautiful avenue, shaded by towering sycamores, with just one remnant of an old willow vigorously growing in front of the San Jose Inn until recently, when it was destroyed by vandals. The buildings are an interesting mixture of the old and the new-well-kept old homes, most of which have been converted into apartments or offices, mingling with various types of commercial buildings.

But The Alameda still retains its name, its charm, its mystique, and the decaying stump of one old willow tree.





Get That Cemetary Out Of Town!

By Bill Chivers

It was shortly after the Town of Los Gatos was incorporated in 1887 that there obviously was a problem of major proportion facing the Town Board. The old Town cemetery was almost full and in a very disrespectful condition. Trees and bushes grew rampant, weeds were high, and tombstones and old fences were in bad repair. There was no room to expand as the new town was overgrowing this old cemetery which was located on the southeast corner of Santa Cruz Avenue and Saratoga where the Little Village business area is today.

For the next year there was much discussion by the Town fathers and local citizens on what could be done about the problem. In January 1889, a local capitalist, Augustine Nicholson, who owned many acres of land in and around Los Gatos and for whom Nicholson Avenue was named, offered to deed to the Town Board 17½ acres he owned off of San Jose Los Gatos Road in the area of Whitney and Wheeler Avenue for a cemetery. The Town Board quickly accepted his offer, as it was free and some distance from the Town proper, but as soon as the word was passed around town about this windfall, 210 Los Gatos taxpayers petitioned the Town Board against putting a cemetery in that location. The petition stated that many people had bought land near the proposed cemetery site that Nicholson had deeded to the Town, and some had erected beautiful homes bordering this

land. To have shadows of monuments cast upon them every morning as the sun came up from this proposed "city of the dead" was to very greatly discourage and irritate these people, and that a cemetery in that location would be a nuisance and a hindrance to real estate values. They further stated that a new cemetery should be outside the corporate area and that the drainage of a cemetery in Town would be a menace to the health of the city. The Town Board was overwhelmed by this first major opposition to one of their decisions, and at their next meeting on February 8, 1889, they deeded the land back to Mr. Nicholson.

It was in December of the same year that a group of men from the Odd Fellows Lodge, not as members but as individuals, formed the Los Gatos Cemetery Association with its Directors being some of the new incorporated Town's leading citizens. They were Doctors Knowles and Gober; James H. Lyndon, who was Santa Clara County Sheriff from 1894 to 1898; Edw. C. Yocco, who ultimately acquired major control of the stock, and his family managed the new cemetery for many years; L.E. Hamilton, a carpenter and building contractor (Grandfather of this author); Dan Walker and E.E. Dow. They acquired 13½ acres on the Los Gatos-Almaden Road about 3½ miles from the Town's boundary. By March 1890, the Association had streets laid out and surveyed into blocks and plots. Mr. R.F. Robertson, the first superintendent of the new cemetery, went before the Town Board and asked to have the old cemetery graves moved to the new Los Gatos Cemetery.

The Town Board on July 1, 1890 passed an ordinance prohibiting any further internments in the old graveyard. In August of that year, E.E. Place, the Town undertaker, began removing graves of families that could be identified and who could be notified of the action. There were a few who felt the Town Board had no right to have these graves moved, but Judge Venue, a local Judge, said the Board had the right to have the bodies removed from the corporate limits, and that the presence of these remains was a menace to the health of the people, and therefore a nuisance. This was the same argument the people used to stop the Nicholson cemetery gift. One man was so adamant about his wife being buried in the old family plot instead of the new cemetery that to prevent the city from serving him an injunction, he and his friends buried her body at midnight on Saturday when the city office would be closed the next day, and no injunction could be served until after the body was buried. It is believed that this was the last burial at the old Los Gatos Town Cemetery.

The records show that the first new burial at the new Los Gatos Cemetery was February 20, 1890 of Mr. Ives J. Rickard, a Civil War veteran. The new Los Gatos-Almaden Road Cemetery had a beautiful park-like atmosphere, and the citizens of Los Gatos soon began to ignore the old abandoned one in town. The local papers for many years would tell that the Town Board kept recommending the clearing out of the old cemetery and suggestions were even made to make a town park of it.

Early Los Gatos residents have recorded some of the things they remember about the old cemetery. One was the late Mrs. Dora Ranken. She describes it as a truly spooky place with overgrown shrubs and a mass of oak trees. The lights and shadows would play tricks flashing in and out over the gray and white tombstones. At the very corner was a little grave

with the only inscription on it, "Willie has gone to God." Another early resident has told of putting flowers on the grave of George Teasdale, a benefactor of the school children of Los Gatos. He died in 1873, leaving 300 dollars to the school district so that interest would be used to buy Christmas candy for the children. Later in 1905, Edward A. Johnson left another 300 dollars to this fund. Years later as the school district grew, the interest was not enough to buy sufficient candy, so the trustees bought playground equipment believing it to be of more value to the children, and the fund was absorbed. Neither Little Willie nor George Teasdale were ever removed as no one was ever found to pay for the removal.

In 1914 street paving was completed around the old cemetery and bond assessments were issued against the property. There being no apparent owner, the bonds were bought and paid for by J.S. Landsberger, President of the Hunt Packing Company, which became owners of the property and cleaned it up. Hunt Packing Company built a cafeteria and some fifty workers' cabins on the sight, and the remaining grave stones were turned under face down. It is said that as late as July, 1929 there was a reinternment from the old to the new cemetery when a family of one of the deceased was located and was willing to pay the expense.

In the early 1940's, Effie Walton, a local real estate developer, bought the property from the Hunt Packing Company and sold off parcels for commercial establishments. Many of us remember the old 5 Spot Restaurant at the corner that sold a milkshake and a hamburger for ten cents each. When the 5 Spot Restaurant was torn down in the mid 1950's for the widening of the intersection and construction of the new access to Highway 17, some of the tombstones were unearthed and brought part of the job to a standstill until it was decided to just leave the stones where they were found and go ahead and blacktop over them. We don't know whose tombstones they were, but some time when you are driving and making a turn east on Saratoga Avenue to Highway 17 from North Santa Cruz Avenue in Los Gatos, remember that Little Willie and Mr. Teasdale may be under there so just whisper softly as you go by and say "sorry!"

Memorial Day

97 Year Custom Continues At Child's Grave

"Jenny Danielson, December 7, 1886-July 27, 1888. Little Jenny, a native of New Almaden was born on a very wintry day. She was blue-eyed and very beautiful. Since her death family members have faithfully brought flowers to the simple grave on special days. Should you pass this way again you can share in this lovesome tradition. Jenny would love that."

This steadfast family link ended this last March when Jenny's half-sister, Miss Lydia Ennis, passed away. Our Society shall continue as Jenny's shepherd. Your help and understanding would be appreciated.



President's Message

Mrs. Victoria Julia Malatesta

The San Jose Historical Museum needs the help of THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY to help the Mayor and the San Jose City Council to support the Museum.

Please write your Mayor and the City Council (Men and Women) at Room 600, City Hall, 801 N. First Street, San Jose, California 95110. Please encourage them to vote for the Historical Museum operating budget, the close date of June 1985 Time flies and this will be our opportunity to preserve the past for the future generations.

Due to the wonderful efforts of the Staff and working relationship between the Great San Jose Parks and Recreation Department and the San Jose Historical Museum Association, the Association funds almost \$1 for every \$2 the Parks and Recreation Department funds for the operation of The Historical Museum. (This is what has kept the Museum from closing down.)

Please write today. I am thanking you in advance for your concerned effort.

Being a Pioneer member can qualify your children and grandchildren for membership on the age of 18.

Welcome New Members

Katherine Baiocchi
Claire H. Bowden
Wanda Brewer
Jessie E. Burner
Betty Camicia
Nora H. Dorr
Elizabeth Firth
William A. Firth
Maxine Grevstad
Mary Griffin
Orvil Griffin

Dominic Guraro
Jeanne Guraro
Millie L. Harmer
George C. Hesse
Vernon Jensen
Gertrude Klem
James F. Klem
Henrietta Marcotte
Estelle Maynard
William E. Moore
Charles A. Mortell

Ann D. Parbury
Virginia Peterson
James Troy Rumpy
Laura I. Rose
Madeline Rose
Mary D. Ryder
Mae Sequeira
Dorothy L. Stevens
David E. Stoddard Jr.
Charles W. Walton.
Luana Zolezzi

Beyond The Sunset

Angeline Aiello
Helen Amato
Anna E. Avila
Esther L. Gierdal
E. Brewster Hillard

Lydia Innes
Cornelia Gattorna
Bartley J. Kilgallin
Louis A. Lopes
May O. Masey

Kathryn Monogue
Albert Musick
Robert Seidel
Vernon Welch
Clara Yard.



Touring With The Californians

June 6 MARINEWORLD Here's a day overflowing with shows to dazzle you. Plan this one dayer before Marineworld relocates. Space still available. CALL NOW.

October 3-23, 1985 CHINA Send for special brochure on this trip. If you have been thinking about this trip but haven't made up your mind, the time is now! Final date for reservations is June 21.

August 31 - September 2 Labor Day Weekend Meander with Austen Warburton through the KLAMATH RIVER COUNTRY while you scan Indian Reservations, Redwood Forests and sites like Hamburg and Happy Camp. Arcata and Yreka are your overnights on this excursion. Reservations begin at June 1st luncheon.

RESERVATIONS FOR TRIPS can be made by calling Alice Vetterle at 294-7510 from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday thru Friday. Members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are given preference over guests with reservations taken on first-come basis. Reservations for MEMBERS only will be accepted for the first week after each quarterly luncheon meeting; thereafter, non-members will be welcome. Subject to this rule anyone may sign on a waiting list and you are encouraged to do so. The right is reserved to decline or accept any person as a member of any tour.

Aren't You Glad You Paid Your Dues!

Because your dues were paid on time you are reading this copy of the Trailblazer. Unfortunately there are a number of our members who have not yet paid so their mailing plates have been pulled and they will remain off the mailing list until such time as they do send in their payment.

Dues are \$5 annually, per person, and should be sent by check along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Financial Secretary, California Pioneers, P.O. box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155.

If you have any questions about this, please call Mary Wahlberg at 246-5504. She will be happy to help.

ATTENTION! Members, please be more conscientious about sending in changes of address. It costs to print and mail the Trailblazer and then to have it not reach its destinations is such a waste.

P.O. BOX 8208
SAN JOSE, CA 95155

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
San Jose, California
Permit No. 1234

June 1st LUNCHEON

Come Hear and Cheer Our Historical Essay Winners

Please Call
247-6606
Anytime
So we can better
prepare for you.

Doors
Open
10:30
Lunch
12
NOON

MENU
Roast Chicken
Salad-Vegetable
Dessert-Coffee



DUES: \$5 Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of your membership card. Make checks payable to California Pioneers and mail to Financial Secretary, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155.

THE TRAILBLAZER issued February, May, August and November. Editor-Henry Calloway, 1899 McDaniel Ave., San Jose, CA 95126; Associate Editor-Laura Calloway; Assistant Editor-Bill Chivers; Staff Artist-Ralph Rambo. Subscription rate to non-members \$4 per year.

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY DIRECTORS 1984-1985: President-Victoria Malatesta; First Vice President-Al Gauger; Second Vice President-Leonard McKay; Recording Secretary-George Kobayashi; Treasurer-Bryan Millar; Financial Secretary-Mary Wahlberg; Membership Chairman-James O'Connor; Marshall-Mary Simas; Archivist-Helen Kuesel; Parliamentarian-Austen Warburton; Historian-Clyde Arbuckle; Corresponding Secretary-Helen Arbuckle; Audit Committee-Don Tustin, Helen Soderstrom, Bill Chivers; Greeter-Wade Brummal.

SUNSHINE Please notify of SICKNESS AND DEATHS: Mary Simas, 1722 Husted, San Jose, CA 95125 Phone 408-448-6102.

***THE FOLLOWING 4 PAGES
WERE INSERTED IN THE
CENTERFOLD OF THIS ISSUE
AT THE TIME OF
PUBLICATION.***

THE SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM NEEDS YOUR HELP

In January and February of 1985, the San Jose Historical Museum Association asked the San Jose City Council to renew its support and concentrate on developing the Historical Museum. In particular the Association is requesting staff positions to work with Museum programs, including the Archives and Collections.

The Museum needs the help of THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY to encourage the San Jose City Council to support the Museum. Please write your Mayor and City Councilman at Room 600, City Hall, 801 N. First St., San Jose, CA 95110, and encourage them to vote for the Historical Museum operating budget in June. Also encourage the Council to give funds for the growth and development of the facility.

The preservation of the heritage of the valley is very important and the San Jose Historical Museum is an excellent project and resource for the community now and for the years to come.

THE SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM dates back to 1949, when a replica of California's first Statehouse was built to display a collection of local historical artifacts. The two-story replica with display was so popular that, instead of the building being demolished after the celebration, it was moved to the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds in 1950 as the Statehouse Museum and its collection grew. Clyde Arbuckle, who was appointed City Historian in 1945, was the first director of the museum and responsible for the establishment of much of the collection.

The museum continued to grow and in 1965 the Historic Landmarks Commission and the Santa Clara County Pioneer Society, guided by the efforts of Theron Fox, helped the San Jose City Council designate a 25-acre plot on the southwest portion of Kelley Park for the reconstruction of an historic town to be known as the San Jose Historical Museum.

In 1971, the old Statehouse Museum at the Fairgrounds was closed and with a temporary museum exhibit and offices built in one of two steel warehouses the new San Jose Historical Museum at Kelley Park opened to the public on June 19, 1971, as part of the San Jose Parks & Recreation Department.

CONCEPT OR MASTER PLAN

In 1972, the San Jose Historical Museum Master Plan was designed by the Churchill-Zlatunich Architectural Firm and approved by the San Jose City Council. With input from the Santa Clara County Pioneer Society, the Historic Landmarks Commission, the newly formed San Jose Historical Museum Association, and the community, the architects designed a working/living museum to be comprised of 74 buildings on the 25 acres in the 176 acre Kelley Park.

In 1973, the first original structure was opened in conjunction with the Master Plan. A Print Shop with working print office and small Museum Association Gift Shop in the front room was dedicated. The building honors Theron Fox, who was employed by the printing company, the Rosicrucian Press, for over 30 years and whose leadership founded the present San Jose Historical Museum.

THE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

The San Jose Historical Museum, like other museums, exists because of a unique collection of items of historical value and importance that relate to historical facts and illustrate a story. The San Jose Historical Museum interprets the history of the Santa Clara Valley and San Jose in particular. The purpose of the Museum is to collect, preserve, research, exhibit, and interpret objects relating to the cultural history of San Jose utilizing restored or reconstructed structures as exhibit sites. The Museum's town concept includes original structures that can actually be worked, creating a living museum approach to interpretation.

Most of the Museum's vast collections were donated by hundreds of San Jose's citizens since 1950. The City of San Jose did make an investment in 1967 when it purchased the Bohnett Collection, a local collection of antique carriages, automobiles, machinery and other items then valued in 1967 conservatively at \$235,000 and numbering in the thousands of pieces.

In order to better categorize and care for the collections, they are classified in major groups that include Archives, Photographs, and General Collections that include artwork, costumes and textiles, carriages and cars, household or business memorabilia and mechanical items.

FUNDING FOR THE MUSEUM

The funding for the operation and development of the San Jose Historical Museum is provided by the San Jose Parks & Recreation Department. While the San Jose Historical Museum Association was formed in 1971, it was not until the 1982-83 fiscal year when the Museum was threatened with closing, due to a lack of funds, that the Association became a

viable source of funding. Due to the efforts of staff and the working relationship between the San Jose Parks & Recreation Department and the San Jose Historical Museum Association, the Association funds almost \$1 for every \$2 the Parks & Recreation Department funds for the operation of the Historical Museum. This cooperative effort has kept the Museum alive.

While staffing is at a bare minimum, there is optimism for improvements in the future. The Museum reminds the community that in City Council Resolution #46373, dated January 2, 1975, the Council went on record as recognizing "that the preservation of memorabilia concerning the City's history is of value to the entire community" and further "Resolved that the City Council of the City of San Jose hereby declares that the San Jose Historical Museum is an established function of the City of San Jose and that resources for its operation shall always be made available to the extent permitted by the City's financial ability. The existence and permanency of the San Jose Historical Museum is hereby asserted."

THE ADDRESS

Please Write Today

Mayor and City Council Members
City Hall, Room 600
801 N. First Street
San Jose, Calif. 95110
