



CONTINUITY

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PAC*SJ's New Director



Megan Bellue

Meet Megan Bellue, the new Executive Director for PAC*SJ. Megan comes to us with a wealth of preservation experience and hit the ground running when she started with us in December.

Most recently Megan was an Associate Planner with the City of Sacramento, working closely on the review process of projects related to historic properties. She also reviewed Environmental Impact Reports, managed historic resources surveys and monitored their compliance with industry and federal standards.

While with the City of Sacramento she also interacted with the City's Design Review Preservation Board and the City Council.

Megan has over 10 years of preservation experience, including several years with the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C. While with the Trust she managed the Forum Online magazine and oversaw the expansion of that as a nationwide resource for the preservation community. She also managed the Preservation Leadership Training and other Trust training programs.

Her extensive preservation experience also includes serving as the Executive Director of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions based in Athens, Georgia and with the Preservation Action in Washington, D.C.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As my two terms as president of PAC*SJ come to a close, I am optimistic about historic preservation in San Jose. Our newly hired executive director, Megan Bellue, certainly adds to this rosy outlook. Looking back, we should feel proud of our many accomplishments. Most notably, saving the front office at the G.E. site, prevailing in two lawsuits over the Fox-Markovitz and IBM buildings and providing a free movie night to educate the public about the history of the Valley of Hearts Delight. Also, we are partnering with the National Trust, local neighborhood groups and the city of San Jose to develop conservation districts. We are continuing our ongoing advocacy efforts to educate our city leaders as to the importance of preserving San Jose's rich heritage. Garage sales, salvage sales, two very successful gala events, a house tour, membership drives, grants and generous donations were integral to our success and financial stability.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers, businesses, Board and staff for their contributions. I would especially like to thank Joe Melehan who has served as acting president since September in my absence. I know with his wealth of experience in local business along with serving as Vice President and chairing the gala, house tour and film events, he is well prepared to be an outstanding president.

These events have been rewarding and successful. Having the opportunity to spend time with a wonderful group of individuals with a shared commitment to historic preservation has been priceless. But now is not the time to rest on our laurels. Our city's present administration undervalues our heritage more than any other time in recent history. We must work to keep them accountable through continued public education advocacy. Historic preservation helps define San Jose, instilling pride and promoting local businesses. Here's to you, PAC SJ!!

JIM ZETTERQUIST
PAC*SJ 2005 PRESIDENT



I would like to begin by congratulating our current President, Jim Zetterquist, on the outstanding job he has done as our leader for the past two years. Everyone associated with PAC*SJ should be aware of the strides we have made towards enhancing preservation in our community. This is in no small part due to Jim's hard work and dedication. He brought new ideas, new events, and new passion to what often seemed like a steep, uphill battle.

Of course Jim could not have done this alone. He challenged our Board, membership and staff to work with equal enthusiasm to help preserve the structures that are such a vital part of keeping our magnificent history alive.

I believe we met his challenge. I hope over the next year you will continue to do the same.

This is an exciting time for PAC*SJ. The future is bright. We have great people as part of our organization. I welcome input from the Board, members and staff in an effort to reach our potential. I will need your help. I do not have a background in preservation, but I know PAC*SJ has, as a part of our network, this area's foremost authorities in that field.

I hope we will be able to replicate the successes we have had over the past few years. Together we can help make San Jose the place it rightfully should be.

The reason I became involved in PAC*SJ remains the reason I am still involved today: "Preservation is good for business".

JOE MELEHAN
PAC*SJ 2006 PRESIDENT-ELECT

PAC*SJs New Director

Continued from page 1

Megan earned a Master of Arts degree in History and Historic Preservation from George Washington University, Washington, D.C. and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from UCLA.

From the moment of her appointment as Executive Director of PAC*SJ, Megan started familiarizing herself with PAC*SJ and our issues. Megan is looking forward to meeting PAC*SJ's many members and volunteers. Please join the Board in welcoming Megan to the San Jose community.

WELCOME MEGAN!



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necessarily those of PAC*SJ itself.

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Please submit your letters, comments and suggestions to
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Juana Briones House Under Threat

The California Historical Landmark No. 524, the “Juana Briones de Miranda House” located at 4155 Old Adobe Road in the City of Palo Alto is threatened with demolition.

Briones was the second owner of Rancho La Purísima Concepción, which she purchased in 1844 or 1845 for \$300. After a nearly twenty year battle to keep her rightful ownership, Briones was finally granted free title in 1871. She sold portions of the original 4,400 acre rancho to her children, but Briones continued to live in her home until the early 1880s. Her youngest daughter, Refugio Miranda de Mesa, received 40 acres from Briones, including the main house and out structures. The home was sold to Charles P. Nott in 1900, who significantly modified the structure over time.

A 1969 assessment of the Briones House, performed by a well-known architect and historian, Volney Chase, concluded that the living rooms and the stair hall were part of the original structure. The construction of the original house, built in 1846-1847, is not of the typical adobe brick style commonly used in early California, but a rare construction method that encased earthen adobe material inside a crate-style wooden framing. This construction style of the original one and a half story home was discovered within some of the interior walls. The Juana Briones de



Juana Briones House

early California. She was one of very few Mexican women who purchased a land grant instead of inheriting it. Juana Briones built her own home, was an enterprising business woman, a rancher, a folk healer, and a noted humanitarian in the Santa Clara and San Francisco counties.

The Briones house is significant because it may be the longest continuously lived-in structure in Santa Clara County history and the oldest surviving structure on this side of Santa Clara Mission. The house was badly damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. The Juana Briones Heritage Foundation (JBHF) is attempting to purchase the property to prevent its destruction. If successful, there are plans to restore the house, develop gardens to study plants used by Briones, and perform archaeological work to uncover potential Ohlone settlements. ■

For more information and schedule of events visit www.brioneshouse.org.

Source: Albert M. Camarillo, Professor of History, Stanford University and Doug Graham, Baron Park Historian



A likeness of what is thought to resemble Juana Briones.

Miranda House is a unique artifact of nineteenth century California. Not only is the style of construction of the Briones house historically significant, but also its owner was one of the few women land owners in

6th Annual Preservation Celebration Success



Preservation Hero Gentleman Jack Douglas wears his new medal while signing copies of his latest book.

Two hundred and fifty cowpokes and cowgirls enjoyed a balmy night at the History Park on September 24th. Outstanding entertainment featured Cowgirl Chyrle, Cowboy Ron and Cow-boys of the Old West who almost strung up the 2006 Preservation Hero Jack Douglas.

E Clampus Vitas (Clampers) members barbequed the meal served by San Jose State students from Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. Many thanks to our partner restaurants: Henry's World Famous Hi-Life, Sam's Barbeque, Los Gatos Roasting Company and Hobee's. At 8:00 pm the Light Tower was illuminated, spreading a glow throughout the park. Board member Kayla Kurucz and the National Trust's West Coast Director Anthea Hartig conducted a special live auction raising funds for the Katrina relief.



*Cowboy Ron and Cowgirl Chyrle demonstrate their roping skills on the late Walter Brand, a dear friend of PAC*SJ.*

Watch our web site for pictures of Celebration live auction events as they occur: Deb Wible's Haunted San Jose, Leonard McKay's tour of his art collection at the History Park, Steinberg Architect Ernie Yamane's stroll through the new City Hall, Nancy

Newlins's lunch and tour of the Hayes Mansion, Kitty Monahan's tour of the New Almaden Quick-silver Mines as well as tours by Tom McEnery and Alan Hess. And of course Maria Brand's ever popular 5-course German dinner will be eagerly anticipated.



The Flynn Family discuss dinner plans with Maria Brand who donated a German dinner for six for the Celebration Auction.



A Celebration Auction Event: Lunch with Deb Wible, Leonard McKay, Tracy Thorpe, and host Tom McEnery.

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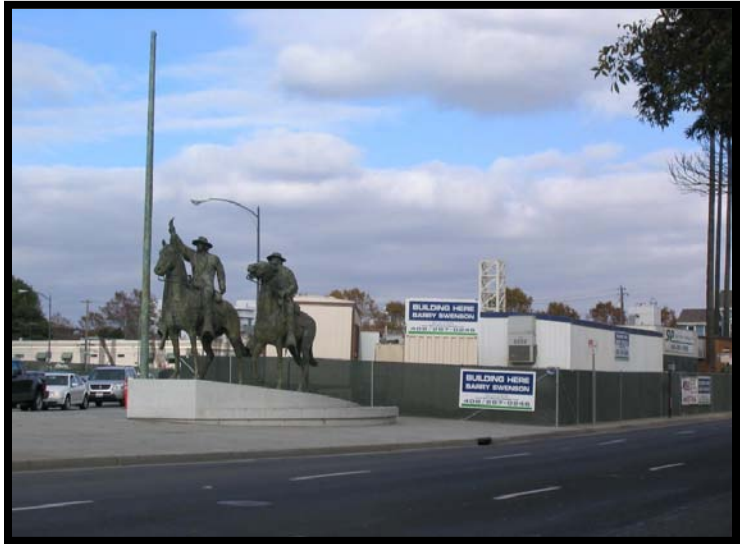
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Where's Pellier Park?

In July 2005, Pellier Park, a San Jose City landmark, was demolished. Barry Swenson, the developer of the parcel immediately east of the park asked and received permission from the city to scrap the park in order to use the site as a staging area for the construction of Park Towers, a new residential development. Mr. Swenson will rebuild the park as part of his agreement with the city.

What is the problem you ask? Clearly, the park has fallen into disrepair and needs to be rehabilitated anyway. The problem is that a new park proposal was never presented to the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission, nor was a request for demolition brought to the Commission. No one in the historic community even realized the park was threatened. Projects impacting City landmarks are required to come to the Commission for review. Somehow this project fell through the cracks.

So where are we now? Before we go forward, we need to go back into the history of the park. The land for the park was offered to the City of San Jose by the Pellier family for half its value in an effort to honor their ancestors, the Pellier brothers, who introduced the prune to the Santa Clara Valley. An effort to raise the funds to purchase the land was spearheaded by Leonard McKay and Jim Arbuckle. Their idea was to turn this small piece of land into a prune orchard reminiscent of the valley's heritage. Successful in their endeavor, with

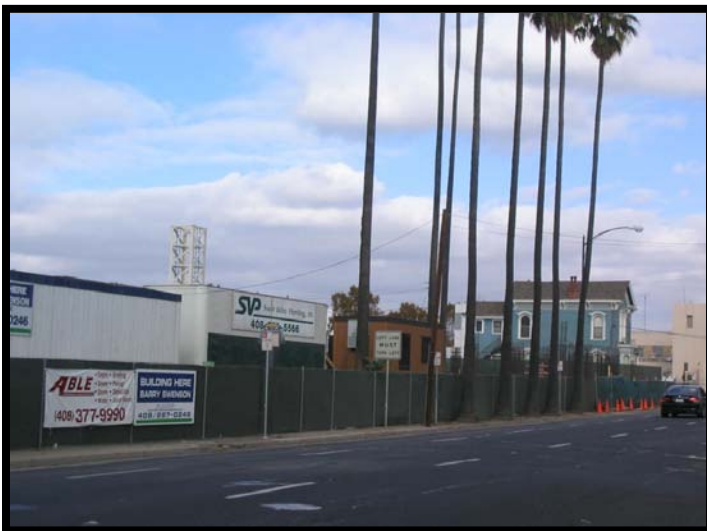


Looking at what was Pellier Park, behind the Fallon Statue

help from many volunteers and donors, Misterys McKay and Arbuckle raised the money for the land and the park. Pellier Park was donated to the City of San Jose during the City's Bi-Centennial in 1977. The park was also made a City Landmark that year.

So, now for the now, the City of San Jose has recognized its mistake and is going to take the design of the new park back through the proper channels. A steering committee has been formed consisting of Leonard McKay, Bonnie Bamburg (an early supporter of the original park), Historic Landmarks Commissioner, Pat Columbe, Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Jim McDonald, a member of the Pellier family and several members of Preservation Action Council**SJ*. The purpose of the steering committee is to develop a park design that incorporates the original intentions for the park. Once the steering committee has developed the preliminary design, community meetings will be held to elicit public input. The design will then be reworked to incorporate the public's suggestions. The next step will be to take the park design to the Landmarks Commission and the Park and Recreation Commission for their input, and hopefully, approval. The City Council will give the final approval. It is anticipated that the final park design will go to the Council in early spring.

(Continued on page 7)



Fences, signs, and trailers where the park used to be.

THE DOG



Sleeping dogs, awake! Balmy fall days induce us into relaxing our vigils, and what happens! Another "whoops!" from our dedicated city staff when Pellier Park was demolished without Landmark Commission or public input! Now staff says the process broke down, they're sorry, but they'll make it all well by coming forward as if the issue were just being proposed! Now does that sound like business as usual or what! Gr-r-r-r! Proves we'd better get off our haunches and raise a mighty howl about not following due process, whether a project is warranted or not!

This ol' dog also thinks we'd better keep a wary eye out as we head into the holiday season, a time when our two-legged leaders think our attention might be on treats instead of preservation issues. Will IBM Building 25 suddenly collapse due to an ill-fated wind from Lowe's direction? And doggoned if they aren't still wondering if Mirassou Winery is historically important and worthy of landmark status! These two gems are icons of early businesses in our fair city, practically our reason for being.

There's some good news; must give credit to our esteemed leaders for arranging neighborhood forums to give our citizens the opportunity to chime in on what they think would be good for their neighborhood. Let's hope those leaders aren't just tossing out bones in hopes it'll keep barking dogs quiet.

And a 3-bark salute to the proposed purchase of what is known as the "Downtown Ballpark" site, provided this isn't a

(Continued from page 6)

Once all the approvals have been given, Barry Swenson Builders will begin construction of the turnkey park which will then be given back to the City. The end of the story should hold a bright future for a much neglected park: a park once again worthy of honoring the contributions of the Pellier family. ■

Judi Henderson

boondoggle, with San Jose's top dogs tying up the 13-acre site only for a future ballpark, which may never happen. Open space would be nice, but not another high-rise housing/office/retail development. That site included Stephen's Meat Products, which sadly was closing down after 63 years of supplying the best doggoned sausage products in San Jose. But it's not the end of the Stephen's name since respected Bassian Farms will produce Stephen's Meat products and sell them at Willow Glen Meat and Smokehouse. Hope the Stephen's piggy sign ends up some place where the public can enjoy it.

On the other paw, as the Murky News pointed out, the cost of hiring outside investigators to look into the ethics of the city's top dogs is very high! The Norcal and Cisco fiascoes alone are reducing our coffers by about \$250 thou, which could have bought a lot of kibbles and bits! Too bad those involved didn't reveal the whole story in the beginning.

Us ol' dog columnist's ranks are thinning, or maturing, if that's politically correct. Time to make room for the young pups waitin' in the sidelines. Biggest loss is the retirement of my ol' friend and fellow columnist, Leigh Weimers, after 47 years of keeping us informed. Weimers wrote his last column in mid-November, with plans afoot to relax, travel, and leave the drivin' to someone else! Leigh "skipped to the lou" right out the front door! We'll miss his concise take on the state of our fair city and its denizens.

Speaking of "lou" San Jose is also losing one of it's oldest dining cum watering holes when Lou's Village throws in the towel after many years of satisfying the palates of the most discerning. No doggy diner establishment, although they were kind to all sad eyed, four-legged beggars! Sad to lose this venerable establishment; will be many more years, if ever, before the multitude of new eateries can come close to earning the "venerable" title.

But Lou's isn't goin' out with a whimper! At the time this column was being written, a concert to benefit Hoover Middle School's music program was scheduled for the Saturday after Thanksgiving. A worthy cause, and the concert features some of San Jose's home grown performing groups, including the Jim Salata and Dan Orloff garage band as the opening act. Now THAT rocks!

Well, you win some and lose some. We lost Stephen's Meats and Lou's Village, but gained a new hot spot. So I'm gonna' trot on over for a visit to the Poor House Bistro on Autumn Street. Nawlins in San Jose? I love a good jambalaya, no bones about it! See you there!

THE DOG

The Winchester Ghost Stories Revisited

The World Premier of the new musical, *The Haunting of Winchester*, was produced by the San Jose Repertory Theater in September of 2005. This musical was written by local composer, Craig Bohmler and librettist, Mary Bracken Phillips. On September 11th, PAC* SJ partnered with the Pioneers of Santa Clara Valley to hold a reception on the veranda of the Rep featuring interesting perspectives on Sara Winchester and her unique house, from Leslie Dill (architect), April Halberstadt (historian/author), and the Director of the musical, Michael Butler. After the reception and delicious finger food, members thoroughly enjoyed the creative and exciting performance of the musical. The script, music, set, lighting, and acting were excellent and the function was a great success. See pages 14 and 15 for excerpts of the historic perspectives presented by April Halberstadt at the reception. ■



Director Michael Butler provides details of his new musical.

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ON THE RADAR



Mirassou Winery

The San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission voted at their November meeting to include the Mirassou Winery site on the Historic Resources Inventory. The Commission also recom-

mended that the site become a city landmark. Councilmember Cortese is very interested in making the site a landmark and is looking for ways to raise money to fund the historic report that must accompany a landmark nomination.

Continental Can Company Building/Tri Valley Cannery

Trammel Crow Residential has acquired the Continental Can Company site and the former Tri Valley Cannery with the intent of building residential housing. Both sites are on Taylor Street between N 10th Street and the railroad tracks. The proposal for the Tri Valley building is to demolish it and build a new residential development with a small park on Taylor Street. The plan for former Continental Can Company building is to preserve some of the brick building and add a third story. The Continental Can Company Building has some lovely original windows that are not proposed, at this time, to be saved. PAC*SJ will continue to follow this project closely.

Houghton Donner House

Keith Watt is in the process of selling the Houghton Donner House site. A nonprofit housing organization is interested in relocating the house to a site they own on N 4th Street. The nonprofit would rehabilitate the house and use it for its offices. Barry Swenson Builders is proposing to build a 200+ units residential tower on the Houghton Donner House site. PAC*SJ's position is that the house should remain on its present site. This is consistent with the position we took when the city was proposing that the house be moved as part of the City Hall garage project.

Downtown Ball Park site

The City Council voted to purchase the Stephens Sausage Factory building and to conduct preliminary studies on a site just north of the Arena to determine the feasibility of using the site for a downtown ball park. The city would be interested in bringing the A's baseball team to San Jose if that opportunity presented itself. If the city is not successful in this venture, the site would be used for housing. The actual boundaries are: W. San Fernando Street, Autumn Street, Park

Street and the railroad tracks. A historic resources report is being prepared which will evaluate the structures located within the boundaries to determine whether any have historic significance.

Congratulations to United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County

Congratulations on a very successful conference on November 12, 2005. Participating neighborhood activists met in the new City Hall for the conference and then had lunch in the new City Hall rotunda. Subjects ranged from "Can We Have Open, Honest, Ethical Government without Sunshine Laws" to "Successful Neighborhood Partnering with Schools and Businesses." Many of the issues UNSCC has are the same ones PAC*SJ has: a good opportunity exists to partner with them and address some of these concerns together.

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NATIONAL TRUST LEADERS FIND THEIR WAY TO SAN JOSE

PAC*SJ hosted a day long meeting of dignitaries from the National Trust for Historic Preservation last October including Stanley Lowe, Vice President of Community Revitalization, Dr. Anthea Hartig, Executive Director of the Western Office, and Mike Buhler, Program Officer /Regional Attorney. The Community Revitalization oversees Trust programs which encourage and assist efforts to bring new economic vitality to historic residential and commercial neighborhoods. The first San Jose tour took our visitors to the 13th Street neighborhood, led by historic architectural consultant, Franklin Maggi and Board member Sherry Hitchcock, chairperson of PAC*SJ's Service Learning Partnership. Next, a tour of the River Street Historic District was led by Patt Curia, PAC*SJ board member, and historian April Halberstadt.

PAC*SJ received a Preservation Development Initiative grant funded by the John S. and James L.



*Nat'l Trust Visit: left to right: Sherry Hitchcock, PAC*SJ, Mike Buhler, NTHP, Jim Zetterquist, PAC*SJ, Anthea Hartig, NTHP, and Stanley Lowe, NTHP.*

Knight Foundation. Working in partnership with the National Trust, we are developing a model to help neighborhoods to better understand their history, the architectural uniqueness of their homes, and move towards the establishment of historic or conservation districts, if desired by homeowners. San Jose is one of only 8 cities in the U.S. chosen to participate in this grant.

Sherry and the Trust visitors also met with John Weiss, Deputy Director of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency and Kip Harkness, Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Manager who agreed to partner with PAC*SJ and the Trust for neighborhood surveys and other opportunities. All parties agreed to work together to preserve San Jose's history and continue to build a vibrant city. Dr. Hartig, Mr. Lowe and Mr. Buhler then attended the PAC*SJ's monthly Board meeting and confirmed their enthusiasm for working with San Jose to protect its large stock of beautiful historic homes, and promote economic development. Readers wanting more information about the neighborhood outreach project called the Service Learning Partnership, should email info@Preservation.org. ■

Sherry Hitchcock and Patt Curia



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PAC*SJ CALENDAR

January	16	Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm , Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th Street, San Jose.
February	20	Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm , Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th Street, San Jose.
March	20	Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm , Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th Street, San Jose.

Palm Haven Restores Historic Pillars!

The 7 pillars erected in 1913 at the opening of the Palm Haven residence park have been fully restored! It has taken 4 years of fundraising and volunteer work to reach our goal. And thanks to all of our supporters from PAC*SJ as well as many others, the pillars return to their rightful place adorning this unique Historic Conservation Area of San Jose. A special thanks goes to Norman Finnance (preservation specialist and PAC*SJ Board member) who has guided the restoration process with an extraordinary amount of patience, attention to detail, and care. With the pillar lights fully functional, they set the tone for this historic neighborhood at night. Come visit us sometime to see this bit of history come back to life!

Thanks again to everyone who helped and have a great holiday!

Michael Borbely

President, Palm Haven Restoration Committee



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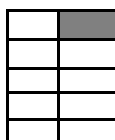
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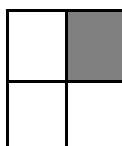
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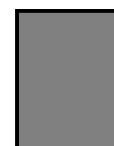
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Haunted By Sarah



Victorian turrets and towers of the Winchester house.

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Why are we still haunted by Sarah Winchester? She died in 1922, nearly 85 years ago. What is it about Sarah that intrigues us and makes her such a special character in our local history?

She is, after all, not the only incredibly rich Santa Clara Valley matron who built an incredible mansion and was in touch with the spirits. Mary Hayes Chynoweth kept Sarah company with another fabulous mansion in Edenvale, built about the same time as Sarah's "Mystery House". There are many other comparisons that can be drawn between these two ladies, both prominent Valley figures around 1900 but it is Sarah that we seem to take to heart today.

As a matter of fact, at that time Santa Clara Valley was becoming home to many wealthy residents. Most of them, like Sarah, had several houses and built their fancy country houses on large fruit ranches. We quickly recall the "ranch" life of Jane Lathrop Stanford. If we think about it, a dozen others might come to mind. San Francisco millionaire George Hume, for example, built the 600-acre Glen Una ranch near Saratoga into the world's largest prune operation. Like Sarah, he generated his own electricity and had a fire protection system. The list of other wealthy local investors is substantial.

Maybe we are haunted by the spooky billboards with the large Death's Head advertising the Mystery House. Sarah has had some phenomenal marketing, grabbing our attention with that large black skull, every time we drive the freeway. Poor Sarah, we say to ourselves, she had such bad luck. It is strange, because I do not recall how I came to that conclusion about Sarah.

Sarah is not a figure that is found in our local history books. That relative obscurity is one of the many interesting aspects of Sarah's persona. There is almost nothing written about Sarah, and what little there is, is highly suspect. Various sources give her birth date anywhere from 1837 to 1840. Little is known about her early years but hearsay. She came to Santa Clara Valley about 1884, when she was in her mid-40's. Some say she came for her health; others say that she already had friends or family in the area. At this time, there is still no accurate biography of Sarah, although local historian Maryjo Ignoffo is currently working on a book that may come out next year.

Haunted By Sarah



Sarah Winchester

We hear that Sarah felt compelled to make constant additions to her mansion but the reasons for the ongoing construction are never clear. We hear that Sarah was in poor health; some say it was rheumatoid arthritis that crippled her and forced her to devise the tiny stairs and other strategies that allowed her to remain independent. Others have different opinions regarding her health.

Local stories about Sarah always speak of her with great kindness. People in the Valley who knew her, or who recall their grandparents speaking about her, say that she was a very kind and generous person. She comes to us as being a caring person, despite being something of a recluse. The reputation of affection and generosity is important to consider. We really know very little about Sarah, but somehow we have taken her to our hearts and think kindly of her.

We are told that Sarah was haunted by the spirits of those killed by the Winchester rifle, so we should probably talk a little about the importance of this invention. There were two very significant mechanical devices developed for personal use in the late 19th century. Both were manufactured in the industrial areas of New England, both were constantly improved and both had many patents issued. And both were subjected to years of litigation on various patents. The two items were sewing machines and personal firearms, and we find both devices listed and taxed specifically in the Santa Clara County tax assessment roll of the time.

The Winchester Model 1873 rifle was probably the most popular firearm used in Western America. It had some extraordinary advantages when it was introduced and it quickly became a very popular weapon. First, it was a firearm that used the same size ammunition, 38-calibre, as many of the popular handguns of the time. Gun owners could use the same ammunition for both weapons, a great convenience. It was also a repeater, like a handgun. The Winchester was the first rifle that fired more than one

was very reliable and it was very inexpensive. These two more qualities contributed to its tremendous popularity. The parts were interchangeable and the rifle could be repaired easily.

More than 500,000 (half a million) Winchester Model 1873 rifles were produced by 1900 and this rifle was still manufactured in 1923, a year after Sarah's death. Like Henry Ford's Model T, the Winchester was not the finest rifle on the market during its time, but it was reliable and affordable. It was never a military weapon; it was however, used widely by civilians for both hunting and for personal protection. It has remained such a popular firearm that it is currently licensed for manufacture and you can buy a copy today.

So why am I haunted by Sarah? Because I still find her myth stronger than her reality. Because she seems to be a very genuine individual, someone with strength as well as some interesting flaws. Because she seems to be both modest and famous at the same time. Because history and literature's most memorable characters are not elected officials or paragons of virtue but people who appeal to our hearts for their character. That is why I am haunted by Sarah. ■

April Halberstadt



Switchback staircase in Winchester house.

Historical San Jose Woman's Club

In 1894 nine women gathered in San Jose to discuss the possibility of a "woman's club". The consensus was that a club should be formed in San Jose whereby members, regardless of creed, nationality or position, could engage in cultural, philanthropic and charitable activities. Through their efforts, San Jose Woman's Club was formed.

By 1902 the membership had grown to 81 members who were full of enthusiasm over the new club. With a promotional idea in mind, they had the following printed on the first page of the yearbook:

Something of interest to women everywhere.

San Jose, California, the "Garden City of the Pacific Coast" as it is formally known, is the paradise of children. It is surrounded on every hand by beautiful mountains and forest scenery. The climate is unsurpassed. The winds blow soft and warm. The rains fall in gentle showers. The sun never burns, but tempts the children to outdoor sports almost every day of the year. Fruits of every variety are grown here in abundance and are delicious and wholesome. San Jose is the musical and educational center of California. Your children can commence with the best of kindergartens, and having covered all the intermediate ground, finish their education at one of the greatest institutions of learning in the land, the Leland Stanford Junior University, and they may be at home under your watchful care each night. The people of San Jose are cultured, refined and hospitable and they unite with the San Jose Woman's Club in extending a cordial welcome to all strangers, homeseeking, especially.

The first club building was purchased in 1906 and was located at 43 South Third Street. The membership grew steadily and a large lot was purchased at 75 South Eleventh Street for a new clubhouse. In 1929 the large Spanish style clubhouse was completed and the San Jose Woman's club had a beautiful new home. The club's building contributes to the club's longstanding history. In 1986 the clubhouse was named Historical Landmark No. 32 by the City of San Jose. Various features of the building—including graceful arched windows, vaulted ceilings, and stenciled ceiling beams in the ballroom, were attractive designs created by promi-

nent San Jose architects Carl J. Wolfe and William E. Higgins. Other original features include iron chandeliers and historic wood-fired tile on the staircase. The ballroom features a grand piano on the stage and holds 450 for dancing or 350 for dining. There is a Tea Room, Fireplace Room, Board Room, and Office plus a large entry with comfortable sofa and chairs. There is a pantry kitchen as well as an updated professional kitchen.



San Jose Woman's Club at 75 11th St., San Jose.

For many years the clubhouse has been available for rent, and since the refurbishing, has been a popular venue for wedding receptions, meetings and programs of all sorts. This has allowed the club to upgrade the facility continuously. Through fundraisers the club is able to give three \$2,000 scholarships to students at San Jose State University and several thousand dollars each to cultural and charitable organizations in San Jose. ■

**Alma Taylor, Publicity Chair
SJ Woman's Club**

Summer Garage and Salvage Sale a Success

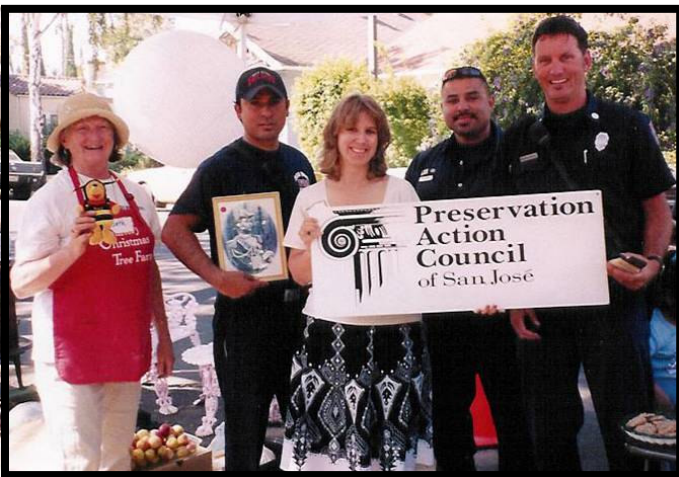
Summer Garage and Salvage Sale Earns \$5500 for Educational Efforts

What garage sale offers free coffee, fruit, and cake as well as a chance for dogs to exchange hellos? PAC*SJ's antique and garage sale bonanzas do just that!

Naglee Park neighbors remain the staunchest supporters and shoppers of the PAC*SJ Salvage and Garage Events. Many donations were delivered throughout the sale weekend in August forcing many bargain hunters to return several times. Our sales always feature the very ordinary as well as the very arcane thanks to members and neighbors donating those special and reusable items. The Dworak family recently remodeled its home and donated a mint condition dining room set, rugs, lamps and bed frames. We also received several boxes from two estates that included many vintage items such as mid century kitchen canisters and cleaning products, gardening tools and linens.

Volunteers are always needed to assist in sorting, selling and loading of larger items.

Please save your useable items for the next sale in spring. Many thanks to Rebecca Evans and Jane Guinther for their culinary efforts. We remain in debt to Patt Curia and the Salas family for use of their properties for these very large community events.



PAC*SJ member Beth Wyman helps shoppers like new member Cici Green and the members of the Engine 8 team at the August Garage Sale.

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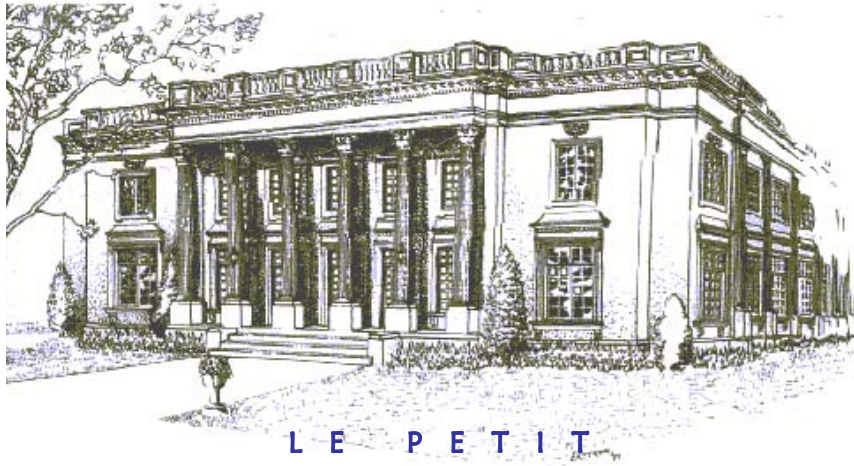
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THEY LEFT THEIR MARK: BIRGE CLARKE: ARCHITECT OF PALO ALTO

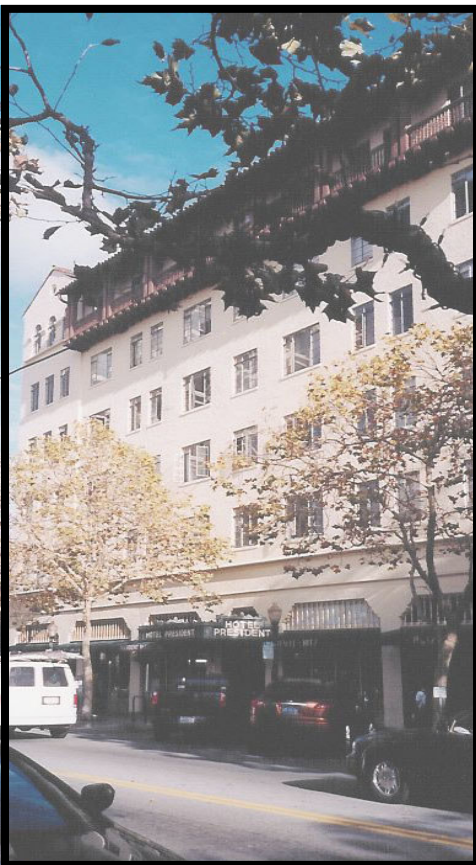
Few architects have had the opportunity to dominate the architectural landscape the way that Birge Clarke did in his shaping of the city of Palo Alto. He was born (1893) and raised in Palo Alto, and attended Stanford University where his father was head of the art department. Birge went on to Columbia University for his architectural degree, graduating just in time to be drawn into World War I, where he served as an aerial observation balloonist. He was awarded the Silver Star after parachuting to safety when his balloon was shot down.

After the war, Clarke set up his office in the village of Palo Alto, and for many years was the only professional in the area. He is credited with designing almost 500 structures, many of which, particularly those in the downtown area,

the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, and it was further developed by Bertram Goodhue at the Panama Pacific Fair in San Diego in 1915. The integration of patios, gardens and adobe-like plaster walls all lent themselves to our peninsula's mild climate. The Palo Alto home that Clarke designed for Charles and Kathleen Norris is another excellent example of his work in this genre.

Clarke's reputation as a local boy with strong connections to Stanford and the Hoovers made him a leading candidate for important downtown Palo Alto structures and civic projects. Some of his

Continued on Page 20



The President Hotel is located in Palo Alto on University Avenue.

have landmark status. One of his earliest projects, done in conjunction with his father and Lou Henry Hoover (wife of the future president) was a residence for the Hoovers on the Stanford campus. The result was a romantic structure in what Clarke described as the "Early California Style." This style, now referred to as "Spanish Eclectic" had its beginnings at

Hayes Mansion Resources Sought

For revised version of
The Gem of Edenvale,
planned for 2005.

Looking for historical information about
and photos of mansion, family, staff,
architect (George Page),
grounds, farm areas, aerial views,
buildings, etc. from *private collections*.

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Contact Jack at
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Historical Highlights of Santa Clara County!

Threatened: Agricultural Asset Since the 1920's

The Bay Area Research and Extension Center (BAREC), was formerly a University of California Agricultural research site. BAREC is located at 90 N. Winchester Boulevard and consists of 17 acres of "agricultural zoned" land that has been an agriculture asset for the community, the state, and the country since the 1920s. The BAREC site has ties back to the Civil War and even housed children with physical and mental disabilities.

"Save BAREC" is a collage of volunteers drawn from concerned citizens, educators, activists, and professionals, who volunteer to reclaim this abandoned agricultural site and put it back to productive use for the benefit of current and future generations. They want this urban agriculture land to be the example for sustainable living, including many community programs, food sources, and education, while capturing all of the vast amounts of history the land has experienced over the past 150+ years. They suggest that specific areas will be dedicated for fruit orchards, row crops, berries, vegetables, dense bio-intensive farming, a "hands on" children's garden, a landscape training and demonstration center, a native plant area, a visitor's center, and museum.

Continued on page 21

BIRGE CLARKE: *Continued from page 19*

most significant buildings include: The President Hotel on University Avenue; the Post Office on Hamilton; the former Police and Fire Building at 440 Bryant; the Lucie Stern Community Center and the Spanish-style block of 500 Ramona Street. Many of the commercial buildings along University Avenue were also products of his drawing board.



The former Police and Fire Building on Bryant Street in Palo Alto.

Although Birge Clarke will always be remembered for his Spanish Eclectic makeover of Palo Alto, he also did numerous residential designs in other styles, the Moderne, for example, later in his career.

His was a long and productive life. While traveling in Egypt in 1989 (at the age of 96) he died suddenly of a stroke. A local hero during his lifetime, Clarke's name is still legend in our area's architectural history.

■

JACK DOUGLAS

Threatened: Agricultural Asset Since the 1920's

Continued from page 20

The 17.5-acre parcel on Winchester Road in Santa Clara was a home for widows, children and orphans of Union Veterans from the Civil War. Later, it became a facility for the care and training of disabled children, contributing important research in the areas of dealing with child disabilities such as blindness and hearing loss. These early housing structures and medical facilities were demolished in the mid-1960's.



*The Research Building was constructed
in 1922, using local redwood.*

In the 1920's, the present building at 125 Santa Clara-Los Gatos Road (90 North Winchester Road) was completed. Designed by University of California Davis Architectural students and constructed of redwood from Sanborn Park in Saratoga, the building was occupied by University of California researchers until 2002 when the facility closed and was returned to the State of California. During those days of agricultural research, both Shasta and Lassen strawberries were developed at the property and others, including Fresno and Tioga followed with better flavor. Research continued with tomatoes, and smog control issues. Because farmers were being blamed for so much pollution from burning their fruit tree cuttings, new methods of disposal were developed, such as chipping and grinding up the plant material.

By 1983, the superintendent of the facility noted that the focus of the research had shifted to the backyard gardener and focused on the needs of the homeowner's, such as water conservation and reduction in pesticide usage.

The Bay Area Research and Extension Center closed on January 1, 2003. The promised \$2 million permanent augmentation to the Cooperative Extension that was part of the original deal, was never realized and UCCE received \$1 million for the transfer of the total 17.5 agricultural property. Left behind were 3 greenhouses, a shop, historical home with shop, potting shed, remaining experiments, including oak trees, and outbuildings. The pump for the working water well was removed. ■

For more details on the current issues, please visit the website (www.savebarec.org) or call 888-227-3280.

Source: Kirk Vartan, Save BAREC

Strategic Activity Coordinator



BAREC – Looking east, shop on left side, potting shed, greenhouses and chemical shed to right.

Civil War Plaque Dedicated at New Almaden

Few people realize how close California came to seceding from the Union during the Civil War, and throwing its support to the Confederacy. In 1862 President Lincoln ordered the seizure of the New Almaden Quicksilver Mines to secure the mercury supply so important to financing the war effort. This action led to a standoff between the New Almaden miners and Lincoln's military forces.

The mercury mine was established on the hill above the current town of New Almaden and was named after a large mercury mine in Almaden, Spain. During the 1848 gold rush mercury became important for use in separating gold and silver from the ores. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed in 1848 ceding the entire state of California to the United States for the paltry sum of 18 million dollars. In comparison, by 1858 the New Almaden mine had produced 250,000 flasks of mercury worth 10 million dollars.

Following California's admittance to the Union there were years of confusion over land grants and the United States government began reviews of land claims for possible fraud. Believing that the New Almaden Mine Company's title was fraudulent, in 1858 the Federal Court in San Francisco levied an injunction forcing the company to stop work and close the mine. In 1861 the New Almaden Company appealed the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The trial between the Supreme Court and the New Almaden Company took place in 1862-63, right in the middle of the Civil War. The Supreme Court decision was in favor of the U.S. government, with the land title judged fraudulent on the basis of some incorrect dates on the claim documents. President Lincoln was persuaded by his staff to seize the mine and sent a writ to this effect to Marshal C.W. Rand in San Francisco. The writ read in part: *"Whereas, Andres Castillero and divers persons have under a pretended grant from the Republic of Mexico occupied the New Almaden Quicksilver Mine. And, whereas by the decision of the Supreme Court it has been adjudged*

that the grant is fraudulent and void. Now, therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do hereby order you to seize the property and deliver it to Leonard Swett, an agent who has been authorized by me to take possession of the same for the United States." (signed) Abraham Lincoln.

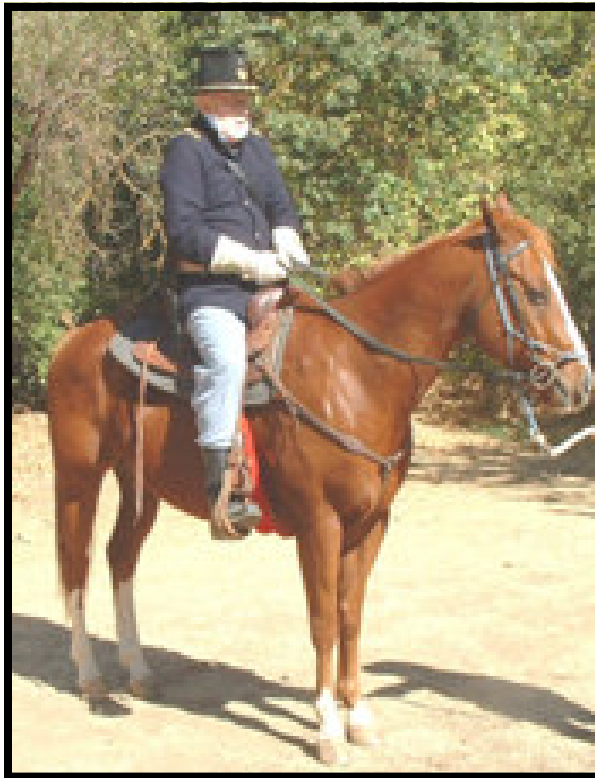
Marshal Rand journeyed to New Almaden and presented the writ to John Young, manager of the New Almaden Mine. Young informed the marshal that the writ was illegal since the current owners had operated the mine for seventeen years, and the owners had title to part of the land through the Berryessa Grant. Marshal Rand stated that he would return with an armed force to enforce the writ and John Young replied that such force would be resisted.

Fortunately, saner minds intervened in the persons of General George Wright, who had been ordered to supply the armed men to enforce the writ, and General Henry W. Halleck, who was General in Chief of the Union Army and also General Manager of the New Almaden Company. Generals Wright and Halleck, along with Frederick Low, later governor of California, sent telegrams to Lincoln urging the government to not use force to enforce the writ, believing that the Union would lose California to the Confederacy if the writ was enforced. Lincoln wisely canceled the writ in a letter to Low. A conflict was averted, California remained in the Union, and the New Almaden Quicksilver Mines continued to produce mercury for many years.

On October 8, 2005, New Almaden celebrated Pioneer Day with a reenactment of the standoff, 142 years after the incident. The New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association, Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation, and E Clampus Vitus dedicated a

plaque commemorating New Almaden's important role in the Civil War.

Note: Information for this article was taken from New Almaden's souvenir plaque dedication booklet. Visit New Almaden's museum in Casa Grande for the "rest of the story" of New Almaden's fascinating history and land title details. ■



Jack Douglas as General Naglee at the Almaden Dedication

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

We believe that historic preservation is **good for our quality of life and good for business.** We aim to integrate a strong commitment to historic preservation into the land use and development decisions of the City of San José 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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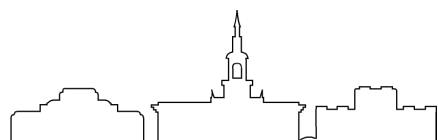
Jim Bunce
Patricia Curia

Staff: Megan Bellue, Executive Director

Advisory Board:

Bonnie Bamburg
Marvin Bamburg, AIA
Paul Bernal
Jack Douglas
Ken Fowler
Alan Hess
Karita Hummer

Rusty Lutz
Franklin Maggi
Craig Mineweaser, AIA
Gil Sanchez, FAIA
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