

CONTINUITY

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Winter, 2006

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a Big Success!

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PAC*SJ Founders Celebration a Big Success!

What a great party at the San Jose City Hall Rotunda! The PAC*SJ Celebration traditionally honors the preservers of San Jose and this year salutes the firefighters of San Jose who, since 1850, have been preserving this city's heritage by dedicating their lives to saving people and structures. The November 17th event began with welcoming remarks from PAC*SJ President Joe Melehan and PAC*SJ Executive Director, Megan Bellue. The Celebration included music by the Benny Torres Jazz Quartet, silent and live auctions, wonderful food and beverages. A tribute to the late historian, Leonard McKay, was given by Jim Zetterquist and a Leonard McKay photo memorial was provided by History San Jose. Franklin Maggi's collection of Leonard McKay's publications were also on exhibit.

Presentations were made to the San Jose Fire Department, and Assistant Chief Nick Thomas concluded with thanks for the SJ Firefighters' recognition.

(Continued on page 3)



*Working at Registration are Milady Casco,
Sandra Soellner, and Bev Blockie*



*The central exhibit at the Celebration was the SJ
Fire Museum's restored hand pumper from early
1800's*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Since my term as President of the Preservation Action Council of San Jose is approaching its end, I'd like to give thanks for the past year. It has been quite an eventful time for all of us involved in PAC*SJ. I know we are on our way to bigger and better things.

Multiple thanks are in order. The first one goes to our staff. Megan and Milady did a great job during their first full year on the job. I predict this year will serve as a springboard for an enhanced organization in the future.

Next, I'd like to thank the Board. All of us spent many hours at meetings, strategizing our positions and organizing our wonderful events. I am excited about the newer members of the Board who bring a fresh view to PAC*SJ.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention our many sponsors and donors who have supported us over the past years. Without them it would be impossible to hold our events and get the word out on our important mission to preserve San Jose's historic buildings. The best way we can say thanks to our sponsors is by patronizing their businesses. If you attended our Gala in November, you would know what a great event it was, perhaps the best ever. The firefighters are more than deserving of our accolades. We look forward to working with them on some exciting future projects.

Finally, I'd like to thank our members. You are the organization. Your belief and commitment to our preservation work allows us to continue the battle.

I do not think that things will get easier. That will not deter us. We have great people in place and a worthy cause as our goal. We will continue to work hard to convince others that "Preservation is good business".

Joe Melehan
PAC*SJ President, 2006



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PAC*SJ Founders Celebration a Big Success (cont'd)

Guests mingled throughout the sparkling glass Rotunda while sampling various tables of delicious food prepared by Greg Casella's team, Catered Too. There were even mashed potatoes served in stemmed glassware with multiple toppings or sauces. Meanwhile, the guests bid on the many silent auction items and heavy competition increased as the evening progressed.

The live auction items included antique furniture and crystal, four custom cakes, a SJ ghostly habitat tour, wine, wine tours, a South Bay Yacht Club Tour with dinner at Vahl's, a Seascape Resort weekend, a steamboat ride on Lake Anderson with lunch, dinner for four at two Victorian homes, a sailing trip to Angel Island, Sharks tickets, SF Giants tickets and lunch with Kevin Frandsen, dinner for eight at Il Fornaio, and two nights at a Lake Tahoe cabin.

The liveliest bidding occurred between Colleen Cortese's team and Leslie Masunaga's team over Superior Court Judge Paul Bernal's dinner at Teske's and tour through the Old Court House where Tiburcio Vasquez was jailed. Judge Bernal graciously offered two tours to the enthusiastic bidders.

Rob Slawinski, of Slawinski Auctions, conducted this year's successful live auction. Special thanks to Captain Alberto Olmos, liaison from the SJ Fire Department, and to retired Firefighter Josh Weggeland for bringing the fire fighting equipment and firetruck for the event's exhibits. It was a great evening! Don't miss it next year.



*Julie Jacobson, Lani Luthard, Tricia Hill,
and Andre Luthard*



Leslie Dill, Franklin Maggi, and Sally Zarnowitz

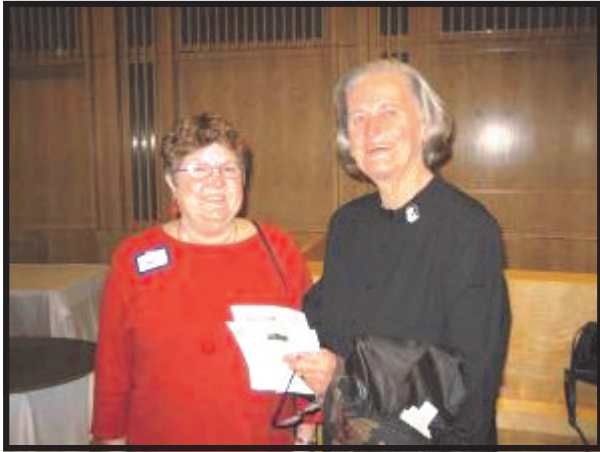


Judy Stabile and Judi Henderson



Harvey Darnell and Don Gagliardi

PAC*SJ Founders Celebration a Big Success (cont'd)



Joan Bohnett and Evelyn Ucovich



*Sal and
Barbara
Sunseri
with Lynn
and Jim
Zetterquist*



*Event Chair, Helen Stevens, James Williams,
Lance Shoemaker*

*Right,
Les and
Debbie Wible,
Gil Foster*



*Left, Nina
and PAC*SJ
President-
Elect Brian
Grayson,
and
Margaret
Martinez*



Reuben and Diane Zarate

*Right,
Jim Bunce and
Barbara
Foncannon*



Executive Director Message

This month marks my one-year anniversary with PAC*SJ. It has been a challenging, exciting and fascinating first year. 2006 was another busy year for us, and we end it on a high note. We had a wonderful Fall Celebration event at City Hall's Rotunda that many said was our best ever. We also look back on events such as the Spring Movie Night and the Fabulous Hats Party with great fondness. It was wonderful to see so many friends and supporters at all our events. I want to send a special thanks to all our tireless, dedicated volunteers who give so much to this organization year-after-year. Our volunteers are our lifeblood, and we are grateful to every one of them for everything they've done for PAC*SJ in 2006. Thanks to all of you!



Megan Bellue

Rather than spend much time looking back on 2006, however, I find myself eagerly looking ahead to 2007. We spent a lot of time this year on "housecleaning" issues. We completely overhauled our membership system and our financial management system, among other things, as we worked to build our capacity so that we can expand the ways in which we serve our mission.

We will, of course, continue to be outspoken advocates for San Jose's historic resources, and we are exploring ways to increase our effectiveness. With the hope of becoming a more proactive organization, we are working to develop our educational programs so that we can better inform our members and the community-at-large about the importance of our historic resources, and why they're so vital to the health and well being of our city. We hope to develop workshops for professionals to better enable them to work with historic resources. We also hope to develop programming in partnership with others for a broad cross-section audience from children to owners of historic homes.

Another critical area for us has to do with historic resource inventories. Time and again we hear how important it is that we complete historic resource inventories for all of San Jose, and while we agree wholeheartedly, finding the money and the support to make it happen has been difficult. This year, however, thanks to a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation Knight Ridder Fund with a matching grant from the San Jose Redevelopment Agency's Strong Neighborhoods Initiative, PAC*SJ proudly announces that we will be undertaking a survey of some of San Jose's most important mid-century resources. Our mid-century assets reflect a very important period of this community's development, but what is left from this period is in serious danger as illustrated by the IBM Building #25 saga. Our survey will begin with four specific target areas. We're very excited about this program and hope that it will set a new standard for San Jose.

2007 is going to be a great year for PAC*SJ. This is an exciting time to be a preservationist in San Jose, and we're glad to have you with us. Thanks so much to all of our members and supporters who make our work possible. Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season and new year!

*PAC*SJ wishes all members and friends a happy holiday and a joyous new year!*

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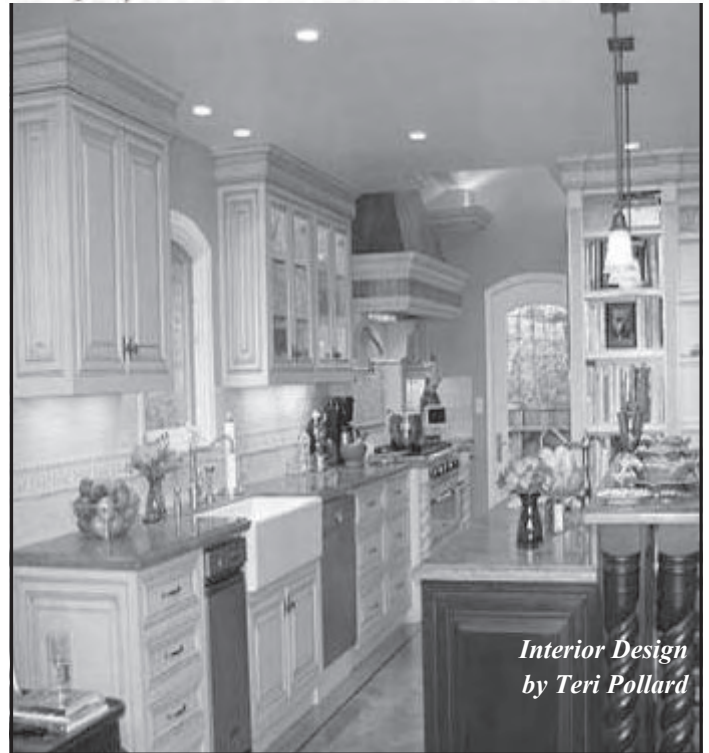
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ON THE RADAR



Almaden Feed & Fuel

On 12/6/06, the Historic Landmarks Commission (HCL) heard the protest of a Negative Declaration for a planned development rezoning including demolition of the Almaden Feed and Fuel structure. In other words, the supporters who want to save AF&F filed a protest to the Planning Department's approval to demolish the structure.

At the September HLC meeting, the commission had recommended the structure be rehabilitated, reused and listed as a Structure of Merit on the City of San Jose Historic Resource Inventory. As part of the protest process, a new historic evaluation of AF&F was done. Unfortunately, the structure scored even lower on the city's evaluation chart in this second report. The HLC, after reviewing the newest report, reiterated that the building did have merit and should be saved. The HLC's comments will be included in the report that will go to the Planning Commission in January.

Ballpark Site EIR

The Redevelopment Agency is requesting an additional \$20,000 to do further research on the Sunlite Bakery Building which was overlooked in the original DEIR. It is not clear at this time whether further research will be done on other potentially historic buildings in the site area which PAC*SJ noted in our comments to the DEIR. Certification of the DEIR by the Planning Commission is now scheduled for the end of January or the beginning of February. If the site should not be used for a ballpark, PAC*SJ wants to make sure that the historic buildings on the site are properly analyzed so that they have a chance of being saved and incorporated into future development proposals.

City Front

The designs for three high towers planned for the area on San Carlos Street between Market and First streets have been submitted. Two 25-story towers are proposed for the Market Street side of the project and an 18-story tower planned for First Street next to the Montgomery Hotel. When the Historic Landmarks Commission discussed this project at a Design Review Committee meeting last year, they were very concerned about the First Street elevations and made several recommendations on how the new First Street tower might better interact with the landmark Montgomery Hotel. It does not appear that these recommendations were taken into account in this latest iteration of the project. PAC*SJ will continue to

monitor and comment on this project.

Hitachi

We hope that behind the pile of rubble on Cottle Road, which were once IBM and then Hitachi buildings, that Buildings 9 and 11 are still standing.

IBM Building 25/Lowe's

PAC*SJ submitted our comments (available upon request) to the latest DEIR that the city was required to amend, after the judge ruled in our favor that the DEIR was still not complete. The responses to our comments should be issued sometime in early January. The Planning Commission will then hold a hearing to ascertain whether the DEIR is complete. After we review the response to our comments and the Planning Department announces which site is recommended, PAC*SJ will determine our next actions.

Old City Hall – 801 North First Street

The city is in the discussion phase regarding the future of this building. An EIR will need to be done before any proposal significantly altering the building can be considered. Definitely on our radar screen.

East San Jose Carnegie Library

The Design Review Committee of the Historic Landmarks Commission reviewed the proposed addition to the library at their November meeting. The addition, to the east and south of the existing building, is very modern in design consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, which state that an addition to a historic building should be differentiated from the old. The character defining features of the old library will be retained and the recessed areas will be used to visually separate the new building from the old building.

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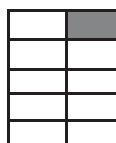
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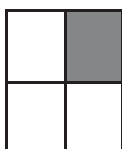
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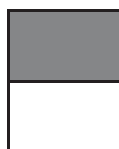
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PAC*SJ CALENDAR—2007

- Jan.** **15** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm , Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th Street, San Jose
- Feb.** **19** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm , Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th Street, San Jose
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The next time you complain about your house because it isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s.

*** Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."*

***There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.*



Would you like to be one of our featured homes in an issue of Continuity?

PAC*SJ is featuring interesting historical homes in Santa Clara Valley. If you have a unique story about your historical home, and would like to be featured in *Continuity*, email PAC*SJ at info@preservation.org or call 408-998-8105.

See our featured house in this issue of *Continuity* on page 18.

Leonard M. McKay—Mr. San Jose

1921-2006

Local historian Leonard McKay passed away October 17, 2006 in San Jose. A native of Santa Clara Valley, he was known to all of us who cherish our past, as Mr. San Jose.

A veteran of World War II, he returned to San Jose after finishing his education and working in the Far East, acquiring Smith and McKay Printing Company from his grandmother Bessie Smith. Leonard ran Smith and McKay for nearly 30 years before selling the company to his son David. He had great love of San Jose and its history, and during his career as a printer helped many local historians bring forth their manuscripts to the public, as well as re-printing out-of-date local histories. Following his retirement he continued operating his store, *Memorabilia of San Jose*, out of the Smith and McKay building from a little storefront on West St. John Street.

For those of us who visited the store we saw first-hand a historian who freely shared the knowledge he had gained about San Jose over the years, and he made available for us hard to find historical publications for re-sale. He was our storyteller and avid collector of anything San Jose. His collection of 20th Century western art is now housed at the Leonard and David McKay Gallery of the History Park, and much of his reference material has gone to help future historians researching at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

PAC*SJ had a long time relationship with Leonard as a member, supporter and preservation leader. Leonard was an early preservation advocate, working to save the Peralta Adobe and creating Pellier Park as well as helping develop the original master plan for the San Jose Historical Museum. Leonard will be remembered fondly as our Mr. San Jose, standing tall, with his stars and stripes top hat, making learning about history a joy with his fascinating stories from our past.

Right, Leonard discusses his collection of Santa Clara county artists at the Leonard and David McKay Gallery at the Pasetta House in History Park.



Below left, attendees at Leonard's memorial service at History Park. April Halberstadt, Dennis Madigan, Pamela Miller (Leonard's daughter), Sam Siebert, and Battalion Chief Juan Diaz.

Lower right, Leonard's beloved dog, Traveller.



Celebrating the Life of Jo Drechsler

1963-2006

Jo Rollins Drechsler, elite athlete, master woodworker and passionate preservationist, passed away at his home on October 22, 2006. He grew up in Arizona and Alaska but lived most of his adult life in the Bay Area. He and his wife, Bernadette "Bernie" Mueller both shared a deep passion for all things historical and made San Jose their home. Jo spent the last 10 years working in the Information Technology Department at San Jose State University – close enough to bike home for his morning coffee break. A dedicated mountain bike racer, he could be seen on many a hilltop above Santa Clara Valley on his bicycle – where he was known for "doing Mount Hamilton before breakfast," and shaving time off of his own record riding the Kennedy-Limekiln Trail in Los Gatos. In regional cross-country bike records, Jo is listed as JR Drechsler; a name that appears at the top of the list in almost every race he rode.



Jo immersed himself in the historical preservation community in San Jose, volunteering with the Preservation Action Council of San Jose and the Victorian Preservation Association. He was a master craftsman, bringing people of various interests together to create projects in his home. A typical Drechsler family reunion almost always turned into a group woodworking event. His love of painter Charles Harmon is so telling of who Jo was – a passionate historian, preservationist, collector. His backyard is home to thousands of old bricks. His basement is full of old growth redwood that some would toss aside. He and Bernie spent their free time combing garage sales, flea markets, antique shows – even diving into dumpsters for all things old and worth preserving.

Two different funds have been created in Jo's honor to help celebrate his passions and create an enduring legacy.

First, Jo loved the Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The "Jo Drechsler Redwood Grove" fund will go towards designating a redwood grove in Jo's name. It will be a peaceful place for Jo and a place people can visit him, to remember him and make more memories together. Donations can be made at the Sempervirens website, www.sempervirens.org or by calling 650-968-4509.

Secondly, embracing Jo's love of all things old, PAC*SJ has created the "Jo Drechsler Legacy Fund," P.O. Box 2287, San Jose, CA 95109-2287, phone 408-998-8105. This fund will be used for a project that will exemplify Jo's values.

His spirit remains embedded in the lives of those left behind – in the houses he preserved, the paintings and other collections he loved, the roads he traveled, the friends and family he adored. He warmed hearts and generated laughter with stories and practical jokes. He was a dear friend to more people than can be listed here. Those who know Jo best want to keep his legacy alive forever.

Contributed by Lani Luthard



Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Meet Our New Board Member—Sal Sunseri



PAC*SJ is pleased to welcome Sal Sunseri to our Board. Sal Sunseri was born in San Jose on September 8, 1953. He attended St. Patrick's Elementary School on 9th and Santa Clara Streets, and then Bellarmine College Prep, graduating in 1971. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in political science from Santa Clara University in 1975, and his law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law in 1978. Sal has been practicing with the law firm of Stenberg, Sunseri, Roe, Pickard & Rudy since 1978 in downtown San Jose. His family includes his wife Barbara, daughter Samantha, and six-year-old son Scott.

Sal is an avid San Francisco Giants baseball fan, and enjoys golfing, although his clubs collect much more dust than he would like. He also loves reading and politics.

His childhood memories include many Saturdays spent in downtown San Jose at the Hales and Hart's department stores, as well as the Fox

and United Artists theaters. He mourns the disappearance of the fruit orchards of San Jose and their history, having spent many holidays listening to his parents, uncles and aunts talk about their experiences picking prunes, cutting apricots, and working in the canneries. That is part of the reason that Sal feels it is so important to preserve this city's architectural history. Before this city became known as the capital of the silicon chip, it was something more basic but no less visionary that built the foundation for what was to come. That foundation was built by people who came from many nations, who worked extremely hard, sacrificed much, and created a city that was both beautiful and bountiful.

PAC*SJ is delighted to have Sal on our Board.

PAC*SJ Slate of Officers for 2007

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Emily Williams, San Jose's First Woman Architect



Emily Williams, Architect

"Miss Williams' houses have won her an enviable reputation. They are characterized on the exterior by simple, good lines. But the inside - ah, there lies their most distinctive charm. They are not only beautiful and artistic, but convenient, livable and planned to save steps and with places to put things."

A hundred years ago, on November 11, 1906, this quote appeared in an editorial titled "Women as Architects" in the *San Jose Mercury and Herald*. The intent was to promote Miss Emily Williams as "San Jose's successful woman architect" and the author was probably Lillian Palmer, Emily Williams' lifelong partner and journalist with the *Mercury*. The main argument of the article was that women design better houses than men, especially when it comes to interior arrangements.

Emily Williams (1869-1942) was the "talented daughter of the late Edward Williams," president of the San Jose Water Works. She attended the San Jose Normal School and became a teacher, but her dream was to become an architect, an almost unthinkable goal for a woman in that era. However, with Lillian's encouragement and support she achieved it. In 1901, Emily and Lillian Palmer moved to San Francisco where Emily studied drafting at the California School of Mechanical Arts (today Lick Wilmerding High School). After completing her studies, Emily's search for employment as a "draughtsman" in an architectural office was not successful. "If you were a man," they said to her, "we would tell you to go and build something."

Emily took this advice literally. In 1904, she bought property in Pacific Grove and, with Lillian as her only help, built a small cottage at 246 Chestnut Street. The two women performing construction work without carpenters or plumbers drew the attention of the local press and tourists. Emily's oldest sister, strongly believed in Emily's abilities as an architect and commissioned three cottages on adjacent lots. As a result, she received several commissions, some from prominent women in Pacific Grove (529 Ocean View Blvd) and Carmel.

The 1906 *Mercury* editorial also mentioned two houses in San Jose and gave friends and acquaintances an opportunity to see the impressive



Small cottage at 246 Chestnut St., Pacific Grove



Palmer House, 66 So. 14th Street, San Jose (known as the Free House)

work by their local daughter, architect Emily Williams. Around 1905, Don and Annie Palmer, Lillian's parents, commissioned a large house at 66 South Priest Street, which today is 66 S. 14th Street. Emily and Lillian lived there for several years and Lillian developed her skills as a metal artisan in a workshop in the basement. This house was landmarked in 2001, but the report, unfortunately, did not include sufficient information about its architect and original owners and mistakenly attributed it to Julia Morgan, the best known woman architect of the time.

The other San Jose house Williams had built was for the Reverend George Foote at 475 Spencer Avenue (not extant.)

(Continued on page 16)

Emily Williams, San Jose's First Woman Architect, cont'd

The publicity from the *Mercury* editorial resulted in several new contracts including a large house at 2728-30 Union Street in San Francisco for Mrs. Gertrude Austin, widow of Paul Austin, a former councilman and mayor of San Jose. Emily Williams' example seems to have influenced Mrs. Austin's daughter Elizabeth (1883-1958) in her choice to become an architect. The years of 1906 and 1907 were busy times for Emily Williams who designed at least eight houses and a pro bono project, a Look-out shelter on a rugged promontory in Pacific Grove, sponsored by the Woman's Civic Club.

In 1908, Emily and Lillian took a long study and pleasure trip to Europe and Asia where Emily studied classic architecture and Lillian metal work in Vienna. After their return, they settled in San Francisco. While this proved advantageous for Lillian's establishment of the "The Palmer Shop", producing and selling metal art work, Emily's commissions dwindled. During this period Emily designed a few projects, among them another house in San Jose for a young City Engineer, Walter McIntire, at 117 South 17th Street. For Lillian and herself, she built a weekend cabin "Wake Robin" in the Santa Cruz Mountains and a home in San Francisco at 1037-39 Broadway.

During this dry spell, an unusual project came her way. It was the design of an exhibition booth for the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition (PPIE) in San Francisco. The client, the Alaska Garnet Mining and Manufacturing Company, was owned and managed by women and did business with other women whenever possible. Lillian collaborated with Emily on this project and created the lighting fixtures.

After 1924, the Depression and possibly bad health might have caused Emily to give up her beloved practice of architecture. Tragically, the "Wake Robin" cabin with all their possessions was destroyed by fire around 1940. Emily passed away in 1942 in Los Gatos after a long illness related to her lifelong asthmatic condition. The author welcomes any additional information about Emily Williams and seeks historic photos of her work. [ingehor@pacbell.net]

by Inge S. Horton

The Palmer House is also known as the Arthur M. Free House, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, based on Congressman Free's contributions to the history of the region, and is San Jose City Landmark No. 145. Emily Williams is correctly listed as the architect in current information.

Editor



McIntire home at 117 So. 17th St., San Jose



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Story of a House: Shahin's Craftsman Home

When Noelle and Evan Shahin moved from an historic home in the East Bay to San Jose they were eager to purchase an older home. In 1997 they found what they were looking for at 1515 Naglee Avenue in the well-known Rose Garden. The craftsman house, built in 1906, was well cared for over the years and was structurally sound with a solid foundation and upgraded electrical and plumbing systems. The original glass in the windows and coved ceilings were intact. The house felt cozy and comfortable. Although the Naglee Avenue home had been modernized and some of the historic elements removed, the Shahins were confident that it could be restored to its original uniqueness. So they began with interior cosmetics by painting, adding wall covering, changing the trim on the original clinker brick fireplace, and replacing crystal chandeliers with light fixtures from *Rejuvenation Lighting*. The new owners wanted to strip the paint and expose the beautiful wood in the living room and dining room, but because there were small children in the family, the potential for lead contamination was too risky. The painted wood surfaces had about six layers of paint over the years. The Shahins matched an olive green from the new Bradbury & Bradbury art wallpaper and repainted the wood trim. New furniture was purchased to fit in with the craftsman style house and blends nicely with their previous art deco furniture in the cozy porch area off the kitchen. The modern addition, which was built in 1989 by the previous owners, is connected to the porch room by a breezeway and brings the square footage up to 3400. The addition, which includes two bedrooms and two bathrooms, was built partly over the garage and extends

(continued on page 19)



Above, 1515 Naglee Avenue in 1920. Below house is historically restored in 2004



Above, dining room alcove in 1997; to right, dining room alcove restored to craftsman style; note clinker brick fireplace, green wood trim, and chandelier.



Story of a House: Shahin's Craftsman Home, cont'd

into the backyard, leaving a lovely garden with a giant redwood tree on the eastern back of the house. The basement has been converted into a TV room, a work-room for Noelle's interior design projects, and a wine cellar. The basement ceiling has the original 2 x 10 massive redwood beams that are in excellent condition. Visitors who are knowledgeable in building houses have commented that the beams are very unique, so the owners decided to leave them exposed.

By 2003 it was time to bring the exterior of the house back to historical accuracy. The previously altered front porch was completely redone with new banisters, custom milled entry piers (which were missing), and new flared skirting. Near the sidewalk, a front gate arbor was added to the white picket fence. The side of the house along the driveway appeared piecemeal from earlier additions to the house. New continuous siding was installed and the electrical meter/furnace piping were moved to give the house a pulled together look. Custom redwood railing was added to the top of the side and front porch banisters to comply with building code height requirements. Iron hardware on the gate was hand forged by Josh Maya.

All this restoration was guided by the owners and carried out by a contractor who specializes in historic structures, Robert Mahrer, of Robert Mahrer, General Contractor, Inc. The attention to detail and the creative solutions for complying with building codes is impressive. Bob has completed many historical restorations and has a book published about his own house titled, "House Transformed".

(Continued on page 20)



Above the garage with addition and side of house in 1997. Below, same view after historic restoration in 2004.



Left, newly restored front porch. Right, the previous front porch in 1997.



(Photos by Bob Mahrer and Noelle Shahin)

Story of a House: Shahin's Craftsman Home, cont'd

After the house was completed the Shahins competed in the *Better Home & Gardens* "Better Living Design" contest. In 2004, the Naglee house was selected as a semi-finalist and Noelle was featured on the Discovery Home Network TV channel.

The Shahins were curious about their new house with its rich detail such as decorative moldings, craftsman squares at joints, leaded glass, and large rooms, which were not typical of this type of modest bungalow. After much research, the answer was obvious. Originally a large parcel of land (where the Rose Garden is located today) was purchased by George Smith, who owned a large iron manufacturing company in San Francisco. The Smith family mansion was built on the corner of Naglee Ave. and Bascom St. in 1871. George Smith married Lizzie Bell Agnew in 1882 and they had seven children. Later in 1906, the Shahin's house was built for the Smith's oldest bachelor son, George Dana Smith who managed the Dana Farm. Being a bachelor, he only required a small house (1800 square feet), but his parents were affluent and were able to spare no expense for the finer touches. Later, the house was sold to a machinist and then rented out to farmers. Once the Rosecrucian Museum and Hoover School were built (1927-1931), more houses began to populate Naglee Avenue.

On September 16th of this year, the Shahins celebrated the 100th birthday of their house by throwing a big party. Guests were encouraged to wear period costumes from any era in the last 100 years and enjoyed food, beverage and birthday cake in the house and gardens. The Shahins would like to thank all those who assisted with the research on their house, especially Bob Johnson from the California Room at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library and History San Jose. Congratulations to Noelle and Evan Shahin, and Robert Mahrer, for so lovingly restoring this wonderful old house.

Gayle Frank



Above, original clinker brick fireplace. Picture below shows white modern living room in 1997. Bottom picture shows restored living room closer to original design. Bottom left in backyard -100th birthday party for the house.



They Left Their Mark:

Wesley Hastings

Continuity wishes to apologize to Jack Douglas for inadvertently omitting the last two paragraphs of his article, "They Left Their Mark: Wesley Hastings, Architect", in our last issue. For the full article with pictures please go to our website www.preservation.org, Newsletter, Fall issue, 2006. Wesley Hastings was a local architect who worked with his father to build at least thirteen homes in central San Jose during 1907-1910. We have included the missing paragraphs below.

The Hastings operation disappeared during the teens but was back in business in the prosperous 1920's. They were now building more modest homes for new families. The stucco bungalow at 1259 Shasta (1923) is a good example, as is the trim cottage at 483 North 15th Street (1922).

In the mid-twenties the firm moved to Monterey where they were successful doing remodel work. Like the tradesmen of old, the family followed the work. For an architect with little formal training, Wesley Hastings developed skills to do some original work. All of his homes that I've seen (many soon to be 100 years old) are still in fine condition and no doubt still prized by their owners.

Jack Douglas, SAH



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PAC*SJ announces its membership drive for 2007. The Board of Directors invites all members to invite family, friends and neighbors to join our organization in order to strengthen our ability to advocate for a better San Jose.

The persons who recruit the most new members can win prizes including: Dinner for 2 in downtown San Jose, a family membership in PAC*SJ, a \$25 gift certificate to be spent at PAC*SJ's Spring Salvage and Garage Sale.

Contest runs from Oct. 15 to Dec. 31, 2006

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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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