

CONTINUITY

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Dedicated to Preserving San José's Architectural Heritage

Fall 2004

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Honoring the Preservers of
Japantown*

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FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION 2004

Honoring the Preservers of Japantown

On November 12, PAC*SJ held its annual Founder's Day Celebration in the historic Bank of America building at 12 South First Street. We honored the people responsible for preserving the culture and architecture of San Jose's *Nihonmachi*, one of only three remaining Japantowns in California. There were Japanese food, drinks, decorations and historical exhibits, and we had our most successful ever silent and live auction, raising \$32,000 for PAC*SJ's work.

Continued on Page 15.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jim Zetterquist,
2004 President

Since our last issue, a lot has been happening at PACSJ. We had our most successful Gala event ever on November 12, at the historic Bank of America building. Event chair Joe Melehan, with Ellen Garboske, Patt Curia, Jim Bunce and a dozen volunteers, put on, in my opinion, the best party in San Jose. The food was delicious, great deals on outstanding auction

items were plentiful, and the company was great. Most importantly, leading citizens of Japantown were honored for preserving an important part of San Jose's heritage. The founding of San Jose was celebrated and a great time was had by all. A big thank you to all the sponsors, donors and volunteers.

We also had a several-day meeting with the National Trust to review strategies for PACSJ to better promote historic preservation.

Thanks to the generosity of Nina and Brian Grayson, and the hard work of a handful of volunteers (led by Patt Curia), we had a very lucrative garage sale; all proceeds will go toward supporting our mission.

Shades of Joni Mitchell's song, *Don't It Always Seem To Go*, when San Jose's mayor and city council voted once again to "pave paradise" (the historic 1919 Fox/Markovitz Building) and "put up a parking lot." This decision was made despite the fact that PAC SJ prevailed in a lawsuit with the city regarding the environmental impact report.

PACSJ also tried to work with City staff to find feasible alternatives to tearing down this historic building. Yet it appears that the City Council gave little to no value to this historic resource.

While extremely disappointing, much can be learned from the fiasco over the Fox building. Here are just two opinions:

1. PACSJ needs to develop a more positive rapport and a better working relationship with the city

leaders, in order to educate them on the importance of historic preservation. Their lack of interest in San Jose heritage was evident when only Councilmember Le-Zotte was present at our Founder's Day Celebration.

2. The city must learn to listen when PACSJ advises them on the law regarding historic preservation issues. Not listening has already cost the citizens of San Jose very substantially in construction costs and lost time on the over-budget city hall project.

As I start my second term, I would like to thank all those who worked so hard in '04 to preserve our rich heritage. As a new year begins, we set new goals and make resolutions. I suggest that there is no better place than PACSJ to make an impact on the future of our community. We have the power to shape the identity of our city for generations to come. So give us a call and get involved. Here are my top ten goals for PACSJ in the next year:

1. Spread the word that **historic preservation is good for business** and for the citizens of San Jose.
2. Develop a more positive rapport and a **better working relationship with City leaders**, in order to educate them on the importance of historic preservation.
3. **Increase the diversity** of PACSJ members and board.
4. **Fill all board and committee vacancies.**
5. **Increase sponsorship** of PACSJ events.
6. **Increase the number of fund-raising events** at PACSJ (possibly a home tour).
7. **Build partnerships** with Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Downtown Association, Chamber of Commerce, neighborhood groups and historic organizations.
8. **Develop relationships with local developers.**
9. **Promote our Pride in San Jose program.**
10. **Make PACSJ more accessible** for those who wish to get involved.

JIM ZETTERQUIST

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Alex Marthews

PAC*SJ has a reputation for being willing to save any building, historic or not. We get the most headlines for the buildings we fight hardest for. That's natural, but it can make us appear reflexively anti-development. In fact, PAC*SJ works hard behind the scenes to achieve solutions that make sense both for preservationists and for developers, and to show that, as we like to say, **historic preservation is good for business**.

We are working with GE, KB Homes and Hitachi on their plans for redevelopment of old industrial sites. We have found recipient sites for individual homes that need to be relocated, like the W. G. Jones Residence and 507 Almaden.

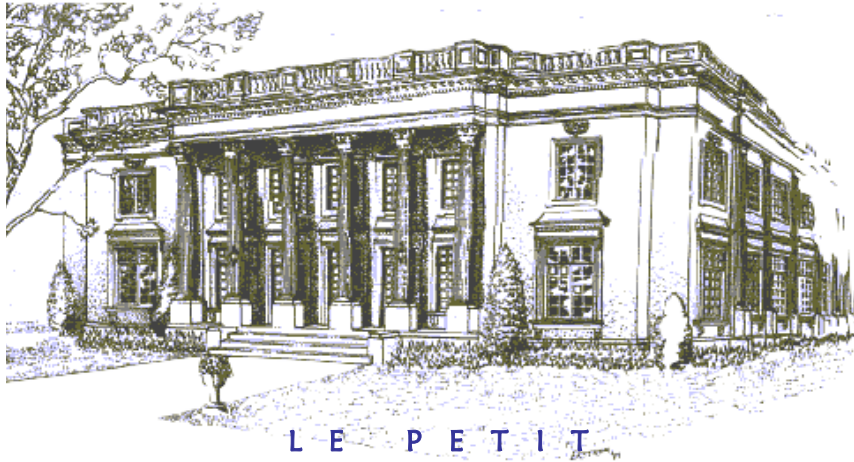
The tragedy of the Fox Building case (see page 6) is that we worked hard behind the scenes to find a solution, but that a solution was impossible. We participated fully in the public process, and advised the City, accurately, that they were breaking the law by approving the project. They ignored our advice, ploughed ahead, and presumed that unless we sued, we weren't really serious.

What was the result? The Civic Plaza parking garage was delayed substantially, which cost San Jose taxpayers money and caused gross inconvenience to City employees. The cost could easily have been avoided if they had complied with the law to begin with. We will continue to hold the City Council accountable, making sure that they follow the law in the way that they approve projects that damage or destroy historic properties. It would be very wrong of us to let such violations slide. But we would prefer, and the people of San Jose would prefer, for the City Council to get it right the first time, and listen when we raise legitimate concerns.

This will be important for the projects coming up: Del Monte Plant #3, Park View Towers and Fountain Alley are all major projects, where every care should be taken to ensure sensitivity to San Jose's precious architectural heritage. Making decisions in the long-term interests of San Jose is hard. The best way to do that is to make sure that PAC*SJ gets involved before projects get set in stone. We stand ready to work with the City to ensure compliance with the law and enforcement of legal protections on historic properties.

ALEX MARTHEWS





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THE DOG



Who says San Jose ain't got no "there" there! I love a parade, and San Jose closed out the year 2004 with a humdinger, **one of the nation's largest Holiday parades**, and on network TV to boot! With a great "hometown" atmosphere, it outshone New York's annual salute to consumerism. And **Christmas in the Park** provided the perfect, awe-inspiring exhibit to cap off the feeling of Peace and Good Will, which our nation needs in these troubling times. Did you ice skate under the palm trees? Only in San Jose! Cool!

Those wily dogs at PAC*SJ held the party of the year in November. Their **Founders' Day Celebration** honored those most responsible for preserving San Jose's Japantown intact, one of only three remaining in California. Guests were treated to fine cuisine provided by Catered Too, over 150 silent auction items, and very unique items up for bid in the live auction. One lucky winner walked off with a Five-Course Authentic German Dinner for Six, to be held in the private home of a local member of San Jose's German community, for a mere \$1,250!! Lots of bargains, too, such as antiques, beachfront and wine country resort weekends, rare wine vintages, group walking tours, event tickets, dining gift certificates, all going for bargain prices. If you didn't attend, you missed out on one fine shindig!

Back to what this ol' dog is supposed to be doing, sniffing around for the latest scoop on nefarious plans to wipe out San Jose's architectural gems. Sadly, the court has ruled that the City of San Jose can proceed with the

demolition of the historic Fox Markovitz building on North Fourth Street. All for a "blah" parking garage to serve the new city hall. The garage will provide parking for over 1100 city employees - so they won't have to take public transportation like all us common, everyday, mongrels who need to conduct business at the Gonzodome!

With the success of the newly refurbished California Theatre, the Montgomery Hotel, the Jose Theatre and a host of office and retail buildings, you'd think projects protecting and reusing historic structures would be supported by San Jose's top dogs, right? Don't roll over and play dead, my pals, 'cause it ain't necessarily so!

Del Monte Plant #3 over on Auzerais Street is facing demolition by KB Home. They could build 385 units without the historic buildings, or 365 units with - this dog wishes that every preservation project was that easy to do, but that doesn't mean they'll do it! And this time around the whole hackle-raising proposal is complicated by the LORD OF THE RINGS convoluted plan to have a site ready to dangle before the nose of a major league sports group! Sheesh! Make up your minds what you want on the site, and stop messing KB Home and the community around! Whether it's a ballpark or housing, incorporating the cannery buildings into it will make the project somethin' special!

What do my canine friends think about a **Grand Prix-type race** through the streets of San Jose? Personally, a good race, whether two-legged, four-legged or by machine, rates right up there with a lively parade! Yeah, public money, but maybe Hiz Honor is backing a winner here. Watch your ankles, you're goin' to get nipped if you block my view! *MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING YOU LOTS OF KIBBLES!*

THE DOG

FOX BUILDING TO BE DEMOLISHED



The Fox-Markovitz Building

On December 1, the Santa Clara County Superior Court ruled that the City had proceeded in the manner required by the California Environmental Quality Act, in its approval of the demolition of the Fox-Markovitz Building at 40 N 4th Street. The Redevelopment Agency, who own the building, moved quickly to solicit bids for the demolition work. We expect the building to be torn down soon.

The Fox-Markovitz Building, the former home of the Markovitz & Fox Recycling Company, was built in 1919 and designed by Louis Lenzen, one of San Jose's most famous architects. It is one of the few Mission Revival buildings left in San Jose (the other major downtown example of the style is the Sperry Flour building on North Third St.), and is eligible for City Landmark status. The building went through a variety of uses, ending as a video store. It was bought by RDA in 1998. Since then, it has stood empty.

The Civic Plaza project underwent a number of design changes that meant that fewer parking spaces would be accommodated on the site itself. That led the City to plan an offsite parking garage on North Sixth Street. That site was nixed because the neighborhood opposed having a parking garage so near to Horace Mann School.

The City then started looking at the block bounded by Santa Clara, North Fourth Street, St. John Street and North Fifth. Their initial proposal suggested that the parking garage should be built northwards on that block, abutting or demolishing the Donner-Houghton House and demolishing the Apostolic Church. The Donner-Houghton House is a highly significant property, and PAC*SJ wanted to protect it. The congregation of the Apostolic Church also objected to the demolition of their historically significant property. In response, the City moved the planned footprint of the garage southward, but in such a way that it entailed the demolition of a third historic property on the block: the Fox-Markovitz Building. PAC*SJ contended that the garage could be designed to accommodate the Fox Building. The City contended that if that happened, the garage would still overshadow it, which would be a significant impact in itself. Therefore, they said, a redesign would not improve the project in terms of its impacts on historic resources. PAC*SJ sued to make sure that the City considered alternative sites and configurations for the garage, and won an initial ruling earlier in 2004. The City went back to the Environmental Impact Report and revised it to examine and reject alternative sites and configurations. PAC*SJ reached out to the City to try and resolve the dispute via mediation, but no agreement came of those efforts and the case returned to the Superior Court. It is this revised Final Recirculated Supplemental EIR that has now been approved by the court.

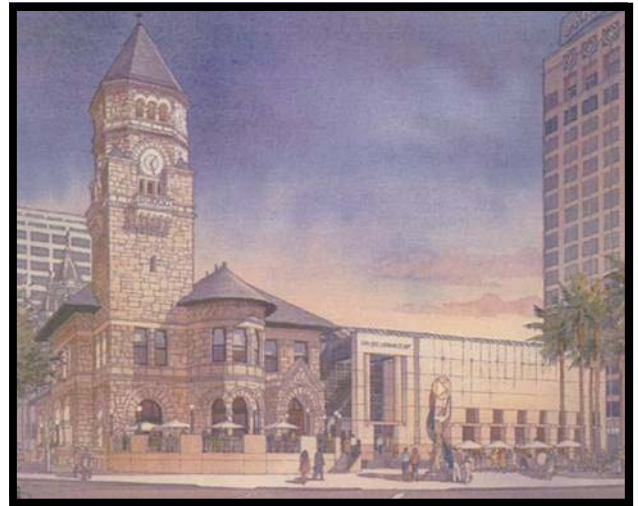
This is the end of a long struggle, but is only one chapter in PAC*SJ's efforts to ensure that proper care is taken before historic properties are torn down. The Civic Plaza project has brought heavy developmental pressure to a historic part of San Jose, and we will continue to try to lessen its impacts on the surrounding historic properties.

IT'S ABOUT TIME (A hundred years later)

Dan Keegan, Executive Director of the San Jose Museum of Art and former PAC*SJ member John Mitchell recently announced an initiative to restore the clock tower on the Museum's Richardson Romanesque building.

The Victorian structure was built in 1896 as the main Post Office and later became the Main public library. It became the home of the Museum of Art in 1982.

Though San Francisco's destruction during the 1906 Great Earthquake received most of the world's attention, San Jose lost many beautiful buildings, including downtown's sandstone post office which lost the top 40 feet of its clock tower.



Keegan presented an architect's renderings of a proposed restoration concept that came from a SJ RDA study two years ago.

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency in 2002 estimated the cost of restoration to be under \$2 million. With the aid of volunteers, civic organizations, city leaders and the endorsement of PAC*SJ, it is hoped that the clock tower will be restored to its original design in time to mark the 100th anniversary of its destruction. Citizens of San Jose will look back fondly at a significant piece of architectural history, while proudly embracing a truly wonderful "new" city landmark, The Old Clock Tower.

For further information and to donate to the IT'S ABOUT TIME fund, please contact John Mitchell, Chair, at (408) 288-6459.

JOHN MITCHELL



Photograph of the Post Office following the 1906 Earthquake when the top 40 feet of its clock tower fell.

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County



Founded in 1875, the Pioneers are the County's oldest-established heritage society. They collect and preserve historic artifacts, publish the quarterly newsletter "Trailblazer", and try to communicate to future generations a faithful and correct impression of pioneer history.

You can join the Pioneers if you are a resident or descendant of a resident of California for 35 or more years, or show an exceptional interest in the history of the County. The Pioneers meet at 11:30am for lunch on the first Saturday of March/ June/ September/ December at Lou's Village.

If you want to join, please contact Ed Allegretti at (408) 534-2890.

DEL MONTE PLANT #3

PAC*SJ has been working with KB Home on adaptive reuse options for the old Del Monte cannery on Auzerais, known as Del Monte Plant #3.

The Draft EIR for the site was published in November. The historical evaluation suggests that there are three highly significant buildings on the site (**Warehouses #2, #3 and #4**), and four other structures of interest (**Warehouses #1 and #20, the peach shed and the water tower**) (see diagram, p. 9). **Warehouse #3** is actually the oldest extant structure on the property, built in 1917. It is described in the historical evaluation as being "representative of late 19th and early 20th century industrial architecture, with its timber framing, brick masonry load-bearing walls and natural lighting sources provided by a monitor roof". **Warehouse #2**, from 1932, was built with a reinforced concrete frame with brick infill and used steel posts, beams and trusses rather than timber framing. **Warehouse #4** was built in 1941, and used a wood post and truss system because of wartime restrictions on the use of steel. The site as a whole is eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Properties, as part of a discontinuous historic district of Calpak/Del Monte canneries.

The proposal put forward by KB Home suggests 385 residential units for the property, to be achieved by demolishing all the historic structures except for the water tower. The Draft EIR examines a number of more preservation-friendly alternatives.

Under **Alternative B**, Warehouses #2, #3 and #4 would be retained and reused as lofts, and later structures would be removed to allow the construction of platform housing and a 90-foot high-rise building. This would allow the construction of 365 units of housing, only 5% less than the number achievable by removing all of the historic structures on the site. Four other alternatives were also identified in the EIR as being environmentally superior to the proposed project.

A complicating factor for this project is that the site in question has been identified as a potential site for the suggested new downtown ballpark. Obviously, if KB Homes were to develop the site, it would diminish the available options for creating the ballpark.

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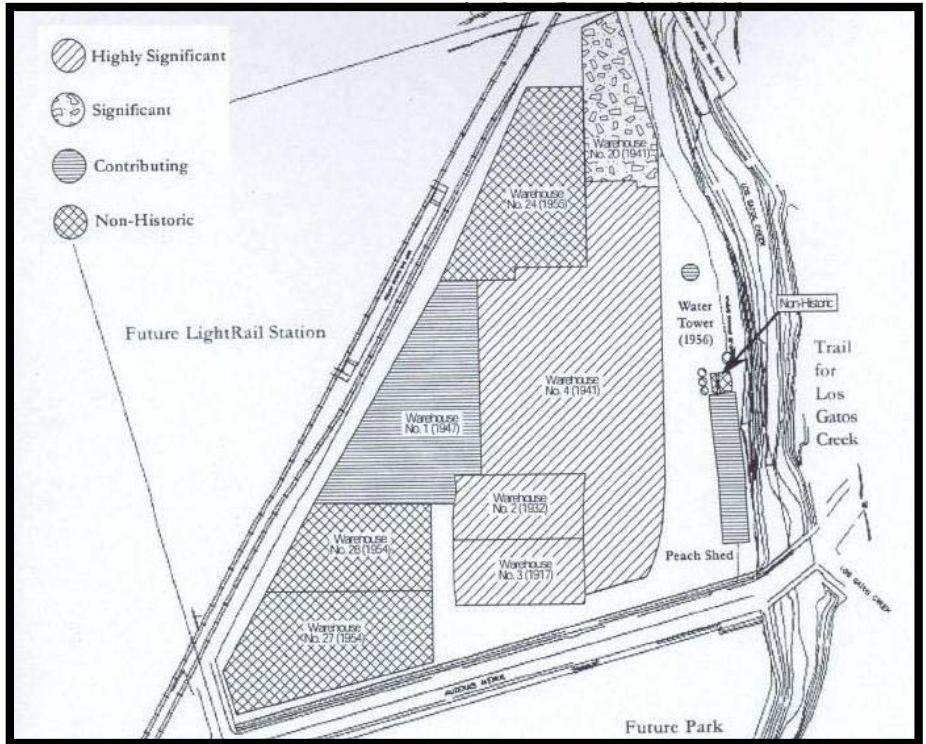
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DEL MONTE PLANT #3

While PAC*SJ is interested in the concept of bringing a major-league baseball team to San Jose, as part of the general aim of showcasing San Jose as a major league city, it is not our job to dictate the uses to which a site should be put. Whether the site is eventually developed for housing or for public use, the preservation issue remains the same. In either case, it is feasible to reuse and incorporate the historic structures on the site, and we would work to achieve a historically sensitive solution.

PAC*SJ is pleased to see that there are many ways of designing this project so as to preserve historic resources, and



that preservation can be achieved with a minimal reduction in the units proposed by KB Home for the site. We will continue to advise them on options that are compatible both with preservation and their aims for the site.

FOUNTAIN ALLEY PARKING LOT

The parking lot in the center of the Downtown San Jose National Register Historic Commercial District (see <http://preservation.org/maps> for a district map) has been a source of conflict for many years. The owner and operator of the parking lot, Al Schlarmann, holds the development rights to the property, and has battled with the Redevelopment Agency over their plans to seize the property by eminent domain. Now Mr. Schlarmann and Barry Swenson Builder have come up with their own plan for the property, and have hired an innovative firm of architects to design a mixed-use development on the site that will include a substantial condo tower. That tower would conflict with the Historic District design guidelines, that mandate a maximum height of 60 feet for development on the property.

Schlarmann and Barry Swenson Builder contend that this height is necessary, because all previous plans for the site that obeyed the height limit benefited from a subsidy of over \$13m from the Redevelopment Agency. As a result of the conflicts over the site, and the City's ongoing fiscal crisis, that money is no longer being made available.

PAC*SJ wants to see the new development designed creatively, as would befit a building in the heart of San Jose's historic district. Numerous studies and the City's own design guidelines have made it clear that a tower over 60 feet in height would be insensitive to the integrity of the historic district. We would not like to see past disagreements over the site prevent the City from enabling the kind of compatible and well-designed development that Fountain Alley deserves.

ST. JAMES' SQUARE

In the Spring issue of *Continuity*, we reported on preliminary plans for a high-rise condo development on the parcel containing the First Church of Christ Scientist and Letcher's Garage, north of St. James' Square. The First Church would be rehabilitated in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties; Letcher's Garage would be demolished.

The project is likely to begin the process of obtaining public approval sometime early in the New Year. As a result of discussions with PAC*SJ and the newly formed St. James' Square Historic District Neighborhood Association, led by PAC*SJ member Frank Penrose, some aspects of the design of the project may be modified. In the current preliminary plans, the height of the rear tower would be 18 stories. The front tower, which would face onto the park, would be set back from the street to line up with the First Church. It would also be stepped back so that the front portion, to roughly the depth of Letcher's Garage, would be 40 feet in height; the building as a whole would be approximately 140 feet. The residents to the northwest of the parcel, in the Park Townsend and Villa Torino developments, would now be able to walk between the two towers through to the First Church. These changes seem to represent serious efforts to make the project conform to the St. James Square Historic District Design Guidelines, and are definite steps in the right direction.

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ON THE RADAR



Fallon House (Downtown)

The 1858 residence of Mayor Fallon, the first Anglo mayor of San Jose, was bought and painstakingly restored by the City of San Jose in 1991 at a cost of \$5.1m. Unfortunately, after the restoration, the basement of the building (formerly Manny's Cellar) developed a tendency to flood. The problem grew more and more serious until the winter storms of 2003 caused severe damage in the basement. PAC*SJ worked with History San Jose and with former Councilmember Judy Stabile to get \$250,000 approved in the Redevelopment Agency budget for correcting this problem and repairing the damage to the house.

Palomar Ballroom / Tropicana Nightclub (Downtown)

Behind the Hotel De Anza in downtown, KT Properties is planning to create a high-rise condo project. They intend to set it as far back on the block as possible, so as not to intrude on the historic Hotel De Anza, one of only two examples of its style (Streamline Moderne) in San Jose. However, there is another property on the block that is also historic and also eligible for the National Register of Historic Properties—the building once known as the Palomar Ballroom. It is architecturally

undistinguished, but is historically significant for its association with the Latino community from the 1940s to the 1960s. It served as a meeting place and concert venue, where stars such as Tito Puente played. It was also a center of Latino civil rights activism.

PAC*SJ reached out to the Mexican Heritage Corporation to see whether there would be any interest in the Mexican-American community in preserving this building, but has not yet received a response. We are also working with the developer on the design of the new building, to see if significant events associated with the Palomar Ballroom can be incorporated into the design of the new building.

Greeninger House (Downtown)

The Emergency Housing Consortium (EHC) is planning to move the Greeninger House, currently located on a surface parking lot south of the Convention Center in downtown, to Williams & 3rd, and to rehabilitate it for mixed use as offices and housing for City Year members. There is likely to be considerable internal modification, along with the removal of the sun porch and the front exterior staircase. These will be replaced by an attractive wrap-around porch that may duplicate the original porch design. PAC*SJ is helping EHC access potential tax credits through the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Devine St. Townhomes / Germania Hall (Downtown)

An application has been made for a Site Development permit to construct three

townhomes directly next to, and partially obscuring, the Germania Hall City Landmark at N 2nd and Julian. PAC*SJ is advocating for the townhomes to be sensitively designed so as not to detract from the unusual architecture of Germania Hall.

Designation of Market-Almaden Conservation Area (Market-Almaden)

On December 14, the City Council approved the designation of the eighty-home Market-Almaden area as a "Conservation Area". Conservation Areas are one step below a historic district, and aim to protect the architectural feel of a neighborhood. We applaud the Market-Almaden community for moving forward so quickly on this process. The protection of Conservation Area status has done great things for Naglee Park and Palm Haven, and we hope that the Market-Almaden area will thrive in a similar way.

Del Monte Plant #51 (Rosegarden)

Del Monte Plant #51 is located south of The Alameda between Bush and White. Earlier advocacy by PAC*SJ allowed the cannery buildings on the site to be saved for incorporation into a housing project, in the same manner as we would like to see done with Del Monte Plant #3 if the housing project there goes ahead. A new developer, Centex, is taking over the Plant #51 site, and their preliminary plans will still save the cannery buildings.

ON THE RADAR

A redesign is necessary because it has been confirmed that if BART comes to San Jose, a tunnel will run directly underneath Plant #51, making below-grade parking infeasible. The new plan brought forward by Centex will bring the parking up to grade level, but will not raise the overall height of the development. PAC*SJ will be monitoring this project as it goes through the public process, and it will come before the Historic Landmarks Commission in January.

San Jose Bible College (Orvis & S 12th St.)

KB Home has submitted a slight modification of their earlier-reported project at Orvis & South Twelfth Street, on the site of the old San Jose Bible College. Instead of relocating two of the historic properties on the eastern side of South Twelfth Street up to the corner with Orvis, they will now be keeping them in place. Relocating the properties would increase the affordable housing costs and park

fees for the project, and so it is cheaper not to move them.

High-Rise Redevelopment Planned for North San Jose (North San Jose)

The area of North San Jose bounded roughly by US-101, I-880 and the 237 is scheduled for massive residential development over the next few years of up to 37,500 new units. The main historic resource within the area, Agnews Development Center (East) on Zanker, is inside one of the proposed high-density residential overlay areas, but no clear plan has yet been set before the public. Agnew's is currently a State-

owned facility, and the State would have to conduct environmental review as part of selling the property. It is also unclear at present whether the new residential developments will include the legally required parklands

that must be constructed as part of major new developments. PAC*SJ helped to save portions of Agnews Development Center (West) in Santa Clara when it was sold to Sun Microsystems in 1997.

Hitachi Mixed-Use Redevelopment Project (Edenvale)

Hitachi, currently headquartered on 337 acres of the old IBM campus in the Edenvale area of South San Jose, are planning to consolidate their main facilities in the center of the campus, and to convert the remainder into transit-oriented housing and commercial development.

PAC*SJ has worked with Hitachi on their site plans, to assess whether the existing structures on the site are historic enough to be worth integrating into Hitachi's vision for the site. As with the neighboring proposed Lowe's site, our main interest is in the original, mid-1950s structures.

It appears feasible to save the central cafeteria portion of the site (**Building 09/011**), as a community focus for the housing planned for the site. Other

ADVERTISEMENT

45 Delmas Avenue

A small downtown San Jose one story high-basement Queen Anne style house [known as the Della Maggiore House] constructed in 1892 must be moved off lot, and is available for relocation within 90 days with limited financial assistance from the owner to facilitate a move. The house is located at 45 Delmas Avenue, and is eligible for designation as a "Structure of Merit" by the City. An historical report can be made available to interested parties. Contact Sean Morley at 408-404-7000 for more information.



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ON THE RADAR

original structures such as **Building 10** may also be savable. The IBM campus as a whole is a key site for the transition of the Valley of Heart's Delight to the Silicon Valley we know today.

The Sylvester Graves House (West San Jose)

This exciting 1868 Italianate house in West San Jose, just off Saratoga Avenue, was built by Sylvester Graves, a prominent local orchardist. It is under threat of demolition. The owners intend to sell it, and they believe that the plot of land on which it stands is worth much more without the house (\$2.7m) than with

it (\$1.5m). We are trying to get in touch with them to discuss options that preserve the house.

This house raises two significant issues. One is that the City's historic inventory is wildly inadequate for areas outside the downtown: this house, one of the oldest remaining in San Jose, is not even on the inventory. The other is the "monster home" culture that attaches more value to an empty, history-free parcel of land than to this great



The 1868 Italianate Sylvester Graves House, located at 4146 Mitzi Drive in west San Jose. Photo by Ellen Garboske.

old home that once served as the core of a large and vanished homestead. That homestead is now covered with apartments and tract homes. Having lost so much, we cannot afford to lose the core of this homestead too.

Talk on Victorian Ball Gowns and Holiday Clothing

The Ancestral Voices Lecture Series (AV) will be hosting a talk on "Victorian Ball Gowns and Holiday Clothing", featuring clothing collector, historian and PAC*SJ member Kristiane McKee Maas, who will display pieces from her Victorian clothing and memorabilia collection before it is sold off later in January.

The talk and show will take place on January 8, 2005, 2-4pm at Gilroy Library, located at 7387 Rosanna Street (at 6th) in Gilroy. The program is free and open to all adults and teens over the age of 14. A light tea will be served.

For additional information please call Dennise Julia at the library: (408) 842-8208 x 3413.

The Staff and Board of Directors
of the Preservation Action Council



would like to wish all of our members
a very Happy Holidays!

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NEW MEMBERS: Norvelle R. Benevento, Joan Bohnett, Suzanne Burneikis, Stan Ketchum, Anthony Estrada, Bill Glick, David & Jane Guinther, Donald & Lavonne Hardy, Richard & Holly Hartman, Melissa House, Randy & Rozanne Job, Florence E. King, Diane McLaughlin, Robb Moore, Chris & Danielle Prohaska and Cotton Stevenson. **WELCOME!**

MEMBERS USING EMPLOYER MATCHING PROGRAM: Ron & Judy Borcharding, Judi Henderson, Curtis A. Jones & Lucille Boone, Barbara Klein, and Bob & Joan Shomler.

LIFETIME PAC*SJ MEMBERS: Keith Watt, Susan Brandt-Hawley, Greg Casella and Tom Simon.

<p>Donations to our legal defense fund are confidential, so we do not include donors to it here.</p> <p>However, we deeply appreciate the generosity of so many of our members towards those efforts.</p> <p>If you have not renewed for 2005, or if you would like to join the list above, please turn to page 23!</p>
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Leader Article: FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION

San Jose's Japantown is bounded roughly by First St., Jackson St., Seventh St. and Empire St., and originated in the late 19th century as a home for Japanese and Chinese immigrant bachelors who had come to the Santa Clara Valley for agricultural work. It expanded greatly during the agricultural boom of the early twentieth century. Most Japantowns collapsed during the forced internment of their residents during World War II, but in San Jose, local residents returning from Heart Mountain, Wyoming, began a rebuilding program that rededicated their *nihonmachi* as the center of Japanese-American community life in the South Bay. Its businesses continue to serve the Japanese-American community and the broader people of San Jose today. The Founder's Day Celebration honored people responsible both for preserving Japantown's physical properties and those involved in preserving its cultural history, through the Japanese-American Museum and other institutions.

The dedicated Celebration Committee, including Joe Melehan, Patt Curia, Ellen Garboske, Bonnie Montgomery, Shaun Welch and many others, put together an exciting selection of high-quality auction items, including the best-selling German Dinner and Downtown Tour



Some of the honorees for the Preservation Hall of Fame. The honorees, not all of whom could attend, were: P. J. & Roy Hirabayashi, the Honorable Michael Honda, Dr. Tokio Ishikawa & Mrs. Keiko Ishikawa (posthumous), I. K. Ishimatsu (posthumous), Leslie Masunaga, Ken Matsumoto, the Honorable Norm Mineta, the Peckham family, Eiichi Sakauye, Dave Tatsuno, Katsumi Tokunaga, Yoshihiro Uchida, Senator John Vasconcellos, Jimi Yamaichi and Dr. Joe Yasutake.

with Alan Hess (both purchased by Mike Reandeau), and tours of Japantown and Hakone Gardens (both bought by Bonnie Montgomery). Antiques and collectibles, like the chandelier below and the furniture pictured overleaf, were also available at bargain prices.



Some of the great auction items on sale November 12.

WANT TO BE A DOCENT?

There will be a **Docent Tour and Training Session** for the **Guadalupe River Park and Gardens** (opening September 10, 2005) at 5:30pm on February 23, 2005 at Lowry's Coffee Shop at 350 W. Julian St. There will be a **tour of the River Street Historic Business District**, which PAC*SJ worked hard to create, followed by presentations on area history and being a River Park docent. Alrie Middlebrook will be presenting.

The docent training program trains docents to lead tours on the Guadalupe River's archeology, public art, flood control engineering and local flora and fauna. Contact Andre Luthard for more details (408 287-2823).

Leader Article: FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION

The food was provided at a generous discount by Catered Too, run by PAC*SJ Lifetime Member Greg Casella. It was served by caterers in Japanese traditional dress, and the whole room was decorated with white lanterns provided by Patt Curia.

There were 200 guests at this 5th Founder's Day Celebration. It was a wonderful chance for preservationists, historians and community members to meet and talk about the past year, and about future preservation challenges. San Jose's founders, who created the Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe on November 29, 1777, can hardly have imagined the vast, high-technology metropolis that would stand here 227 years later. The people of that metropolis can hardly imagine those pioneers' lives; but PAC*SJ is here to honor that long history, and preserve the unique cultures and architectures that make up this great city.



The live auction included gorgeous antique furniture, like this hutch donated by Gloria Sciara.



The menu included sushi and other Japanese specialties.

All photographs by Shaun Welch.



JAMsj donated an exhibit on the history of Japanese Americans in the Santa Clara Valley

PAC*SJ: BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS

New Board Members!

We are very happy to welcome two new board members this quarter, **Jo Drechsler** and **Kayla Kurucz**.

Jo Drechsler is a long-term member of the Victorian Preservation Association of Santa Clara County, and has restored two homes himself. He does database programming and administration for SJSU, and is interested in period cabinetmaking, early San Jose history, early California paintings, woodworking, antique collecting, architectural salvage and bicycle racing. He will be working on our Willow Ranch house tour planned for the spring.

Kayla Kurucz works as a PR consultant for TechFocus Media, and is interested in helping PAC*SJ manage its media relations and publicity. She lives in Naglee Park, and helped extensively with publicity for this year's Founder's Day Celebration. She is interested in preservation law, and particularly in encouraging use of the Mills Act to obtain property tax reductions for historic properties, and in encouraging PAC*SJ to promote the involvement of young people in preservation.

We still have three vacancies on our Board of Directors. If you would like to serve on the Board, please contact Diane at (408) 270-7670.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

PAC*SJ is looking for people interested in serving on our Education Committee or as our volunteer Education Coordinator. The Education Committee is concerned with historic tours, lectures, outreach to youth and neighborhoods, and our popular Valley of Heart's Delight movie night.

If you would like to get involved with these activities, please contact Alex Mathews, Executive Director, at (408) 998-8105 or alex@preservation.org.

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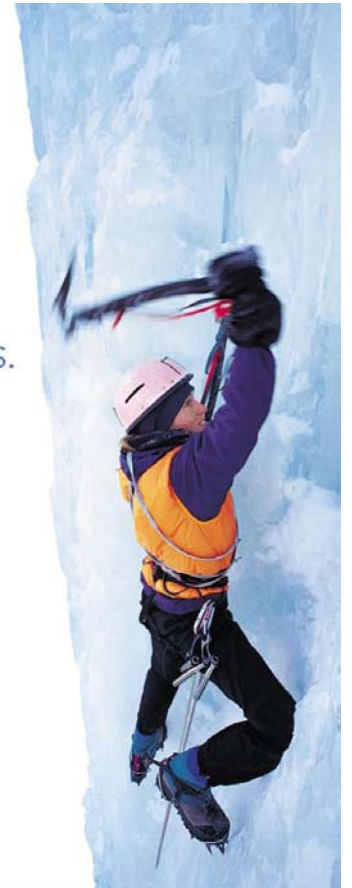
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PAC*SJ OBITUARIES: Kate Boruff and Scott Ewbank



Kate Boruff

Life, as we know, is not fair. Nonetheless, it was with sadness and a sense of unfairness that we learned of the untimely death of Kate Boruff on November 22. Kate was the first full-time Executive Director for PACSJ, although her tenure with us was all too brief due to her illness.

As reported in the Mercury News, Kate was born in 1954 in Lakewood, Ohio, and had an idyllic childhood, in a place you didn't need to lock your front door, until a freeway came through and ruined the sense of place. This may have lead to her interest in preserving buildings and neighborhoods, as well as to her interest in history.

I first met Kate in my role as chair of the search committee for the first executive director of PACSJ. I had the opportunity to continue working with her in my role as PACSJ President. Kate's energy and experience were just what we needed, and she hit the ground running. Kate left her mark on PACSJ with her solid knowledge of preservation issues and the players within the City structure. Her learning curve was very short as she took charge and began a new chapter for PACSJ. Kate took on the task of moving PACSJ into its next phase as a more professional organization. She interacted with our Board and city stakeholders with equal ease. She cared about protecting San Jose's dwindling historic resources and wanted to see PACSJ grow stronger as an organization. All of her time with us was spent pursuing those goals.

Although we mourn the loss of Kate, she will be fondly remembered, as will her efforts on behalf of PACSJ and preservation. Our sympathies go out to her husband, Paul, and their family.

Donations may be made to the Lance Armstrong Foundation, the Bay Area Breast Cancer Network or the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Oncology Dept.

BRIAN GRAYSON



Scott Ewbank

The preservation community and downtown neighborhoods lost an important friend early in November. Attorney Scott Ewbank collapsed and died at age 57 while on a hiking trip with the Boy Scouts in Big Sur. Scott is credited with turning many problem properties around, using his talents in the legal

profession to take on the slumlords and drug dealers that the City's Code Enforcement Department was reluctant to pursue. Many interesting and historically significant houses in Naglee Park were restored through his efforts.

Scott and his wife Susan Hartt, also an attorney, were early supporters of PAC*SJ. Susan Hartt was on the founding PAC*SJ Board and helped prepare the articles of incorporation. Both Scott and Susan are credited with helping restore the Naglee Park neighborhood, particularly the block on South 15th Street where they live. The block at one time had several houses of drug dealers; now the area is predominantly families with young children.

Scott was also noted in the neighborhood and the downtown for his support of the juveniles who came to him through his law practice and his work with the Juvenile Justice Commission. A graduate of Stanford University, Scott also received a Masters degree in Asian studies as well as a law degree from the University of Michigan. He spent two years in Viet Nam teaching agriculture and spoke Vietnamese fluently. There was not a Vietnamese restaurant in the Downtown that Scott did not know well.

An avid tennis player, hiker and wine drinker, Scott was a passionate participant in family life and many neighborhood activities. Along with his wife Susan and his children Jack and Anne, Scott encouraged many new families to live in Naglee Park. He helped restore the neighborhood with both his generous gifts of time and legal talent as well as his overwhelming enthusiasm.

Donations may be made to Heifer Project International.

APRIL HALBERSTADT

PRESERVATION HERO: Jack Douglas



Jack Douglas

Jack Douglas is the historical guru for Santa Clara County. When I am stumped, I email him for advice. He can find copies of out-of-print books and is an expert on local architects. He knows where the old photos are and spends his own time labeling unidentified images of the priceless Gordon collection, which was saved from leaving the county because of Jack's efforts.

After receiving an MA at the University of Denver, Jack began working at San José State University (SJSU) in 1959 and stayed on as *Archivist Emeritus* until his retirement in 1996. As a dedicated member of the San José/Santa Clara County preservation community, Jack has served on a plethora of committees and commissions, including three terms as chair of the San José Historic Landmarks Commission and years of service with the County Historical Heritage Commission, the SJ Historical Museum, SJSU Sourisseau Academy and the Villa Montalvo Library Committee. A founder and instructor at the University's experimental *New College* from 1968-1980, he became an original partner of San José's Camera theaters, established a nationwide clearing house on alternative education (one of the first media co-ops) and invented *guerrilla library outreach* – all done when he wasn't in class teaching California wine lore or running students back and forth to the San Francisco Opera, the local theater, or to the Ashland Shakespeare Festival. Whew!

I first met Jack in the late 1970s when he was a serious, no-nonsense reference librarian at the old Wahlquist Library at SJSU and I was a frantic, part-time student doing thesis research. However, we didn't really get to know each other until 1980 when the County (for whom I worked), the City of San José, and SJSU moved precipitously toward creating a regional archive facility. This project was never completed but, during the process, a critical amount of the county's historical records were transferred to Jack as Head of Special Collections and Archives. He took very good care of those documents for many years and through several temporary locations, until they finally came back to the county in 2003.

In 1990, Jack became involved with the activities of the newly formed Preservation Action Council of San José (PAC*SJ), specifically regarding the controversy over the historic Scheller House on SJSU campus. He was the only member of the campus planning committee who wanted to save it. At an Archives reception hosted by Jack to celebrate the acquisition of Congressman Don Edwards' papers, he first met former University President Robert Caret, who had barely stepped off the plane from Baltimore. He was impressed that Caret had even heard of the Scheller House and more astonished that he immediately took care of it, meeting with PAC*SJ the very next week.

Jack helped author the St. James Park Master Plan in 1983-85 with then-councilmember Judy Stabile, a document that re-surfaced in the latest plan for the historic district. He has been an Advisory Board member of PAC*SJ since 1996 and is a continuing member of the Santa Clara County Archives Committee, from 1980 to the present. Talk about perseverance!

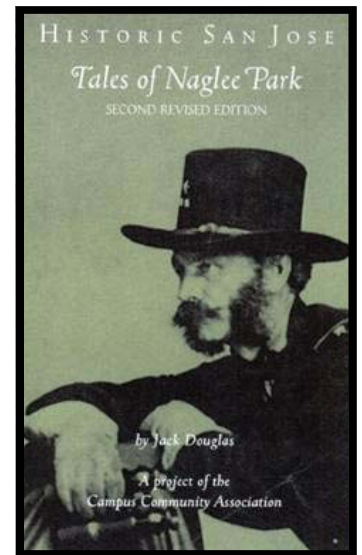
He lectures often, has written hundreds of articles on local history subjects, and is author of two published books with two more in process.

"*Memoirs of General Henry M. Naglee*" and "*Historical Highlights of Santa Clara County*" are due for publication this year. I recently read his book about Naglee Park and, as usual, learned so much.

Jack Douglas has received numerous awards and commendations, including a County Board of Supervisors

Resolution/Commendation in 1996, a SJ Mayor's Commendation in 1989, and a special recognition award for Service on the San José Historic Landmarks Commission in 1987.

Are you ready for more? This was news to me. Jack has written many articles about his ongoing academic specialty,



Cover of the second edition of "*Historic San Jose: Tales of Naglee Park*"

PRESERVATION HERO: Jack Douglas

English music of the 20th Century. His directory, *Musician and Composer Societies*, received a full column in the Sunday New York Times which is syndicated worldwide. He hopes to complete a book about Sir Thomas Beecham, who is, in Jack's words, a "funny guy". Jack and his wife Kathryn, also a retired librarian, try to attend summer festivals in England that feature these composers.

The couple live in Naglee Park in a historic bungalow home. Longtime opera aficionados, they acquired a condo in San Francisco's Opera Plaza a couple of years ago so that attending the opera would be less onerous. No more traffic jams and parking hassles! Of course, we now have Opera San José right here on S 1st Street in the elegantly remodeled California Theater. Guess who was an early proponent for restoring the building?

If you hang around long enough, you'll be treated to one of Jack's classic impersonations of General Henry M. Naglee, that "devil with women", complete with sideburns and dressed to the nines as the Douglas Clan Chieftain in an authentic kilt and sporran. He has appeared lately as Captain Buck Ace, leader of the local Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), to commemorate the exploits of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Tree Army. Occasionally, with the appropriate circumstances, he departs these roles and becomes an obstreperous 1930s cannery striker. There is never a dull moment!

We hereby award a Silver Star to Jack Douglas for valor beyond the call of duty, a true Preservation Hero.

BETH WYMAN

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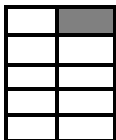
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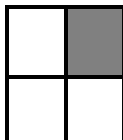
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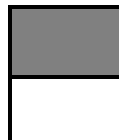
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THEY LEFT THEIR MARK:

Ernest J. Kump, Jr.: Revolutionary School Design



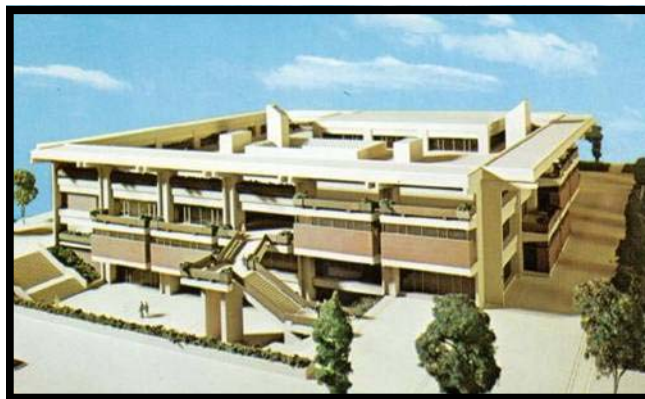
Ernest J. Kump, Jr. Ernest J. Kump, Jr., who died in Switzerland in November 1999, was an internationally renowned expert in school design. From his offices in Palo Alto, he contributed plans for a number of local buildings, including the new Santa Clara County Superior Court (1962) on St. James Square, the Los Altos Civic Center (1960), the Kump Office Building in Palo Alto (1958), the California Water Service Company Building on North First Street (1964), the Student Union Building at San Jose State (1972), and the Herbert Hoover Federal Memorial Building at Stanford University (1978).

Ernest Kump was born in Bakersfield on December 25, 1911. His father, Ernest Kump, Sr., was an architect of the old school who separated from his family when Ernest was just a child. Nevertheless, the boy determined to follow his father's occupation. In high school he worked as a draftsman for the Bakersfield firm of Saffell and Cullimore. He went on to graduate from UC Berkeley in 1932 and attended Harvard graduate school for one year. Short of money during the Depression, he returned to California to work for his father, only to be fired for his modern ideas.

Undeterred, Kump Jr. joined forces with Charles H. Franklin in Fresno and began work on school buildings. The firm won national recognition for their extremely modern Fresno City Hall in 1941. This building was chosen by the New York Museum of Modern Art as one of the most significant American structures built between 1932 and 1944.

"Finger Plan" School Design

During World War II Ernest Kump was drawn to the Bay Area to work on military projects and also on a number of school projects. The baby boom years following the war provided employment for everyone in the building trades. Young people were descending on the Bay Area to take advantage of its climate and job opportunities, and new communities were spreading in all directions.



Model of San Jose State's Student Union Building (1972)

Kump wisely chose Palo Alto for the center of his operations. His new ideas about school plans could flourish in communities where space was not a primary concern. The old notion that school buildings should be big, imposing edifices denoting solid virtue and civic pride was rejected by Kump and his clients, and was replaced by the idea of low one-story finger-shaped pods that were particularly suited for the California environment. Closed corridors were replaced by open covered walkways, and light and air were able to move freely throughout the classrooms.

One of Kump's most lauded designs for this style of school was the one produced for the new San Jose High School (now renamed the San Jose Academy) on East Julian Street (1952). Built at a cost of \$2,500,000,

KUMP: REVOLUTIONARY SCHOOL DESIGN

it won the Award of Merit from the American Institute of Architects, and it was listed by the New York Museum of Modern Art as one of the forty-three outstanding buildings of the post-war period.

Kump went on to design dozens of local schools, including Pioneer High (1960), Chester High in Mountain View, Gunn High in Palo Alto (1965) and additions to San Jose High in 1961.



Foothill College Campus

Ernest Kump's design for Foothill College, with its unique setting in the Los Altos Hills, is considered by many to be his crowning achievement. He had moved on to the idea of "clusters": space modules arranged about the site.

Located in Los Altos Hills, Foothill Junior College is designed with bridges that cross from hill to hill.

The efficiency and economy of this idea was particularly adaptable to a hillside setting. He also relied heavily on Japanese influences for the design of the buildings and the bridges that cross from hill to hill. The red-wood-mansarded, mushroom-shaped modules, unique at the time, were later copied on fast food restaurants throughout the nation.

The notoriety of the Foothill design led to commissions for work on a number of other local colleges, including De Anza (1968), Cabrillo (1965), San Joaquin Delta (1973) and Crown College at UC Santa Cruz (1967).

Ernest Kump, who came from a rather humble California background, rose to become one of the nation's most important twentieth century architects. His influence is evident in structures all around us.

JACK DOUGLAS

Contact Jack at jackdouglas@earthlink.net for copies of his new book, *Historical Highlights of Santa Clara County!*



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The opinions expressed by contributors are not
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Editors: Alex Marthews and Dawn Hopkins

Please submit your comments and suggestions to the mailing
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