



PAC SJ FILES SUIT TO PREVENT DEMOLITION OF JOSE THEATRE!!

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by Tom Simon

PAC SJ filed suit on December 18, 1997, to stop the City of San Jose from demolishing the historic Jose Theatre and three other historic buildings. Built in 1904 specifically for vaudeville, the Jose is the last remaining theatre of its kind west of the Mississippi. The Jose is a city landmark and along with the other three structures is part of the Downtown Commercial Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. With the loss of these buildings, the district status may be withdrawn. An eleventh hour "compromise" was proposed by the city to save the Jose facade and lobby, but the loss of the auditorium would remove its historic designation. After numerous failed attempts to persuade the City Council to modify this project, PAC SJ was left with no choice but to file legal action. At this time hearing dates have not been set, but watch your local media for the latest information.

The lawsuit focuses on the way the city entered into an agreement to demolish the Jose and build apartments on the site. The "pre-development agreement" was announced in June of 1996, without public notice and without an environmental impact report. After preservationists protested, the city did an EIR but then failed to adopt feasible measures to avoid destruction of

the historic structures, and refused to consider alternative plans which could have saved the theater. We are challenging the city because "behind closed doors" pre-development agreements are WRONG, and the public has a right to learn about and have input on plans that threaten historic resources.

The importance of our action is increased because now the city is doing exactly the same thing again to approve the demolition of the Montgomery Hotel. The city demolished Costa Hall, part of the same historic district, several years ago. Without our action these unacceptable losses will continue.

CLYDE ARBUCKLE
1903 — 1998

by April Halberstadt

Clyde Arbuckle, the father of San Jose history, passed away January 10. For many of his fellow citizens he was the ultimate authority and San Jose's wellspring of historic fact and legend. If you were really stumped regarding some

See **CLYDE ARBUCKLE** on page 5

TIME TO RENEW!

Membership renewal letters were sent out in November. If you haven't sent in your renewal please do so now. Your support through membership fees are critical to our continuing efforts to preserve the history of our area. Plus you don't want to miss upcoming exciting information in the *CONTINUITY*! Use the form enclosed in the letter or the form on the inside back page of this newsletter.



From the President

by André Luthard

1998 promises to be an important and exciting year for preservation in San Jose. We expect to be at the center of several future significant projects, and will continue the efforts to save the Jose Theatre and Montgomery Hotel.

Some good news already from the January meeting of the City of San Jose's Historic Landmarks Commission. First, Mid-Peninsula Housing and JSM Enterprises, developers of the Italian (formerly Hawaiian) Gardens property, is proposing to restore the LoCurto home and use it as a community space and residence. Not only that, they intend to renovate one of the banquet rooms and restore the famous Italian Gardens to its romantic splendor. They are proposing to build multi-family and senior housing on the site, located on the east side of Almaden Road between Alma and San Jose Avenues. Constructed in a distinctive Tudor Revival style in the latter part of the 1920s, the LoCurto residence qualifies as a City Landmark. The surrounding banquet facilities and gardens were the site of romantic dinners, dancing to live bands, big name floor shows as well as illicit gambling in the back room from as early as 1933. It is wonderful to see much of this being preserved by Mid-Peninsula Housing!

Second, Fredkins Market (a.k.a. Lou's Donuts) building on Santa Clara Street is slated to be almost completely rebuilt. This 1930 Spanish Colonial Revival building has long been on PACSJ's priority list. This building is an example of the small markets that were very common and an important part of the lives of people living in a growing San Jose during the Inter-War Period between 1918 and 1945. However, over the last several years we were forced to focus on other important buildings in the downtown. Now with the encouragement of the historic Naglee Park neighborhood just adjacent to it, developer Ed Storm is moving forward to incorporate the building into a somewhat larger structure intended for a Walgreens Drug Store. Extensive reconstruction and reinforcement is planned but the decorative plaster, Solon tile and architecture is to remain! Both of these projects are excellent examples of private developer initiatives to restore and reuse our architectural history. It is also important to recognize that preservation isn't always the all-out, high-profile projects we are usually involved in.

PACSJ to receive a commendation from Board of Supervisors

On Tuesday, February 2, Preservation Action Council received a special commendation from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for all of the efforts made to further historic preservation in the Santa Clara Valley. President Andre Luthard received the award on behalf of all members of PACSJ. Karita Hummer and Tom Simon, co-chairs of the Friends of the Jose Task Force, were recognized for special contribution to helping to preserve the Jose and our Downtown Historic Commercial District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

ART EXHIBIT FEATURES FORMER GUADALUPE RIVER PARK RESIDENT

Photographer Teresa Hauge Giovanzana will be one of the featured artists in a new show opening at the Works Gallery in downtown San Jose on April 9. The exhibit documents the events in the life of Gioanna Regalia, a one-time resident of Locust Street in downtown San Jose. Gioanna's house was demolished to make way for flood control improvements on the Guadalupe River in downtown San Jose. An immigrant from Italy in the early 1950's, Gioanna settled in the River Street community because it was predominantly Italian.

The River Street community with its Italian immigrant population has nearly all disappeared, displaced by the construction of two freeways and the current flood control construction. Churches and schools, homes and businesses were all leveled for the freeways and the river project.

This fascinating photographic exhibit tells the story of the experiences of one former Guadalupe River area resident, currently living in the Willow Glen neighborhood of San Jose. The artist, Teresa Hauge Giovanzana is a fifth-generation Italian American who also currently lives in Willow Glen. She has given many lectures on the Italian immigrant experience.

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Please submit your comments and suggestions to Preservation Action Council of San Jose, CA 95109

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Watchdog Report

The doggie sniffed through Downtown on the morning ramble and met with a few friends who know where the juiciest dumpsters are located. We hear that the venerable **Notre Dame High School** will soon be launching a big effort to rebuild, possibly jeopardizing the *O'Connor mansion*, now hidden inside that drab stucco exterior.

The Dog has a big assignment on his hands, checking all the houses that the **Redevelopment Agency** wants to tear down to build a new *City Hall*. The joke around the 'hood is that the worst building on Santa Clara Street is still the yucky *Lucky* and the Agency is planning on saving it. In an effort to improve the blight on Santa Clara, the Agency is planning on tearing down dozens of houses to build an enormous tower with parking underground. When the project is finished, the City Hall and the Lucky grocery will be side by side. So...bite me!

The current silly idea of building a new multistory City/University library just a block away from the proposed City Hall makes the Dog wonder who has been rolling in the catnip. Sometimes these humans just can't be trained, always jumping on the sofa and rolling in the garbage as soon as you leave the room.

Blimey mate, look at this mess! The bureaucrats are still the biggest blighters in town. Just look at the mess around the existing City Hall. Block after block of small houses, now all torn down to build surface parking for City Hall. Sure...there is a big expensive new parking garage on Hedding Avenue. Having made a big mess for blocks around the current City Hall, they now propose to make a bigger mess downtown. Somebody needs to be on a short leash.

The Dog

LUNCH IN THE PARK

The Horace Mann Neighborhood Association invites friends and neighbors to join them on the first and third Tuesday of each month (weather permitting) for lunch in St. James Park. The goal of the program is to make the park a safe place for family gatherings, as it was in the past. Bring your lunch and enjoy a relaxing hour visiting and networking with others who care about this historic park.



PACSJ MEMBERS AND FRIENDS SUPPORT PRESERVATION

PACSJ's Membership, Renewal and Donation Drive is in full swing and we extend a big THANK YOU to all our returning and new members. Your membership fees allow PAC to continue efforts to save historic buildings. This is a critical period, with the Jose Theatre and Montgomery Hotel on the demolition list and several other buildings endangered. Our thanks to the following special friends who donated \$50 or more to allow us to advocate for the preservation of these important historic structures (funds received after January 19th will be listed in the next newsletter):

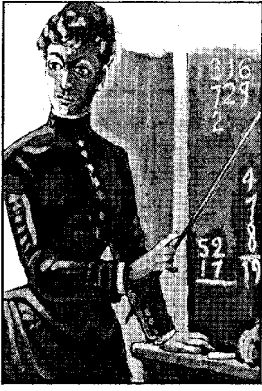
John Bondi & Friends

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Patricia Curia | Geoff Alexander |
| Henry Lutz | Michael Garavaglia |
| Judy Stabile | Kristy Sermersheim |
| Rich Eilbert | Arnold Simon |
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| William Lanfri | Marianne Salas |
| Randy Saldinger | Curtis Jones |
| Kyle Milligan | Anonymous |

NEW LIFE FOR FREDKIN GROCERY

April Halberstadt

The neighbors all call it the "Lou's Donut Building," remembering a favorite longtime tenant of the building at 16th and Santa Clara. For years the fate of the 1930 neo-Spanish colonial building has been in limbo. Its owner, the San Jose Medical Clinic, wanted to sell it for office space. There were plans to demolish the old grocery/thrift store and build a high rise office building. The Medical Clinic is now selling the property to a different developer who has found a tenant for the renovated space. Plans submitted to the Historic Landmarks Commission by Storm Development Company show the building being restored. Walgreen's drug stores are the proposed tenants. Neighbors are thrilled by the possibility of saving the building. However, there is a negative side to the improvement. The new tenant will compete with many of the small mom-and-pop businesses now on Santa Clara Street.



ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE GIVEN SECOND LIFE ON MUSEUM GROUNDS

The College of Education Alumni Association at San Jose University and the City of San Jose have brought a One-Room Schoolhouse to the San Jose Historical Museum at Kelley Park. The purpose is to honor teachers and education. It will also be used as a schoolhouse once again for the 30,000 school children who visit the museum each year.

The schoolhouse was moved to the museum grounds from Hollister in 1996, but was just recently moved to its permanent site in the early residential district of the museum. The foundation has been poured and renovations, conducted under the supervision of Franklin Maggi, Schoolhouse Project Coordinator, will begin soon. The anticipated opening of the schoolhouse is scheduled for the fall of 1998.

Except when enrollment was low and students were sent to neighboring schools, the schoolhouse was in continual use from 1872 until 1974. Mildred Overfelt, of the San Jose Overfelt family, taught at the school from 1893-1897. Renovation plans have been completed. The schoolhouse will look as it did in 1890, except for a gallery, which will allow visitors to view the honored teacher display, project donors recognition, historical displays, and the classroom while class is in session.

After extensive searching in antique shops throughout the United States, 34 antique student desks were found in Birmingham, Alabama. An 1880s school master's desk was purchased in Nevada, and an Ingraham Regulator 8-day schoolhouse clock and four antique angle ceiling lights were purchased in California.

The following description of life at the school is created from a conversation with three students who attended Santa Ana School in the 1930-50s:

We walked to school. Sometimes a neighbor would give us a ride. We liked to play in the trees in front of the school waiting for school to start. A student would ring a triangle to signal us into the school. The school had two front doors, one for the girls and one for the boys. You would enter your door which led into a cloakroom where you would hang your jacket and place your lunch pail on a shelf. Then you would exit the cloakroom through another door to the classroom. The students' desks faced the cloakroom, which was in the front of

the classroom. In between each cloakroom was a stage for school plays. The teacher sat at her desk in front of the stage. The back of the classroom had two doors, one for the girls and one for the boys. They led to the privies; one for the girls and one for the boys. The stove was also in the back of the room. Lighting was from the windows, but electric lights with metal reflectors hung by their cords in the room. Water was provided by the neighboring ranch.

One subject was taught to all children at the same time. We each had our own book for the subject being taught. At recess we would go out and play. We usually played kickball. There was a man that lived close to the school that would bring us sacks of marbles. He would play marbles with us and he would win back the marbles, but he would be back at lunchtime with more marbles.

One of the kids had a shoe where the sole pulled apart from the top of the shoe. We decided to fix it by poking holes through the top of the shoe and sole with an ice pick we found in the school and then wiring the sole to the shoe top with a piece of baling wire. The teacher saw us doing this and wanted to know why we hadn't taken the shoe off his foot before we started.

Leonard Espinosa, retired SJSU professor, is Director of the Capital Campaign with a goal of raising \$250,000. To date \$164,000 has been raised, which paid for the move and foundation, and will cover replacing the roof and beginning the renovations. There are numerous offers of in-kind and pro bono donations for the overall project. A new category for donations has been added. You, your family or an organization can have your name permanently installed on one of the schoolhouse desks for a donation of \$5,000. If you would like to make a donation or help in any way, contact the SJSU Alumni Affairs Office at 408/924-3603/3642.

Excerpt from the SJSU EDUCATOR, Newsletter of the College of Education

PAC SJ NEEDS YOU !!!

This is an extremely busy time for PAC and we need volunteers to help in many different areas. We appreciate your support through membership fees, but if you could also help by giving a few hours a week or month please contact our answering machine at 408/947-8025 and your call will be returned. Do you have expertise in computer data base (membership rosters); or can you help with bulk mailings; how about helping plan and/or staff exhibits or events; design and produce flyers, brochures, etc.; help with the phone tree? Your expertise would be greatly appreciated. Pick up the phone now and get actively involved!!

HERITAGE COUNCIL PUBLISHES NEW GUIDE TO MUSEUMS

PATHWAYS TO THE PAST is the title of Heritage Council of Santa Clara County's new guide to historical museums within the county. This attractive and informative brochure features

27 museums, with photographs, descriptions and location. From Gilroy to Palo Alto, visitors will find exhibits covering all aspects of the history of this valley.



MORGAN HILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM displays a photographic history of the Hiram Morgan Hill family and the early years in the town of Morgan Hill

and archives. The Council was organized to foster an awareness of the physical and cultural heritage of Santa Clara County. For information on the Heritage Council or their new guide to historical museums phone 408/236-2274 or visit their website at <http://www.accesscom.com/~hcscc/>



FORBES MILL MUSEUM is housed in the first building in Los Gatos, a portion of James A. Forbes' flour mill (seen above after 1884).

The Heritage Council of Santa Clara County is a non-profit network of historical organizations, preservation groups, heritage commissions, and history museums



IRON MAN MUSEUM is located at the former Joshua Hendy Iron Works and exhibits gold mining equipment, memorabilia from both World Wars and major mechanical and electrical devices manufactured at this site.

CLYDE CLYDE ARBUCKLE from page one aspect of San Jose history, you could always ask Clyde. And this willingness to share was his greatest gift to us all. For while he was self-taught as a historian, he was nevertheless willing to share any and all of his resources and his information with anybody who found the well-beaten path to his door on Franquette Street in Willow Glen.

I did not know him well but feel fortunate to count myself among the hundreds of historians he helped. I too had questions about my favorite historic San Jose subject, General Henry M. Naglee, and I needed help. Initially I was reluctant to call since it seemed very presumptuous to call without some sort of invitation or introduction. But I was persuaded and finally called Clyde and made an appointment to visit. I had a newspaper copy of a picture of Naglee's estate, attributed to Mr. Arbuckle's photography collection.

It turned out that General Naglee was not one of Clyde's favorite topics and he freely admitted that he knew little about the General. And he could not locate the photograph in question. But always eager to assist, Clyde went through his considerable archives and quickly came up with a letter from a young San Jose girl, written in 1865. She had written a note to her friend telling about the construction of General Naglee's fabulous mansion and gossiping that Naglee was engaged to be married to a young lady from San Francisco. I was thrilled with that discovery!

Since I was there, Clyde talked about other interesting historic topics, items that I had not thought to ask but dutifully wrote down anyway. It turned out to be important information for later work and I was glad to have paid attention. As many folks had told me, even though Clyde did not have the exact answer you were looking for, he had other information you would need sooner or later and he was always willing to share.

So I will miss him and so will hundreds of others he has helped and inspired over the years. But I intend to pass along his legacy. I too will pass along any information I have to anybody who calls and wants it. Because Clyde has demonstrated to me that "the more you give away, the more you receive in return." Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to our fellow PAC Board Member Jim Arbuckle as well as his mother, Helen and sister Susan.

Our sincere sympathy to Karita Hummer, PACSJ's founding member and former president, on the loss of her mother, Josephine Anne Miraglia, at the age of 94. Ms Miraglia, a resident of San Jose, died January 26th, and burial will be in the family home town of Carnegie, Pennsylvania.

**HAVE YOU SENT IN
YOUR RENEWAL?**

ST. JAMES PARK AWAITS FULFILLMENT

by Jack Douglas

St. James Park exists today because of the vision of Chester S. Lyman who surveyed and laid out the streets for the pueblo of San Jose in 1848. Lyman, following a tradition which has European roots, was generous in allotting three



2537 — Fountain, St. James Park, San Jose, California

major squares in his plan for the tiny pre-gold rush village. In addition to St. James Square he plotted Washington Square and the City Plaza on Market Street.

Appreciation for these amenities was slow in coming, as city fathers struggled to keep the town afloat during hard times. They offered both St James and Washington Squares to the State in January 1851 if the Capitol were returned to San Jose. In 1859 they almost gave St. James Square to the County to satisfy a \$500 debt. The Square remained a muddy lot for a decade before a two room schoolhouse was built on the northeast end.

A number of events took place in the late 1860s that prompted the city fathers to fence and begin landscaping what would then become St. James Park. In 1866 the County Courthouse was constructed, giving the area the dignity that it previously lacked. The train depot, built nearby in 1864, would make the location one that visitors would first notice upon arrival. Soon the St. James Hotel and later the glorious Vendome Hotel would be watering holes for a swarm of easterners seeking warmer climates and the smell of blossoming fruit trees.

The Park also became an ideal location for elite homes such as the Norman Porter mansion on St. James Street. Churches, lodges and clubs found this

oasis away from commercial development a welcome place to build.

In 1868 the Square was professionally designed with walkways and plantings based upon plans established by Frederick Law Olmstead, the premier 19th century landscape designer. Early city gardeners fell into the same trap as did many local horticulturists of planting many species from around the world only to discover that they all thrived. As a consequence the Park took on the aspect of a jungle (as noted on early postcard scenes). In 1887 the City Council hired the leading California landscape architect, Rudolf Ulrich, to refine the pathways and carefully remove trees to “afford more sunlight to the flower beds.”

A Multitude of Uses

Over the years St. James Square/Park has seen many uses: a hog farm and a militia drill field in the 1850s to its current status as a gathering place for homeless and out of work people. In major emergencies, such as the two world wars and the great earthquake, the park has housed detachments of soldiers, but for most of its life it has served as a pleasant resting place for the average San Josean. In the 1890s segregated areas for women and children were established, and the central fountain was erected. The Park became a site for all sorts of civic and social gatherings such as picnics, parades and rallies. The reviewing stand for numerous rose parades was always at the Park — the greatest of these was the parade/reception for President McKinley on February 2, 1903.

The Park has always been a place for public speakers, from presidential hopefuls to fire and brimstone preachers. Labor rallies were held there during the 1930s cannery strikes.



2537 — Fountain, St. James Park, San Jose, California

Perhaps the largest crowd to assemble was the November 1933 lynching of the two men suspected of the Brooke Hart kidnaping-murder. A permanent speakers' platform was built to memorialize Robert F. Kennedy who was assassinated just days after he spoke there.

In 1931 the nationally known city planner, Harland Bartholomew, was commissioned to draw up plans for a civic center based upon the "city beautiful" concepts of Daniel Burnham. The resulting design would have surrounded the Park with public buildings including a library, museum, auditorium, post office, city hall, county building and courts, all of this similar in scope to San Francisco's Civic Center. The plan was a bit grandiose and the money was short, so it all came to naught. The WPA did provide public toilets which were later condemned as public nuisances in the 1950s.

A New Beginning for the Park

In the mid-1980s a committee was formed to find ways in which the Park could be improved to fit into the Redevelopment Agency's master plan for Downtown. This committee was made up of City and Parks planners, architects, consultants and Landmarks and Parks Commission members. (This author represented the Historic Landmarks Commission.) It was generally agreed that any renovation would attempt to be consistent with the historical layout of the Park. This has resulted in the reestablishment of the historic walkways, antique benches and other street furniture, closing Second Street to automobile traffic and replacing the ornate fountain which had been removed in 1955 when the City cut the Park in two to extend Second Street across it. Unfortunately almost all of the giant elms were sick or dying of old age and had to be removed. It was a high priority to remove the Senior Center which dominates the eastern side of the Park, but as yet no acceptable new location has been found.

St. James Park may once again be a place for San Joseans to gather, as more people move back into the area to occupy the numerous new housing units that are being planned. Perhaps the dreams of Chester Lyman and other San Jose pioneers will be fulfilled once more.

Jack Douglas is a member of PACSJ's Advisory Board. Retired from San Jose State University as librarian, instructor, head of the Special Collections Department and University Archivist, Jack is currently the University Archivist Emeritus. An activist in the field of historic preservation, Mr. Douglas served on the San Jose Historical Landmarks Commission and the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission. He currently sits on the board of the Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History, and has been associated with the San Jose Historical Museum for many years.

Jack is a familiar at history-related events where he portrays the character of General Henry M. Naglee, in full uniform, on whose life and career he has done extensive research.



Winter Scene, St. James Park, San Jose, Cal

Vintage Postcards from the collection of Jack Douglas

OPEN STUDIO PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT PACSJ

PAC Boardmember Rick Sherman, Studio Potter, will be holding weekend Open Studio on April 18-19, April 25-26 and May 2-3. Rick has very generously donated 15% of his proceeds to PAC in the past and will do so again from these upcoming sales. Rick's work is both unique and beautiful, so it's a good time to pick up an item for your home or as a gift, a painless way to help raise funds for our preservation projects. All items are safe for food. Rick and his wife Marcella live in a spectacular location in the hills above the San Jose Country Club, so the drive up there is worth it and the view is spectacular! Rick loves to share his knowledge of our valley history, so you may even come away with some new and interesting information! Visit the Open Studio at 11265 Canyon Drive, San Jose, or phone Rick at 408/251-8004 for more information. Rick will be sending cards to all PAC members announcing the event, and including driving instructions.

TIME TO RENEW

THE SCHELLER HOUSE UPDATE

by April Halberstadt

We are frequently asked about the progress of the renovation of the Scheller House on the San Jose State campus and we sadly report that there is no real progress. In November the University filed a Negative Declaration for a renovation project for "University House" as they are calling it, and PACSJ filed a protest to their Negative Declaration.

The University showed the outline of a plan to remove all four structures adjacent to the "University House", remove all the mature trees, move the house 50 feet and turn it to face the mall. PACSJ felt that this proposed project does have a major impact on the campus and that a Negative Declaration was inappropriate.

While the University should be allowed to make plans for the structure, the larger issue here is much more serious. The University is currently in contempt of the law. They were handed a Writ of Mandamus in the earlier litigation regarding the Scheller House and they have yet to demonstrate any willingness to comply with the judge's order.

The University is required to list the historic Scheller House with the appropriate state agencies and is also required to consult with the State Office of Historic Preservation in Sacramento regarding any renovation plans for the building. It has now been nearly three years and despite repeated phone calls and other quiet reminders from PACSJ, there has been no substantive demonstration of compliance by San Jose State officials.

Demolition by neglect is also specifically forbidden under the law and the consequences of willful neglect were mentioned in the court case. Nonetheless, the Scheller House has been allowed to sit with leaking roofs and broken glass, open to damage by pigeons and rainwater. The damage has been noted and the university is liable. PACSJ is hoping that San Jose State will soon begin to restore this building. We are very reluctant to initiate legal action once again, but it seems it may be appropriate.

—COMING SOON—

A multi cultural benefit performance and silent auction to support PACSJ's efforts to preserve the Jose Theatre and Montgomery Hotel. Watch your mailbox and local media for details on this exciting upcoming event!

RIVER STREET UPDATE

by April Halberstadt

The salvaged River Street houses are on new foundations and ready for construction crews to begin renovation. The houses that could not be saved have now all been removed; the site was cleared before Thanksgiving. The next phase of River Park work is to remove the St. John Street bridge, pull out River Street and re-shape the channel of the Guadalupe River. Work on the final phase of the park is scheduled to begin March 1.

The River Street Development Group has been holding many discussions with their consultants, engineers, the property appraiser, the lending institutions and the City of San Jose Public Works Department. There are many plans and permits that need to be reviewed before construction can begin, but it seems that we are near the end of this time-consuming process.

In related news, the Preservation Action Council has applied for a rehabilitation grant for the Wissman House, one of the historic River Street houses that now overlooks the Guadalupe River. Tentative plans call for the building to be used as an interpretive center for the cultural history of the River Street neighborhood.

And Henry's HiLife, the famous barbeque restaurant remaining within the River Street neighborhood, will soon be expanding, creating additional space for diners outdoors. We look forward to all the changes and improvements.

Got GOLD FEVER!? Hurry to the GOLD RUSH! at the Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street. Open Wednesday—Saturday, 10AM—5PM; Sunday, noon—7PM

CPF TO HOLD CEQA WORKSHOP IN SAN JOSE

The California Preservation Foundation has scheduled a comprehensive workshop on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), to be held at the San Jose Historical Museum on Thursday, February 12th from 8:45 AM to 4:30 PM. Titled *The California Environmental Quality Act and Historic Resources: Advanced Topics*, the workshop will cover proposed revisions to CEQA Guidelines, exemptions, mitigation, compliance, monitoring, archaeological issues, legal action and many other CEQA related issues. Contact CPF at 510/763-0972 for registration information.

CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION CONFERENCE IN BERKELEY MAY 7-10

The California Preservation Foundation (CPF) and Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) will co-host the 1998 California Preservation Foundation Conference in the Arts and Crafts inspired City of Berkeley from May 7-10. The theme will highlight *New Perspectives on Preservation*. Preservation Action Council of San Jose will be an official Participating Organization of this 1998 conference.

Key program themes will focus on **Historic Preservation Programs, Processes, Regulations, Incentives and Mitigation; Documentation and Preservation of Cultural Landscapes; Building Bridges and Broadening Constituencies; Bringing the Past Into the 21st Century; Integrating New Technology and Preservation; and Architectural History**. Mayor Joe Riley of Charleston, South Carolina, a highly inspirational and pro-historic preservation mayor, will be the featured speaker at the Friday morning Plenary Session. He is expected to speak about why historic preservation is an important planning and economic development tool that local government officials should enthusiastically support.

The conference headquarters will be the Julia Morgan-designed Berkeley City Club and the Hotel Durant. The City Club is a 1929 Gothic-Romanesque structure which bears strong resemblance to San Simeon, Morgan's most well-known building. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, The City Club building was originally designed as a women's club and is considered an important part of the progressive era for women in the late 1920s. Morgan also designed the well-known tiled swimming pool, light fixtures, furnishings, dishes and linens.

BAHA will host walking and bus tours of Berkeley's historic areas, including a campus tour, Maybeck tour and a mini walking tour of the Claremont-Creekside neighborhood. In addition to educational sessions, the conference will also include mobile workshops, various receptions and events, and a gala dinner dance and auction.

Founded in 1975, the California Preservation Foundation is the only statewide nonprofit organization promoting the preservation of California's historic built environment. Through education and advocacy, they provide citizens with the tools they need to preserve the heritage, character and sense of place that make their communities desirable places in which to live. CPF's programs include workshops and publications addressing critical preservation issues, the Annual Preservation Design Awards, a quarterly newsletter,

and the Annual California Preservation Conference.

BAHA is a nonprofit preservation organization, founded in 1974 to promote an understanding and appreciation of Berkeley's history and to encourage preservation of its historic built environment. BAHA has an active educational program of tours, lectures, publications and special events. The organization's services to the community also include extensive archives, research assistance and documentation of city landmarks. Located in the McCreary-Greer House, a City of Berkeley Landmark, BAHA has placed major effort in preserving the historic character of Berkeley and frequently undertakes lobbying efforts for historic preservation.

"We are honored to host the CPF Conference in our city this year," says Monica Rohrer, President of BAHA. We are looking forward to showcasing our wonderful architectural landmarks and guiding the attendees through our historically rich city."

For more information call CPF at (510) 763-0972 or visit the conference website at www.jspub.com/~jsp/preserve/cpf.html.

Editor's Note: All PACSJ members will receive a conference registration form when they are available. This conference provides the tools needed to preserve our heritage. We hope our members will attend this educational, informative and enjoyable event. PACSJ will provide volunteers to assist in many areas of this conference. If you can spare a few hours to help please phone PAC boardmember Rick Sherman at 408/251-8004. I guarantee you will enjoy it!

NATIONAL TRUST PRESIDENT TO SPEAK

Richard Moe, the president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation will be speaking in San Francisco on Tuesday, February 17. The title of his talk is 'Changing Places: Rebuilding Community in the Age of Sprawl.' The program is co-sponsored by the Commonwealth Club and the Foundation for San Francisco's Heritage. Reception starts at 4:45 and the program begins at 5:30. The cost is \$7 for members and \$10 for guests. Call 415/597-6705 for reservations.



Montgomery Hotel c. 1911

T. S. MONTGOMERY FACED OPPOSITION WHEN HE BUILT HIS HOTEL ... WHAT WOULD HE THINK NOW!

by Ellen Garboske

At the turn of the century, the center of downtown San Jose was at First and Santa Clara Streets. The most prominent businesses were in this area, and the most prominent businessmen and realtors felt new construction should be nearby. But there was Thomas S. Montgomery, with the wild idea that businesses should be built southward along First Street.

Montgomery was born in the Edenvale area of San Jose in 1855. He married Miss Lou Schallenberger, daughter of early pioneer Moses Schallenberger, and the couple became prominent in San Jose society circles. In 1887 Thomas was a member of the group which developed the Vendome Hotel. This venture provided the wealth he needed to become a full-fledged real estate developer. That same year he built the Garden City Bank Building and went on to build many other notable buildings in San Jose.

When Montgomery proposed that a major hotel be built on South First Street, stretching the existing business district southward, he faced a great deal of opposition from banks, realtors and businessmen, including the Hart and Hayes families, Clayton Realty, and Normandin and Campen auto dealers. They claimed that the Vendome and St. James Hotels were more than enough for a city the size of San Jose. But Montgomery felt these hotels were too expensive and elaborate, and there was need for a hotel which catered to traveling businessmen, families and tourists. He also wanted a hotel where visitors and locals could gather, a social center with restaurants, bars, and conference rooms. Jack Douglas,

PACSI Advisory Board Member, wrote in an article for the January 1997 History Museums of San Jose News, "The Montgomery Hotel opened on July 22, 1911 with much fanfare. The lobby was fitted with flowers from Montgomery's supporters. The largest arrangement was done in a pattern of the Montgomery coat of arms. An elaborate banquet was prepared for a large group of well-wishers." Montgomery's dream became a reality—the Montgomery Hotel opened and was a huge success.

Constructed of concrete and steel, a revolutionary technique, the Montgomery was considered to be San Jose's only fire-proof hotel. It was also San Jose's first hotel to have electric circuits built into it, rather than added. It had 142 beautifully furnished rooms, two dining rooms, a ballroom and a restaurant. 120 of the rooms had private baths and all the rooms were equipped with that newest invention, the telephone. A boiler in the basement provided hot water and steam heat. One of the most innovative features of the hotel was the roof garden in the center of the building above the lobby, with ladies parlours and writing rooms facing the garden on the second floor. There were many other amenities which attracted visitors, including a barbershop, banquet room, shops and even transportation to and from the train depot.

The Montgomery Hotel was considered to be one of the most elegant hotels on the west coast. Today it could again be one of the most charming on the west coast. "City fathers" opposed it in 1911, and "city fathers" are proposing to demolish it today. What would Thomas S. Montgomery think of that? I believe he would say that the current "city fathers" are not looking forward, they are not considering the possibilities.



Montgomery Hotel Lobby

YOUR REGISTER

By Cherilyn Widell

State Historic Preservation Officer

Take a moment...Make a list of the ten most important landmarks in your community. Now, compare that list to properties listed on the National Register, State Landmarks, or designated as local landmarks. I'll bet you'll find several of them missing. Why are these properties missing? It takes time and expertise to go through the register process and get a property listed. Unless a property is threatened with destruction, frankly, people don't usually take the time. Of course, the fact that the resource has not yet been listed doesn't make it any less important to a community or to this state's history.

In 1984 the California Heritage Task Force recognized this deficiency and made this finding and recommendation: "There is no comprehensive official register of California heritage resources. There are historical, architectural, archeological and cultural resources of State and local significance that do not meet the criteria for listing on the National Register or inclusion in the State Landmark program. Such resources should be listed in an official register for purposes of recognition, application of benefits, waivers or protection. A California register would be broader than the very selective Landmark program, more appropriate to California than the National Register, and more selective than a comprehensive inventory."

That is why the California Register of Historical Resources was established—to provide a comprehensive list of all historical resources whether they are listed on

the National Register, determined eligible for listing, State Landmarks, Points of Historical Interest, local landmarks or surveyed sites. If they meet the California Register criteria, they are easily listed.

On September 27, 1992, Governor Wilson signed AB 2881, making the California Register of Historic Resources a reality. Now, with the completion of the implementing regulations, the California Register will provide a comprehensive official register of all California heritage resources. With it, California joins at least 28 other states in our nation with state registers.

If a community is going to protect its historical resources and learn from its history, it must have a comprehensive register of *all* its historic properties. Without such a register, we get an incomplete picture of our community's resources and leave large holes in the ability to do realistic planning. We are destined to go from project to project, building to building, site to site, rather than to take a long-term, comprehensive view of resource protection.

How will it be used? To determine eligibility for funding programs, identify historical resources to be protected from substantial adverse change under the California Environmental Quality Act, and to build stronger local historic preservation programs. Most important of all, it will ensure that your community's top ten—or more, won't be overlooked now or in the future. So, welcome the latest tool in California's historic preservation program, The California Register of Historical Resources—your register.

From CALIFORNIA HERITAGE, newsletter of The California State Parks Office of Historic Preservation.

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**Please complete this form,
enclose it with your check, and mail to:
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CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 12 (Th) CPF Workshop on CEQA (See article on page 8)
- 16 (Mon) PACSJ Open Board of Directors Meeting
7pm Mother Olson's Inn, 72 North Fifth Street

MARCH

- 16 (Mon) PACSJ Open Board of Directors Meeting,
7pm Mother Olson's Inn, 72 North Fifth Street

APRIL

- 18-19 (Wknd) Sherman Open Studio, Pottery Sale to Benefit PACSJ (see article page 7)
- 20 (MON) PACSJ Open Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm Mother Olson's Inn, 72 North Fifth Street
- 25 (Sat) Guadalupe River Park & Gardens *Spring Festival*. Plant sale, tours, lectures, free bags compost. Phone GRPG at 408/277-4744 for further information.
- 25-26 (Wknd) Sherman Open Studio, Pottery Sale to Benefit PACSJ (see article page 7)

MAY

- 2-3 (Wknd) Sherman Open Studio, Pottery Sale to Benefit PACSJ (see article page 7)
- 7-10 (Th-Sun) CPF Conference, Preservation Issues, Berkeley (see article page 9)
- 18 (Mon) PACSJ Open Board of Directors Meeting
7pm Mother Olson's Inn, 72 North Fifth Street



The Preservation Action Council of San Jose is a non-profit membership organization providing information to property owners and education to the public, and promoting programs and policies for historic preservation and compatible new architectural design.

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