

CONTINUITY

Volume 31, No. 3

Preservation Action Council of San Jose
Dedicated to Preserving San Jose's Architectural Heritage

Fall 2020

COVER STORY

- 1 Dismal June for Preservation

PRESERVATION ISSUES/NEWS

- 2 Executive Director Message
- 5 Diving Lady Lives Another Day
- 6 Recent SJ Preservation Issues
 - Knox-Goodrich and new construction
- 7 —Woz Way Project
- 9 —Santana West/Century 21
- 10 Two Proposed Zone Amendments
- 10 Enforcement Code Reduces Scope

PAC*SJ NEWS

- 11 On the RADAR
 - City View Plaza Project
 - Coyote Creek Trestle
 - 500 Block, S. 1st Street
 - Burbank Theater
 - Mosaic at Stevens Creek Blvd. & Saratoga Avenue
- 12 PAC*SJ Calendar
- 13 PAC*SJ Spring Sale a Success
- 13 Sunset Poster Sale
- 13 Fall Garage Sale Planned
- 14 Celebrating Joan Bohnett's Life
- 16 In Memory of Art Carroll
- 16 Notable Quotable

PRESERVATION ARTICLES

- 17 Exploring San Jose Landmarks
 - Bank of Italy, Hester Branch
- 19 Membership Form
- 19 Legacy Giving
- 20 Board Roster

Dismal June for Preservation

June was a dismal month for historic preservation in San Jose. The Willow Glen Trestle was quickly demolished, the City Council approved the CityView Project which meant demolishing the former Bank of California Building along with other eligible landmark buildings (see page 11), and finally, the well-liked and knowledgeable Historic Preservation Officer, Juliet Arroyo, left the City's employ. PAC*SJ will certainly miss her but we do wish her well.

Willow Glen Trestle

By June 18, the final court case brought by the Willow Glen Trestle Conservancy/Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle transpired in a last attempt to save it. As court proceedings were concluding, huge pieces of equipment prepared to raze the Trestle. In a few days, only stumps were left.

Besides losing the historic Trestle, preservationists, local and state-wide, were very concerned that a city council is allowed to declare a structure non-historic in such a hurried and complacent manner and without public input. The San Jose City Council is not an expert in historic matters, and to rely on minimal information to declare a property non-historic does not respect the spirit of the



Stumps left after Willow Glen Trestle is razed.

law. Many thanks to the Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle and Larry Ames for a valiant effort to save the Trestle, a unique piece of our history.



The Willow Glen Trestle was built in 1921-22 to provide a link for Western Pacific Railroad to reach the Willow Glen canneries. It traversed the Los Gatos Creek between Coe Avenue and Lonus Street, only a block away from Lincoln Avenue and the Roberto Adobe

(Cont'd p. 3)

Message from our Executive Director



*Ben Leech, E.D., PAC*SJ*

As this issue of *Continuity* goes to press, the air in San Jose is thick with the smoke of fires burning out of control in what seems like all directions. Across the Bay Area, hundreds of active lightning-triggered wildfires have already devoured hundreds of structures, thousands of residents are under evacuation orders, and countless lives

and livelihoods are under threat.

To the east, blazes are currently threatening the historic 132-year-old Lick Observatory. To the southwest, Big Basin Redwoods State Park—California’s oldest—is also on fire, with reports that its beloved 1936 Civilian Conservation Corp-built visitor center has already been lost.

A prolonged heat wave and the threat of rolling blackouts are further compounding an already catastrophic situation for communities still struggling to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, to care for its victims and to mourn its casualties. Communities still grappling with an economic collapse, are still fearful of an eviction crisis, rising unemployment, lost businesses, and crippling long-term budget woes. Communities still in the throes of the largest social protest movement in a generation, demand justice for victims of police brutality, systemic racism, and pervasive disenfranchisement. Communities still awaken to the stark realities of climate change.

In times like these, it is natural to reflect on our priorities. How can we keep up the fight for historic preservation—and why should we even care?—when society as a whole seems so close to a cliff’s edge? How important is saving bricks and mortar when we are losing human lives and livelihoods at almost incomprehensible rates?

In July, America mourned the passing of John Lewis. As well as being a champion for civil rights, the late congressman was also a fierce champion for historic preservation.

He recognized that, at its best, the modern preservation movement was born from a moral imperative to recognize both our shared cultural heritage and to celebrate its rich diversity. At the 2009 National Preservation Conference in Nashville, he explained: “We all live in the same house. We all may not all live in a shotgun house, but we all live in the same house. We all live on this little piece of real estate. It doesn’t matter whether we are Black or White or Latino or Asian American or Native American. We are one people, we are one family, we are one house. And we must keep this house together. We must celebrate our diversity. We must preserve our diversity. All of us must be included.”

Cultivating this common ground—protecting and rebuilding not just what’s mine, but what’s ours—will be critical in overcoming the myriad challenges we face in 2020 and beyond.

At PAC*SJ, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to play a central role in these efforts.

— Ben Leech,
PAC*SJ Executive Director



is published quarterly by the
**PRESERVATION ACTION COUNCIL OF SAN
JOSE**

The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of PAC*SJ.

Editor: Gayle Frank

Please submit your letters and comments to
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Dismal for Preservation (Cont'd)

& Suñol House (owned by the CA Pioneers of Santa Clara County).

Over the Trestle, trains brought fresh fruit and vegetables for processing and delivered canned or packaged products from Willow Glen back out into the world. The Trestle's history was significant because the much smaller Western Pacific RR broke the monopoly of the giant Southern Pacific RR. Southern Pacific had a stranglehold on railroading in Santa Clara County. A competitive railroad allowed farmers and canneries an alternative method of transporting their raw produce to be processed, canned or packed, and sent to market.

San Jose citizens were excited when Western Pacific came to town. On May 1, 1922, a celebration for the new railroad, described in the San Jose Mercury Herald¹, was held at the brand new Western Pacific Railroad's freight depot at 754 The Alameda. Speeches at this gathering included heavy praise for Western Pacific (who built the Willow Glen Trestle) arriving in San Jose.

On that notable day, William Alexander, the celebration's chairman and president of the Keystone Company said, "Factories and railroads are the chief aids in the development of a city. The presence of Western Pacific in San Jose will put this city on the map and will be a means of bringing many factories and a greater commercial activity to the community. We are pleased with the faith shown in San Jose by the Western Pacific officials in extending their line from Niles to this city and thus giving to us another railroad terminal."¹



The Willow Glen Trestle on June 17, 2020

One historical report² states that, "The Trestle and WPRR alignment symbolize the passionate advocacy of L.D. Bohnett and T.S. Montgomery," two notable influential San Jose citizens of the early 20th century. Montgomery had invested heavily in Western Pacific and Bohnett, a prominent attorney, was involved in railroad legal matters.

Trains operated over the Trestle until the early 2000s. Later, the City and Park Department planned to upgrade the Trestle for a bike/pedestrian connection along the Three Creeks Trail. The engineering report said the Trestle was sound and repairs were not complicated. But suddenly the City changed course in 2013, abandoned its original plans, and quickly decided to demolish the Trestle.

In May of 2017, the Trestle was listed on the California State Register of Historic Resources, thanks to the heroic efforts of the Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle. That listing did not change San Jose's determination to demolish the wooden trestle and replace it with a prefab steel bridge, previously purchased before a groundswell of preservationists learned of the

(Cont'd pg. 4)



Remnant of south end of Willow Glen Trestle, now gone.

Dismal for Preservation (Cont'd)

change of plans and argued for rehabilitating the Trestle. The city would not consider or discuss any compromise.

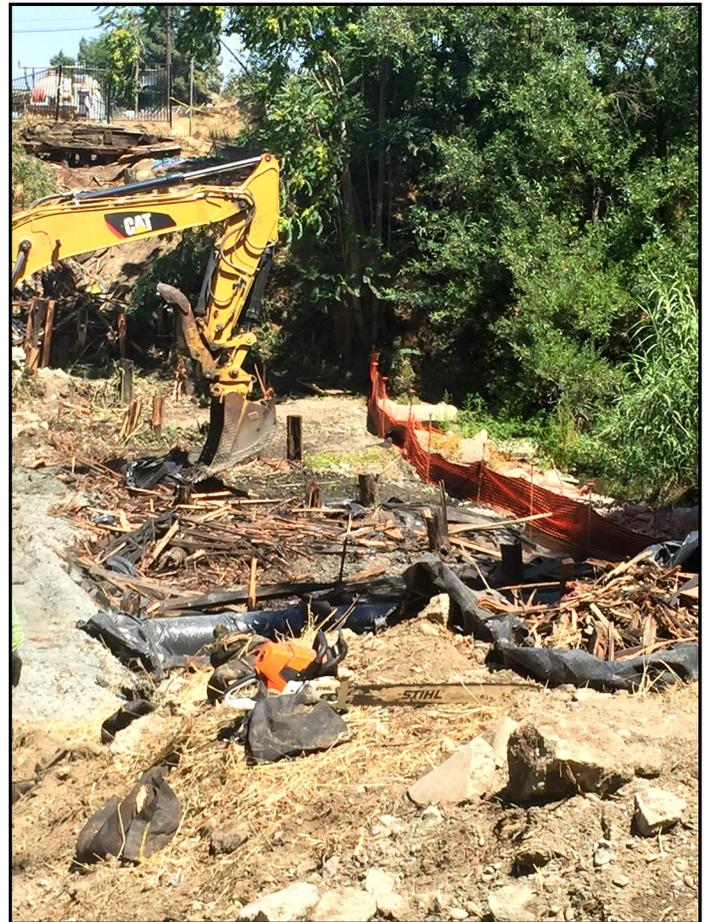
After much time and treasure and multiple law suits, the Willow Glen Trestle was demolished beginning on June 18, 2020, even before the last court case finished. We will miss those large pylons and the example of early 20th century engineering. Standing down at its base was a nostalgic experience. The structure communicated San Jose's wish for more growth for the west side of the city. The fruit industry had taken off—canneries and fruit packers were looking for the fastest and most economical transportation which Western Pacific provided. The Trestle represented a past time of our railroad history in Willow Glen and now it is gone.

For posterity, the history of the Willow Glen Trestle will be further researched and documented thanks to a generous grant from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. But we will never again experience those massive timbers and marvel at the early engineering techniques.

—Gayle Frank

¹ San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, California) (Published as San Jose Mercury Herald) - May 2, 1922. Page [9]; Volume: CII; Issue: 122.

² Historic report to San Jose Planning Department from Jean Dresden, March 19, 2015. Document available at www.WGtrestle.com



Top right, Clearing out the debris at the WG Trestle site.

Left, lonely stumps from Trestle

Right, pile of debris from the Trestle walkway, railings and metal supports.

(Photos: Gayle Frank)



Diving Lady Lives for Another Day

The iconic Diving Lady City Center Motel sign on the corner of S. First and E. William Streets was removed July 30 to make way for a 27-story residential tower. The good news is that it has been moved to a History San Jose warehouse for safekeeping along with other treasured neon signs. The sign collection awaits a funding plan toward restoration and public display. Someday, San Jose may be able to celebrate the collection of historic neon signs in a neon sign park as other cities have done.

PAC*SJ has been monitoring this diving lady sign for several years, pursuing its rescue and keeping it here in our community. We are pleased and gratified that the City of San Jose assisted in its preservation and that History San Jose has been able to store this sign and others for a future display.

As swimming pools became popular in the 1950s-1960s, motels and hotels began advertising their pools to draw in customers, so diving lady signs were springing up everywhere. This San Jose neon diving lady, installed about that time, may be one of the last remaining in California. Her look with a bathing cap reminds us of a different time.

For now, you may want to check out two other diving ladies from the past—one painted on the west exterior wall of the Hotel DeAnza and the second, a neon at the Dive Bar on E. Third and E. Santa Clara Streets. ☘

(Photos: Ken Middlebrook)



City Center Motel Diving Lady Sign being removed on July 30 from S. First and E. William Streets.



**Your PAC*SJ membership
expired in June, 2020. Still only:
Individual—\$40/year, Family—\$55
Seniors/students—\$25/year**

Renew today at

**www.preservation.org or mail in a check
to PAC*SJ, 1650 Senter Rd., San Jose, CA
95112, or if you want to use a credit card,
call PAC*SJ at 408-998-8105.**

Let's grow and use our strength in numbers to
fulfill our mission—
saving our architectural heritage.

Recent San Jose Preservation Issues

Knox-Goodrich Building Rehabilitation & Adjacent New Construction

The Knox-Goodrich Building rehabilitation and adjacent new construction at 26-36 S. First Street necessitates demolishing the former Lido Nightclub—replacing it with a seven-story commercial building connected to the historic Knox-Goodrich Building. The first floor of the Romanesque Revival style Knox-Goodrich will serve as the lobby entrance to the new building. This commercial and office project is immediately south of the iconic former Bank of America Building and includes the parking lot next door along with the Lido Building plot, equaling 0.34 acres.

PAC*SJ favors the rehabilitation of the Knox-Goodrich and understands that the former Lido Nightclub building (pictured below) has been so altered it no longer offers any hints of its earlier history as the iconic O'Brien's Candy and Ice Cream Shop. The only project concerns PAC*SJ has are the height of the new building and the expansive, frameless glass doors at the Knox-Goodrich entrance. The height of the proposed



Knox-Goodrich Building is center with the former Lido Club to the left and city landmark El Paseo Court to the right.

building exceeds the limits described in the Downtown Historic District Guidelines but the San Jose Planning Department assured PAC*SJ that this will not set a new precedent and was a specific exception in this case only. (It was described as a logical and aesthetic transition adjacent to the 13-story former Bank of America Building.)

PAC*SJ is also disappointed that the new building will conceal the character-defining ghost sign located on the north wall of the Knox-Goodrich Building.

At the Historic Landmarks Commission meeting on August 5, we learned that some tin tiles from the early O'Brien's Shop were discovered in the basement and may be used in the project. PAC*SJ urges the owner to document and salvage original elements from the early construction of the former O'Brien's/Lido Nightclub, believed to hold some of the oldest surviving building elements (from as early as 1858) in Downtown San Jose.

(SJ Issues Cont'd p.7)



Recent San Jose Issues (Cont'd)

Woz Way Project

This project, still in the early planning stages, calls for two 20-story (297 feet) office towers built on 3.08 acres and demolishing 16 existing single-family homes bordering Vine/Almaden Blvd. and Woz Way, just north of Highway 280. Six of these homes are listed on the Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) as is a seventh home which is not yet owned by the developer. PAC*SJ is extremely troubled by any proposal to reduce the City's stock of existing housing, especially for a speculative commercial office development with unproven demand and no clear construction timeline.

The Draft Supplemental Environmental Inventory Report (DSEIR) must incorporate a thorough analysis of all viable preservation alternatives to demolishing these 16 homes—including retaining some or all of the existing structures and/or relocation (less preferable). The report must also analyze the history, condition, significance and integrity of each of the homes. The row of seven



Above, 515 Vine St./Almaden Blvd.

Below, from Highway 280 into Downtown San Jose, the charming row of early 20th century homes greets visitors and residents.

homes along Vine/Almaden Blvd. could very well form a San Jose historic district.

(Cont'd pg. 8)



Recent San Jose Issues (Cont'd)

Woz Way Project (cont'd)

It was noted at the Historic Landmarks Commission on August 5, that entering Downtown San Jose from Highway 280, onto Vine/Almaden Blvd., the gateway of charming homes welcomes visitors with an intimate historic flavor of San Jose. We are not just all glass high-rises and modern shine.

The six homes were built from about 1901 to 1915 and are characteristic of the Neoclassical Cottage and

Craftsman styles. Distinct features and attention to details indicate the builders' skill and care.

The public will have an opportunity to review and make comments on the draft SEIR as soon as it is completed.

⌘



533 Vine St./Almaden Blvd.



541 Vine St./Almaden Blvd.



547 Vine St./Almaden Blvd.



553 Vine St./Almaden Blvd.

Photos: Gayle Frank)

(SJ Issues Cont'd pg. 9)

Recent San Jose Issues (Cont'd)



Santana West/Century 21 Theater

The Santana West Project, on Winchester Boulevard and across the street from Santana Row, proposes a Phase 2 building, 376,250 square feet, in front of our city landmark, Century 21 Theater. The proposed building at 8-stories hides Century 21 and detracts from views of the Winchester Mystery House (WMH). The WMH is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and must not be overwhelmed with high rises next to it. It is possibly the most important historic asset in San Jose. (Century 21 could also be listed on the National Register if the owner allowed it.)

PAC*SJ favors redesigning the proposed building to reduce its massing, simplify its design and lessen the impact upon Century 21 and the WMH. The San Jose Envision 2040 General Plan Policies* state that projects should

“preserve candidate or designated landmark buildings, structures and historic objects, with first priority given to preserving AND rehabilitating them for their historic use....” In addition, projects should “incorporate the landmark structures within the new development as a means to create a sense of place, contribute to a vibrant economy, provide a connection to the past....” This excellent, reasonable guidance in San Jose’s 2040 General Plan needs to be seriously applied to the Santana West Project.

We strongly urge the owner/developer to plan for Century 21’s adaptive re-use now and not allow the structure to sit vacant and deteriorate. And, PAC*SJ vehemently disagrees with suggestions to use the building for storage or remove its skin for open space. That would be a travesty! ☹

* LU-13.2-13.15 sections of the San Jose 2040 General Plan



Two Proposed SJ Zoning Amendments

PAC*SJ is closely monitoring two proposed zoning code amendments that, without proper safeguards, could have disastrous impacts on San Jose's historic neighborhoods. The first would reverse a 35-year-old ban on new billboards to allow animated digital signage along freeways and other designated areas, including downtown. The second would allow up to four housing units to be built on parcels currently zoned for single-family residences in areas close to transit corridors, including many older and historic neighborhoods.

Fortunately, both proposals are in their early planning stages and will require multiple studies, hearings, and opportunities for public input before final voting.

1. Sign Code Amendments

PAC*SJ supports the City's current billboard ban and is concerned that a proposed "Downtown Sign Intensification District" lacks necessary protections for historic buildings, which could be physically damaged or visually overwhelmed by the installation of building-mounted signs.

We also fear that a proliferation of new digital signage would create dangerous driving conditions, serious disruptions to wildlife, increased light pollution and decreased property values for adjacent residents.

2. Opportunity Housing

"Opportunity Housing" is a proposal to expand San Jose's affordable housing stock by allowing multiple units on parcels currently zoned for single-family homes in targeted areas. While PAC*SJ strongly supports the goals of housing affordability, we have serious concerns about unintended consequences of the current proposal. Older and historic neighborhoods in San Jose already provide much of the city's higher-density, more affordable, and transit-convenient housing stock.

Unfortunately, many of these same neighborhoods do not appear on the City's Inventory of Historic Resources, leaving them vulnerable to demolition under the current proposal. For the Opportunity Housing concept to succeed, it cannot allow the demolition of the very housing stock it purports to support.

While this won't be the last opportunity to comment on either proposal, it is critical that City staff and elected officials hear from you, the city residents, early and often. Please consider learning more about these proposals and to advocate for San Jose's historic neighborhoods and buildings. ☞

San Jose Enforcement Division Reduces Scope

The San Jose Code Enforcement Division manages programs to ensure compliance with housing and neighborhood health, building and zoning codes.

Reports of violations are usually made to this group, including blight. However, because of Covid-19, Code Enforcement will only respond to emergency issues until further notice. Emergencies include:

- ◆ Imminent hazards to health and safety in housing or buildings

- ◆ Sewage leak left outside
- ◆ Vacant, unsecured buildings
- ◆ In-progress removal of ordinance-size trees
- ◆ Swimming pools without secure fencing
- ◆ Unsecured refrigerators

To reach the Code Enforcement Division go to: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments/planning-building-code-enforcement/code-enforcement/request-service-check-status>. ☞

ON THE RADAR



CityView Plaza Project

This 8-acre project across the street from Plaza de Cesar Chavez Park, which will raze multiple buildings eligible for historic landmark status (see *Continuity* article, Summer, 2020), was approved by the San Jose City Council on June 16. The Council also denied the proposal to designate the former Bank of California Building, within this site, as a City Landmark, against the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission's recommendation and the support from PAC*SJ and other historic preservationists. The Council chose to combine the two issues, reducing our ability to comment over Zoom. The council meeting's minutes do not reflect any of our testimony against this project.

Coyote Trestle

This Coyote Creek Trestle, which stands just north of the Keyes/Story Road/Senter Road intersection and slightly east of S. 12th Street, is our last remaining wood-framed railroad trestle in San Jose (now that the Willow Glen Trestle has been demolished). It is narrower, ten feet higher and 60 feet longer than the Willow Glen Trestle but is of similar construction and was built at the same time (1921-22) by Western Pacific Railroad, the line that ran from Niles to the San Jose canneries. PAC*SJ fully supports the completion of a full EIR (Environmental Impact Report) and the City's application for a funding grant from the CA Transportation Commission for the Five-Wounds Trail, trusting that the Trestle will be saved and rehabilitated to remain as the pedestrian/bike trail, as it is now.

500 Block, S. 1st St./S.2nd St.

A new owner is working toward acquisition of the entire block. The plan for this space has not yet been made public. The site holds many interesting older buildings such as Emile's Restaurant, vintage homes, an Art Deco apartment, retail buildings and Western Mountaineering. PAC*SJ will meet with the developer and monitor further activity.

Burbank Theater

The Theater (pictured right) on Bascom Avenue near Highway 280 has been condemned, the posting stating it is unfit for human occupancy until repairs are made. Graffiti and broken glass have marred the marquee, which was placed on the County's heritage resource list a few years ago. The front entrance is a wonderful example of Art Deco design.



Mosaic Art Piece at Stevens Creek/Saratoga Ave.

The large mosaic created by local, long-time artist and SJSU professor, Harry Powers, is called "Vibrant Galaxy" and stands about 6' high by 9' wide. Powers created art for many locations, especially in the Bay Area, was internationally well-known and has many pieces exhibited in museums. This glass/stone mosaic in concrete was commissioned for the Bank of the West and installed in 1963. It needs to be saved and included among other Power's art for all to appreciate. ☘

PAC*SJ is Still Keeping An Eye On—



- Century 21
- Graves House
- Winchester Ranch Park
- Diridon Station Area
- Wehner Mansion

PAC*SJ 2020 Calendar

- Sept 4-5** PAC*SJ **Treasure & Rummage Garage Sale**. 260 S. 13th St. Fri 9 am-6 pm. Sat. 9 am-12 pm. To volunteer or donate email to donations@preservation.org
- Sept 21** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. History Park, 2nd Floor Firehouse.*
- Oct 19** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. History Park, 2nd Floor Firehouse.*
- Nov 13-14** PAC*SJ **Holiday Boutique**, 594 South 15th Street, San Jose
- Nov 16** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. History Park, 2nd Floor Firehouse.*
- Nov 27-Jan 3** **Christmas in the Park** at History Park, 1650 Senter Rd., San Jose. Drive through only. Must make reservations. \$10-\$20 per car. Runs through Jan. 3, 2021
- Dec TBD** Monday, PAC*SJ Annual Meeting & Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. History Park, 2nd Floor Firehouse.*

** Board meeting may take place online or meet at a different location*

PAC*SJ During the Pandemic

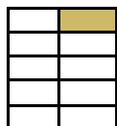
Since the Covid-19 pandemic has descended upon us, PAC*SJ has had to curtail its fundraising events, garage/yard sales, walking tours, members events, in person poster sales, and all other get-togethers. We hope to bring back some of our activities in the Fall, but only the next few months can predict whether that can happen. So stay tuned, and if we are able to move ahead with a few events, such as a walking tour, yard sale, and fund-raiser, we will send out details with eblasts, U.S. mail, and communicate information on our website and Facebook. It has been a sparse year and we are eager to get back to some kind of different normal.

Be assured that PAC*SJ is still meeting as a Board and with the Planning Department online or by phone. We continue to monitor and act on threats to our historic assets. We are still writing letters to the city and keeping in touch with developers and partners. We have not gone away.

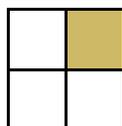
PAC*SJ wishes all of you well and hope you stay safe. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

ADVERTISE IN CONTINUITY!

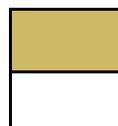
Continuity is distributed to over 500 San Jose preservationists, homeowners and decision-makers. It's a great way to get your message out to your best potential customers! For ads larger than the business card, you must supply camera-ready artwork, or PAC*SJ can provide it at an additional charge.



Business Card
Single issue \$50
3 issues \$120



1/4 Page
Single issue
\$100



1/2 Page
Single issue
\$200



Full Page
Single issue
\$375

Spring Sale a Success

Though the pandemic has brought a rain cloud on most of PAC*SJ's events, we still held several sales in July while requiring masks and social distancing. A one-day July 3rd garage sale had a steady stream of masked shoppers. Sanitizer and gloves were available. Tools and nice furniture had been picked up from a local home a week earlier to add to the merchandise. One large furniture piece will be sold by an auction house soon.

Many thanks to our host home-owners: Carl and Marianne Salas, Mary Lou Mason and of course Patt Curia.

Our great team of volunteers included Rose Vandemelen, Leslie Masunaga, Lynne Stephenson, Connie Foley, Ron Hagen, Gabby Solleder, Lucille Boone, Dianne Chiecci, André Luthard, Tim McAuliffe, Robert Carter, Jim Norvell, Tom Aldridge, Steve Cohen, Patt Curia, and Sylvia and Art Carroll.

Besides the volunteers, we hired two young men to help, sons of Joe Golda who repairs/sells our light fixtures and paid for lunch for the set-up and sale days.

Later PAC*SJ offered 30 boxes of books and music for sale from a donation of the estate of a deceased music professor, LeRoy Brandt.

— Patt Curia

Sunset Magazine Art Posters

We are currently selling large format, high quality posters celebrating 100 years of Sunset magazine. Choose from 20 different prints highlighting the years from 1898 to 1998, each cost \$22 (includes tubed shipping cost of \$7). Most are 20 inches x 30 inches. The two Native American themed prints are \$47 each, including shipping.

To order your poster visit www.preservation.org.

These posters were printed by Lane Publishing Company several years ago and recently donated to PAC*SJ. **Join or renew your membership at the \$100 level and receive one poster free.**

A small collection of Sunset posters is displayed on the exterior wall of College Market, 502 S. 6th Street. Pictured below with the poster exhibit are from left, Ben Leech (PAC*SJ E.D.), T.J. Taranjit (store owner), Walter Soellner and Patt Curia (Board Members). Drive by and take a look! ☘



PAC*SJ Fall Treasure & Rummage Sale Planned

Because the mail is slower you may receive this newsletter after our sale but here is the information just in case.

PAC*SJ's Fall Treasure & Rummage Garage Sale will be held on September 4 through September 5, Friday from 9 AM to 6 PM and on Saturday 9 AM to noon. The location

will be the same as most of our other sales, at 260 S. 13th Street and yards on either side in San Jose.

Masks and social distancing will be required. The sale will include housewares, furniture, collectables, and various vintage items that may be just the unique item you need. ☘

Celebrating Joan Bohnett's Life

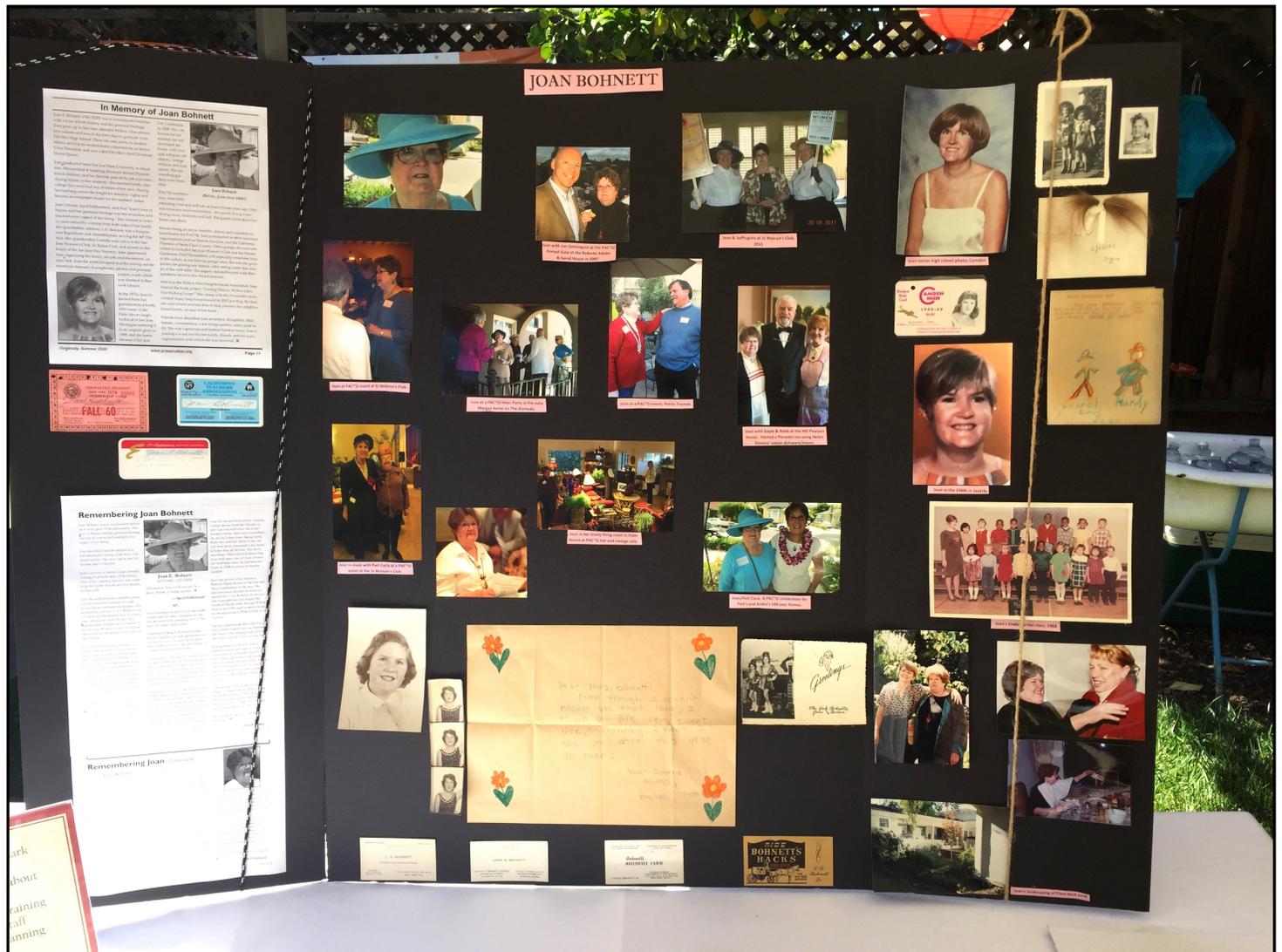
On July 2, PAC*SJ held a small celebration of Joan Bohnett's life. Joan, a dedicated PAC*SJ member, passed earlier this year. (See article in Summer, 2020 issue of *Continuity*.) Many of Joan's mementos were exhibited as well as a photo board of her life. Fond memories were spoken and we enjoyed looking at past items of Joan's life such as awards, school report cards, graduation certificates, notes from Joan's students, and credits from her teachers' union work. There were even some of Joan's hats to try on.

Because of the pandemic, there were fewer attendees than would otherwise have come. We all wore masks and kept our distances, but we still managed to say goodbye to a great friend and volunteer. ☘



Lynne Stephenson, Marilyn Messina, Steve Cohen and Larry Ames visit during Joan's celebration of life.

(More photos on p. 15)



Joan (Cont'd)



Patt Curia (left) and Lynda Sereno, organizers of the get-together to celebrate Joan's life.

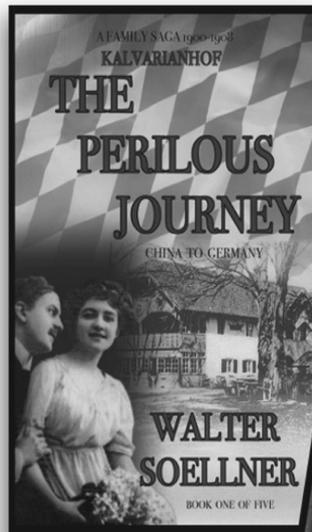


*Linda Zavoral (SJ Mercury), Ben Leech (PAC*SJ E. D.) and Sal Pizarro (SJ Mercury)*

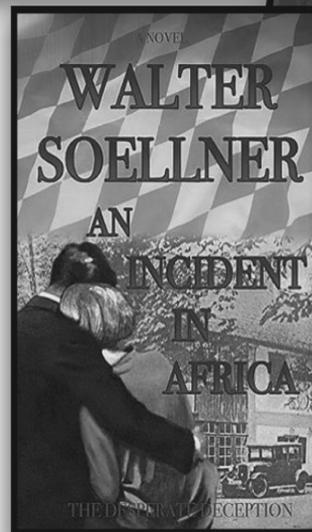
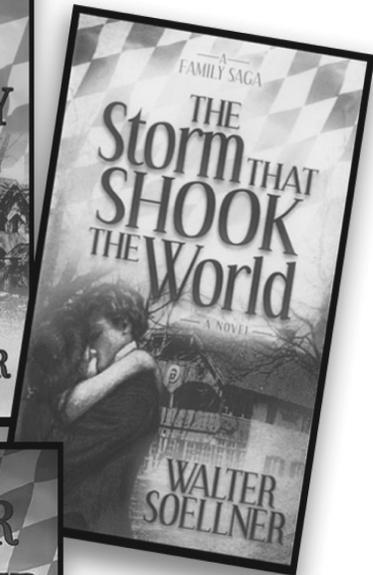
(Photos: Gayle Frank)

Joan Bohnett Historic Neighborhood Preservation Fund

The PAC*SJ Joan Bohnett Historic Neighborhood Preservation Fund will support the efforts of neighborhood groups in protecting and celebrating their historic character, pursuing historic district status, or developing walking tours and other educational programs about their history. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution in Joan's memory by donating online at www.preservation.org. Keep Joan's passion for historic neighborhoods alive.



WALTER SOELLNER
A San Jose Author



The story starts with two German lifelong friends, one Catholic, one Jewish, soldiers in Germany's Chinese colony when the Boxer Rebellion breaks out. What follows is an epic historical drama, set in the first half of the twentieth century and spanning four continents. Fictional characters and stories intertwine with real historic persons and they live through the true historic events of WW I, the depression and WW II, with all the drama, romance, triumphs and tragedies of those world-changing times.

These are the first three historic fiction novels in a five-book series. The fourth novel will be out early 2020.

All three novels are available on Amazon.

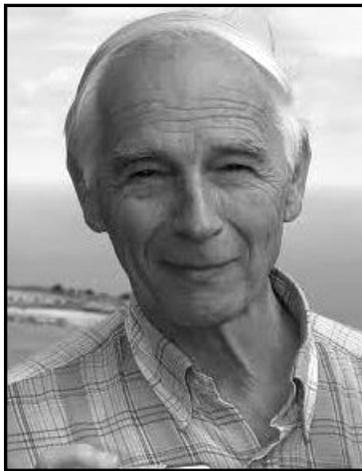


Visit me at
waltersoellner.com

In Memory of Art Carroll

Art Carroll supported the mission of PAC*SJ and volunteered at many of the organization's events, but the garage sales were his favorites. For at least ten years he was a regular at helping set up and organizing merchandise, and then directing shoppers to just what they were looking for. Oh, and yes, he did like shopping at all garage sales, even buying interesting items to give to PAC*SJ for its sales.

Art Carroll lived a good life for 85 years and chose to go peacefully rather than be an invalid after a sudden emergency surgery. He was a kind and gentle man who served the community in many ways. For 55 years he was an active



Arthur W. Carroll
1935-2020

volunteer at all levels of American Youth Hostels/Hosteling International. He liked bicycling, hiking and of course, traveling.

His first connection to historic buildings was the restoration of Welchhurst, a large 1908 craftsman home which was the Sanborn Park Hostel in Saratoga for 30 years. He volunteered in many capacities at History Park and even did carpentry work and served as a classroom docent for the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles. He was active in Friends of the Library

(Saratoga and West Valley), and he picked up litter with Adopt-a-Highway for 19 years.

Busy as Art was, he always had time for cats. He loved cats, adopted many, collected and read books about cats, and supported various cat care organizations. And yes, he bought cat items at garage sales. When PAC*SJ holds its next sale, there will be figurines, books, and housewares with cat motifs. Come and shop. Help PAC*SJ and remember Art.

—Sylvia Carroll



*Art at a
PAC*SJ
garage
sale
holding
one of
our
signs—
coinci-
dentally
also
with his
name.*

Notable Quotable

“It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.

—William Murtagh, *“Keeping Time: the History and Theory of Preservation in America,”* [1988]

Exploring San Jose's City Landmarks

Here is the next San Jose Landmark from the City list. Check previous *Continuity* issues for earlier landmark descriptions on our website.

HS92-87 Former Bank of Italy/Bank of America Hester Branch, 1445 The Alameda, San Jose

This former Bank of Italy/Bank of America building at the intersection of The Alameda and Hester Avenue is Spanish Colonial Revival style of architecture. The Hester branch was constructed in 1926, the same year our iconic 13-story Bank of America on S. First and Santa Clara Streets was built. The prominent architect H. A. Minton designed both Bank of Italy buildings. By 1930 they were rebranded as Bank of America.

The Spanish Colonial Revival Style of architecture in the U.S. was predominantly popular from 1915 until around 1931. The style was first of interest when architect Bertram Goodhue introduced it at the Panama-California Exposition (San Diego) in 1915. The style is influenced by California missions and the American Craftsman and Arts and Crafts Movements and is a combination of Spanish Baroque, Spanish Colonial, Moorish Revival and Mexican Churrigueresque architecture. The Spanish Colonial Revival Style was most popular in California and Florida.

Traditional features of the Spanish Colonial Revival style found on this former Bank of America branch building include white smooth stucco walls, terra cotta shingles



Former Bank of Italy/America, Hester Branch.

on low-pitched or flat roofs, terra cotta or plaster ornamentation, shallow or no eave overhang, tall windows, stucco or plaster vents, and decorative iron trim.

Note the dramatic fluted pilasters between each set of windows and the relief décor on the upper wall sections. The large, metal lamps on each side of the bronze doors are impressive along with the bronze symbol of the Bank of America, the Portsmouth three-mast ship, sitting above the entrance.

Other characteristics of this architectural style not represented on this building are arched windows, arcades supported by columns, asymmetrical facades, balconies, small porches, walled entry courtyards, canvas awnings, elaborate chimneys, and towers.

(Cont'd p. 18)



City Landmarks (Cont'd)

The building's architect, Henry Anthony (H.A.) Minton (1883-1948) arrived in San Francisco soon after the 1906 earthquake after obtaining his degree in architecture at Harvard in 1905. Early on, he worked for a few architects and then for the City of San Francisco designing government structures. He became well established when he was commissioned to design many churches and schools for the Catholic Church, an ongoing client. He also designed the Alameda County Court House and cooperated with Thomas Lamb to design the San Francisco Fox Theater.

Minton's other main client, A.P. Giannini, commissioned Minton to design Bank of Italy buildings (later Bank of America) throughout the Bay Area and beyond such as in Merced (1928), Salinas, (1927), San Mateo, Fremont, San Francisco, San Jose, Los Gatos and Oakland. One of Minton's most impressive designs was San Jose's 13-story Bank of Italy/America, in the Italian Renaissance Revival Style, at 12 S. First Street—for years, the tallest building not only in San Jose but the tallest building between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Minton worked in a wide range of architectural styles. He even designed the Navy's Pre-Flight School in California. His son, John G. Minton (1916-2001), continued the practice and designed additions to many of his father's buildings. The records and papers of Henry and John Minton are located at the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

The Bank of America Hester Branch building is no longer a bank. Over the years it has been occupied by a realtor's office, beauty salon and presently serves as a dance and exercise studio, *La Barre*.

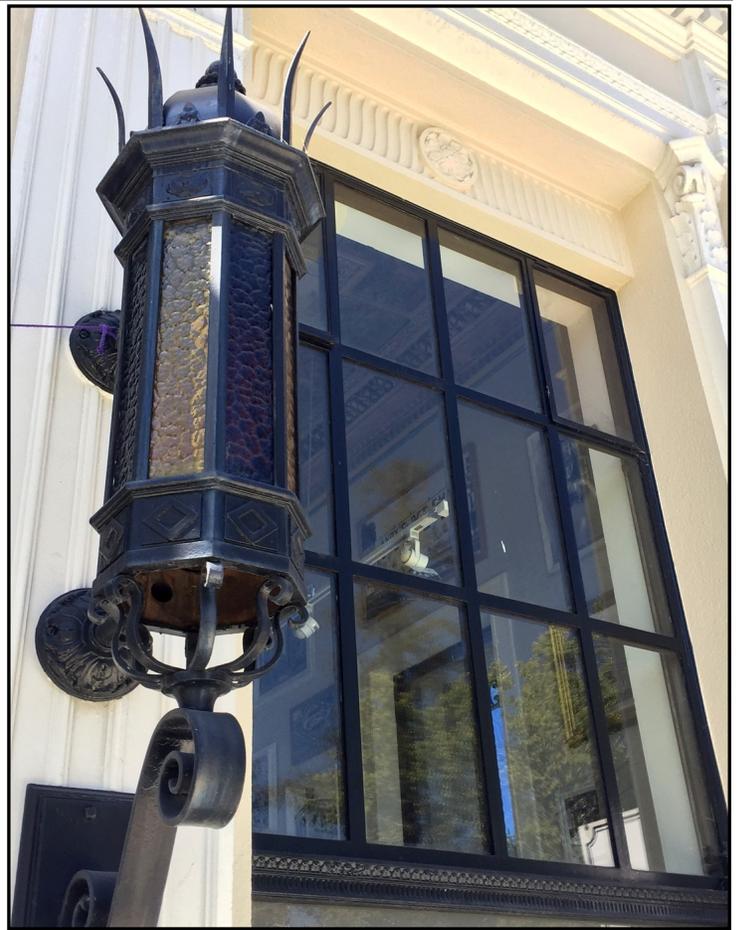
—Gayle Frank

Sources:

-*The Alameda, The Beautiful Way*, Shannon E. Clark, p.92, 2006.

-*Historical Highlights of Santa Clara Valley*, Jack Douglas, p. 170-71, 2005.

-*Columbia University Libraries Archival Collections*. http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/archival/collections/ldpd_7202274/



One of two highly ornamental metal lamp at each side of the entrance. (Photos: Gayle Frank)



North side wall of former bank, facing Hester Avenue.

PAC*SJ Membership Application or Renewal

Preservation Action Council of San Jose Membership Application or Renewal

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Legacy Giving

Did you know that Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC*SJ) has a Legacy Giving Program?

Please consider a bequest to PAC*SJ as part of your estate plan. There's no minimum amount required. In fact, you can specify any dollar amount, leave a percentage of your estate, or designate what remains after your estate has been settled.

Gifts of stock are possible at any time. If you are 70 1/2 years of age or over, a

qualified charitable donation can count toward satisfying your required minimum distribution from an IRA, helping to lower your taxes.

PAC*SJ welcomes any donation you can make this year to further our advocacy, educational opportunities and event planning.

Please contact info@preservation.org for more information. PAC*SJ is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Our tax ID is 77-0254542. ☼





Preservation Action Council of San Jose

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The Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC*SJ) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving San Jose’s architectural heritage through education, advocacy and events.

We believe that **historic preservation is good for our quality of life, good for business, and good for the environment.** We aim to integrate a strong commitment to historic preservation into the land use and development decisions of the City of San Jose that affect historic resources, as well as into the private decisions of property owners and developers. We try to bring owners and developers together to create historically sensitive projects that make economic sense.

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