

CONTINUITY

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Dedicated to Preserving San José's Architectural Heritage

Spring 2006

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Messina Orchard Out, Homes Safe

In 1922, Stefano and Marie Messina purchased 40 acres of orchard land on what is now North Capitol Avenue from Floyd Lundy, and planted prunes, apricots and peaches on the site. In 1935, the Messina's built a Spanish Colonial Revival style house on the property, replacing the original Lundy Victorian house. In 1949, a second family residence was built on the parcel, also facing North Capitol Avenue. The newer house is a two-story Mediterranean style house with a red tile roof.

This second house was built by Stefano's son, Richard for his bride, Anita, in 1949, the year they were married. They were married for over fifty years and raised their family in that home.



1935 Colonial Revival Messina house

Ten acres of the original parcel are still owned by the Messinas, and the orchard surrounding the two homes was operational until 1999. The Mediterranean style house is still occupied by a family member, Marilyn Messina, a PAC*SJ member. The 1935 house, above, is used as a guest house for visiting family members. The Messina property is located on the new light rail line that runs in the medium of North Capitol Avenue.

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2006 will be an interesting year for San Jose. We will elect a new mayor. PAC*SJ will be especially interested because our preservation efforts can be influenced by the city council and mayor. Our job can become easier or more difficult. In either case, we will continue to do our job of enhancing preservation in our community with the same enthusiasm that we always have. We are hopeful that the successful candidate will share our view that "Preservation is good for business". (This mantra will probably be repeated in the majority of President's Messages which I will write).

On the lighter side, PAC*SJ has some great ideas on the drawing board for special events for 2006. Following are some details on a few of the gatherings we are planning.

We plan to hold a reunion of the "fruit cocktail club" at our movie night this spring. Those of you who attended in '04 will remember how much fun we had and should be looking forward to another serving of apricot brandy and some Spam with fruit cocktail. You may have seen a CBS Evening Magazine segment covering a meeting of the "club".

Close to summer, we plan another Home Tour. Last year's event was quite successful. We hope to do even better this year with some great theme ideas.

In the fall we will hold our annual gala and auction. Plans are being finalized for an exciting new venue which would never have been considered a few years back.

These events are proof that we can have fun, while at the same time educate attendees and raise funds for the preservation of our historic buildings and heritage. There will be opportunities for people to help at each of these events. Specific details will become available in the near future. I hope to see you there.

Joe Melehan
PAC*SJ President, 2006



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

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Messina Orchard Out, Homes Safe (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

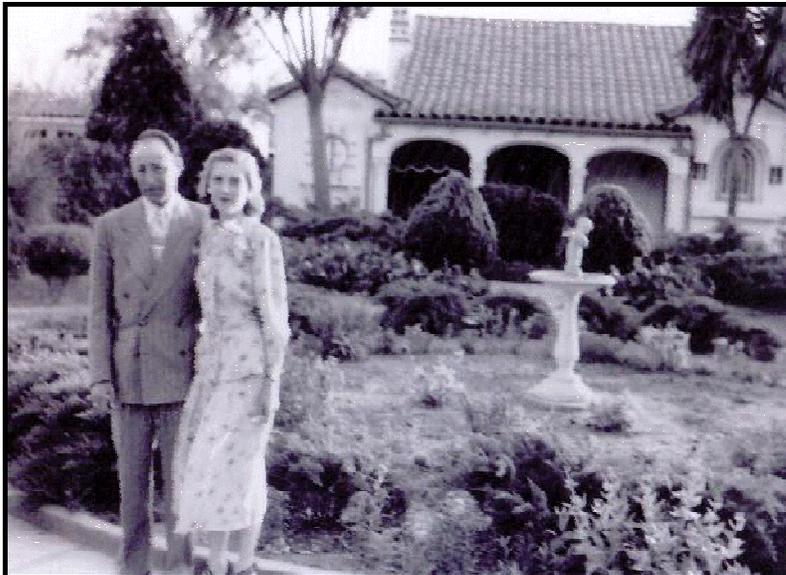
The City of San Jose is encouraging higher density housing on its transit corridors and because of this policy the Messina property is ripe for development. A 1999 historic report done by Ward Hill for Basin Research states that the 10 acre parcel is eligible for the California Register or the National Register of Historic Places as a rare surviving example of an operating orchard. Also, according to the report, the Spanish Colonial Revival style house, on its own merit, is eligible for the California Register.

Pinn Brothers Construction is interested in acquiring 5 acres of the site to build multi-family housing. Five acres, divided into 2 parcels, each parcel containing a house, will be retained by the Messina family. The proposed development will wrap itself around the side and back of the Messina property. The development proposal is in the pre-zoning stage and as part of that process the parcel will have to be annexed to the city. A later Ward Hill report states that the proposed project will alter the historic components of the site to the extent that the property will no longer be eligible for the California Register. The project went to the Historic Landmarks Commission on February 1, 2006 for review and recommendations. The Commission voted to add the two sites to the city's inventory of historic resources when the parcels are annexed to the city, to pursue landmark status for the 1935 home and to add additional fruit trees between the new development and the Messina houses as buffering.



Judi Henderson

Side View of the 1935 Spanish Colonial Messina House



Richard and Anita Messina in the gardens, 1949



*Mediterranean Style Messina House
Built in 1949*

Executive Director's Message

Has it really been two months already? That's my first thought as I write my first column for *Continuity*. The first two months have been a whirlwind. I'm very excited about everything that's going on here in San Jose. I can't get over how warm the welcome has been. I owe a special thanks to City Council Members, Judy Chirco, Linda LeZotte and Forrest Williams who came out on a Sunday afternoon in January to meet me. We're already working on developing new partnerships and strengthening old ones. We secured a \$35,000 matching grant from the Redevelopment Agency to satisfy a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and we're looking forward to working with the Agency and the City to do some much needed survey work in the coming year.

San Jose is a great city, full of energy and vitality. New City Hall is truly a landmark building. The hundreds of new residential units that are in the works downtown will be a huge boon for the city. San Jose's world class museums are an amenity for residents and visitors alike. The beautiful Guadalupe River Park and Gardens is so close to downtown and provides a much needed oasis. All of these amenities are enough on their own, but string them together and you have a powerful catalyst for continued growth throughout the city but especially in the heart of downtown.

Growth is coming. You can see the signs all over town, and that growth, if we're at all thoughtful about it, will further enhance both the city and the community. Although Pellier Park shouldn't have been scraped without review by the Landmarks Commission, the park that is being designed in its place will be a much more accessible, contributory park than was ever there before. The design hasn't been finalized yet – it has

to go through public review – but I'm confident it will be a quality addition to San Jose's changing landscape, largely because it is being created in a collaborative process.

San Jose, as I see it, is at an important intersection and historic preservation should be an integral part of what happens next. With all these development pressures on the city, especially downtown, the question becomes how much of San Jose's soul will remain? San Jose has a lot of important historic fabric left, but we should think long and hard before we allow much more of that fabric to be lost, or to be so compromised as to be unrecognizable for what it was. Our historic buildings tell the story of who we were – and the story of who we are. They tell the story of this place we call home. It's the story of where as well. Have you ever stood on a strip of suburban sprawl retail and found yourself thinking, "oh good, now I know where I am!" But when you stand in the Olmsted designed Saint James Park or have dinner in a restaurant on San Pedro Square you have a sense of our story. You know you're not in Savannah or Boston or Saint Louis. You know you're in a different, special place. You're in San Jose, 10th largest city in the country, a city with the lowest crime rate of any big city – a city with a fascinating and diverse history that continues to evolve. First capitol of California; Valley of Heart's Delight; Birthplace of Silicon



Megan Bellue

(Continued on page 5)

Executive Director's Message (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

Valley. San Jose has demonstrated it has the courage to invest in building new landmarks. What it needs now is to find the fortitude to save the historic landmarks that grace its landscape. What gives San Jose its character is its diversity – diversity in both its people and its landscape. But without the old, the new has no meaning. A great city embraces both its past and its future. One can do both. One must.

I don't know if this is common knowledge, but the City has a 3-D model of downtown at their offices. It's really amazing because it allows you to see the whole city at once. Here's what I see when I look at it: all the great museums, the Performing Arts Center and Convention Center, the Shark Tank, the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens, the new Pellier Park, San Pedro Square, the Downtown Historic Commercial District, New City Hall, the University. We already have great downtown "neighborhoods." What we need to do is start looking at the ways we can connect these places. The whole is – and will be – greater than the sum of its parts. By making these "downtown neighborhoods" accessible to one another, we will strengthen the whole city. Look at the map again. All those places are very close together. Imagine those places with thousands of new residents circulating through them. Imagine how vibrant it will feel when we actually become a full-fledged tourist destination. I see San Jose as a place well on its way to becoming an even better place to live, work, and play. But if we lose our character, if we lose what makes us distinct, if we lose our soul, we'll never be able to lure them away from Vegas. It is our old buildings that tell our story. The historic buildings combined with the new landmarks will be what tell our story to our children and grandchildren. It is our history that makes us who we are, and we shouldn't forsake it even as we build ourselves into what we hope to become.

MARVIN BAMBURG, AIA
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Some Thoughts on Moving Buildings

One of the things I learned in graduate school that I remember vividly is that what's important in and to a community is defined by that community. It's why they say, "all preservation is local." The case study that crystallized this concept for me was a reading I did about creating a preservation plan in Manteo, North Carolina. Manteo is a modest, working coastal community where, like most every other place, folks work hard for a living. Manteo decided

to take stock and evaluate its historic resources – to figure out what was important to preserve in order to maintain their sense of community. Well, in came the experts who interviewed person after person – surveyed much of the town – homeowners, business owners, kids, everyone

– and what they discovered to their surprise was that one of the most important landmarks in town – the one place that most people agreed to be highly significant – was a small gravel parking lot. A gravel parking lot. That was their Bank of America kind of landmark. It was where people congregated throughout the day. Seems most everyone in town passed through there on a regular basis. It's where the town's business was conducted – a de facto town square. It's how Manteans knew they were home.

The lesson here isn't about saving parking lots in case you're wondering. The lesson is that all preservation is local. And local is different everywhere you go – and San Jose is no exception.

One of the things that struck me immediately about San Jose is...well...you are a people who will move

a building. In fact you have a long tradition of moving your buildings. The Donner-Houghton House was moved for the first time nearly a hundred years ago. This culture of moving buildings distinguishes San Jose from many cities – though there are others; New Bedford, Mass., Indianapolis, Indiana. Most cities don't move buildings as a solution – it would be sacrilege. But not here. So moving buildings is as much a part of our culture as anything else, but a lot of the avenues for



Donner-Houghton House-scheduled for another move

federal funding are dependent on eligibility requirements set by the National Park Service in Washington, DC. The Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places is the one in charge of enforcing these requirements, and trust me,

the Keeper cares about moving buildings. Her job is to maintain the integrity of that list by maintaining high standards for inclusion. And one of the key issues for listing on the National Register is this issue of context. And all that means is, does the building tell the story of its past? Can you understand what the building is telling you about our history? Preservation isn't about saving pretty buildings, it's about saving our history. Every time a building is moved it makes a little less sense.

Part of what makes a building historic is its location. Where is it in the city? Take the Montgomery Hotel. The City is to be congratulated for pursuing listing on the National Register - an important step in its preservation and a celebration and recognition of its importance in San Jose. Pre-move, the Montgomery Hotel

(Continued on page 7)

Some Thoughts on Moving Buildings (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

certainly would have qualified for the Register under a number of different criteria, but because of the move, because its context and integrity were com-

promised by the move, it can only qualify for listing based on one criterion – architectural merit. Don't get me wrong, I'm thrilled that the venerable Montgomery is still with us. San Jose would be the lesser for it if it weren't. And if that's what it took to save it, then by all means save it, but each time we consider moving a building we should carefully evalu-

ate the decision. State law requires a thorough consideration and we should – as citizens – analyze it at the same time. It should never be an automatic as-

sumption. "Oh, we can just move it" isn't preservation; it's political expedience. Buildings should remain in place if at all possible, because it is their location in part that makes them worth preserving. If you must move one, do it thoughtfully, sensitively and secondarily. Evaluate it. Will its new location complement or otherwise enhance its context? Will the building make more sense in its new home or less? Because it is a story that we as preservationists are trying to tell; the story of San Jose's people. If you're going to move an historic building do it right. And understand the broader ramifications of the move. Is the ability to qualify for the 20%

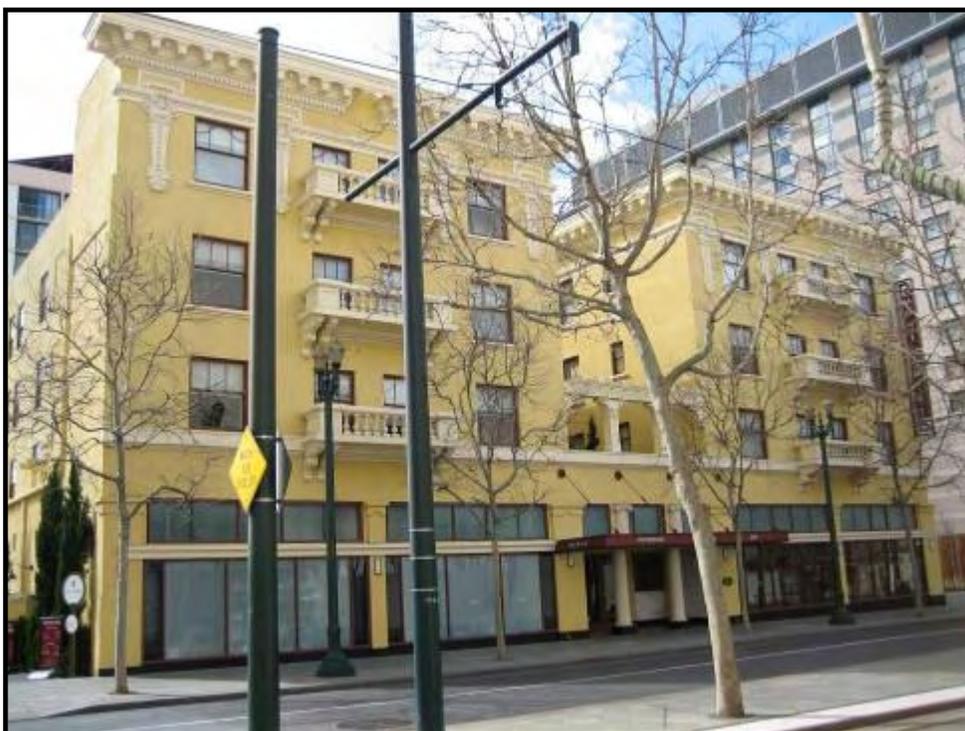


One of nine River Street Houses that were moved

Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit a possible make or break part of how the project gets financed? If not, should it be? Or even could it be? Moving buildings is a part of our tradition in San Jose, but it costs us in

some ways, too. It makes it possible for us to save some buildings that would otherwise be lost, but it also degrades the landmarks we're saving. This is not to say that moving buildings should be completely forbidden, but it should not be done casually. Take the time to evaluate it. Try to find other solutions first, because preserving them in place protects more of what it is we're trying to save in the first place.

Megan Bellue



The 1911 Montgomery Hotel after the 180 foot move to the south

BAREC Update

In the last issue of our Continuity we discussed the Bay Area Research and Extension Center (BAREC) at Winchester Road. Here is an update.

SaveBAREC is proposing a sustainable living solution, based on urban agriculture techniques. When completely cleaned, the land could be organized into set plots for fruit orchards, row crops, dense biointensive farming, with a dedicated children's learning center, and landscape training for professionals and the community. Other ideas include a native plant garden/botanical gardens, housing for apprentices in agriculture that would work the land, and a visitor's center/museum that would capture the rich history of this land and the valley.

Other proposed projects which threaten this potential community asset is the construction of 110 single family homes by SummerHill Homes and a 165 unit senior home by the City of Santa Clara.

Once the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) is created, commented on by the public and finalized, it is then presented to the Santa Clara City Council for acceptance. One of the options in the EIR is "no project," meaning that the housing projects would not proceed. The City of Santa Clara has complete control over what happens to the land via zoning. There are only six council members that can vote on the project. If just three council members support keeping the land zoned agriculture, the SaveBAREC proposal could become a reality.

If the City of Santa Clara decides to go through with its housing project, SaveBAREC will need help collecting signatures in the Santa Clara neighborhood to bring this issue to the people for a vote. Most people have no idea this land is even there. SaveBAREC also needs funding, supporters, and volunteers for web master, database administer, or data entry.

There is overwhelming support for this land to be preserved as an agricultural jewel from our history and culture. Learn more information or volunteer at <http://www.savebarec.org>.



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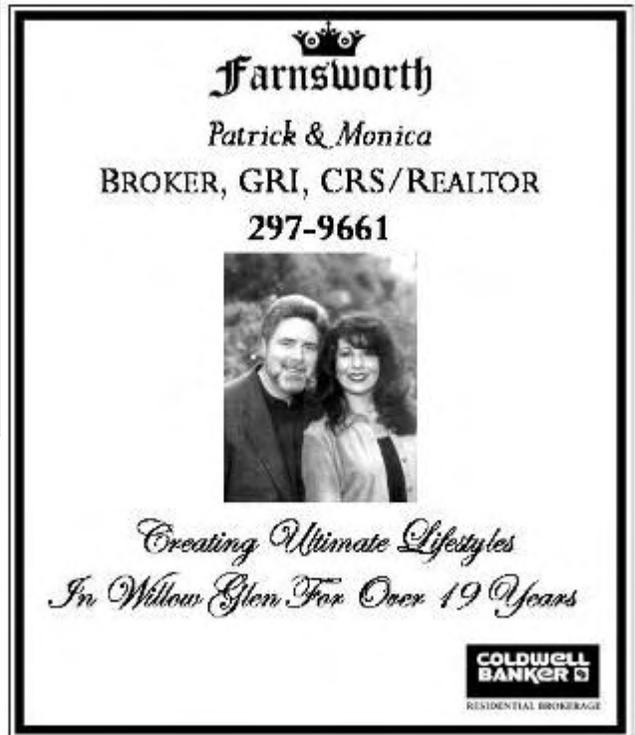
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ON THE RADAR



Montgomery Hotel

At the February Historic Landmarks Commission meeting the Commission forwarded a recommendation to the Mayor and the State Historic Preservation Officer supporting the nomination

of the Montgomery Hotel to the National Register of Historic Places. Although the hotel has been relocated, it still qualifies because of its architectural importance. Yay! (See picture on page 7)

IBM's Bldg 25/Lowe's

The City of San Jose has issued a NOP (notice of preparation) for a revised Environmental Impact Report for the Lowe's project. The new site plan does not include the retention of Bldg. 25. Lowe's court appeal regarding the PAC*SJ lawsuit has still not been heard.

Coyote Valley Specific Plan (CVSP)

An overview of the CVSP was presented to the Historic Landmarks Commissioners at their retreat in January. It is anticipated that the NOP for the Draft Environmental Impact Report will be circulated in May. The CVSP vision for the historic resources in Coyote Valley is to create a "hamlet" of the identified significant historic buildings. This scenario will require moving some of the resources.

Ballpark area

The Draft Environmental Impact Report should be circulated in the near future. Date is to be announced. After recommendations it will then go back to the community if the commissions make changes to the plan presented to them. (The DEIR Was issued on 2/23)

Pellier Park

The revised plan for Pellier Park was presented to the community at a meeting on February 2. After

much reworking, the Pellier Park subcommittee recommended support of the proposed plan. The park will consist of small lawn areas, prune-bearing fruit trees, grape vines and decomposed granite paths. The plaques from the demolished park will be re-installed in the new park. When Julian Street is realigned, additional land will be added to the park. The next steps for the plan are to go to the Historic Landmarks Commission and Park and Recreation Commission for recommendations, and then back to the community if the commissions make changes to the plan presented to them.

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What's Your Favorite Building?

In Sal Pizarro's column in the Mercury News on January 27th, our new PAC*SJ Executive Director, Megan Bellue, and Publicity Chair, Kayla Kurucz, were interviewed about historical preservation in San Jose. Sal lists some of his historical structure "must-haves" in San Jose as: Bank of America building on First and Santa Clara, Tower Hall at SJSU, the St. James Post Office, Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, Mark's Hot Dogs and the building that houses Original Joe's (St. Claire). He then suggests in his column that perhaps his readers might like to contribute to the list of favorites by sending an e-mail to him about any building or park in Silicon Valley. He says it doesn't have to be old, it just has to be significant to you. In a future column, he'll share some of the responses.



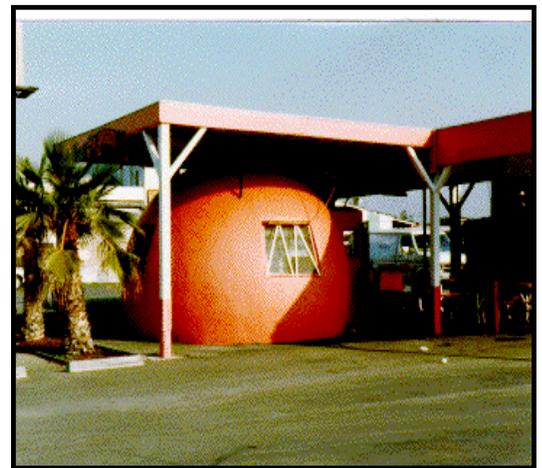
SJSU Tower

So - PAC*SJ members, here's our chance to share the passion of our favorite historical structures. Send in a description of your beloved building or park to Sal at spizarro@mercurynews.com or call him at (408) 920-5473.

You can read his article at http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/columnists/sal_pizarro/13725148.htm.



Bank of America



Mark's Hot Dogs



St. Claire Building

PAC*SJ CALENDAR

- March** 11 Friday, PAC*SJ Garage Sale, 3:00 pm-6:00 pm, 260 South 13th St.
 11 Saturday, PAC*SJ Garage Sale, 7:30 am—3:00 pm, 260 South 13th St.
 20 Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm , Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th Street, San Jose
 29 Wednesday, PAC*SJ Movie Night, 6:00 pm, Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th Street, San Jose
- April** 17 Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm , Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th Street, San Jose
- May** 12 Friday, Hot Jazz & Bath Tub Gin Home Tour and Party, Naglee Park
 13 Saturday, Naglee Park Home Tour, 10 am—4 pm, at Naglee Park
 15 Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm , Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th Street, San Jose
- June** 19 Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6 - 8 pm , Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th Street, San Jose
- November** 17 PAC*SJ Annual Founders' Day Celebration at the San Jose City Hall Rotunda, 6:00 pm

Preservation Action Alert!

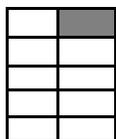
Would you like to be on the Presentation Action Alert e-mail list?

Find out about the latest preservation threats or accomplishments in our Valley. Just send in your e-mail address stating that you wish to be placed on the list for receiving the latest news involving preservation in our community.

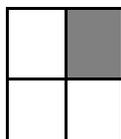
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PAC*SJ "Fruit Cocktail Club" Presents Movie Night

Wednesday, March 29th

6:00 pm, Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. 5th St, S.J.

Admission is Free!



Don't miss a reunion of the "Fruit Cocktail Club". Remember our last successful movie night "Valley of Hearts Delight"? It was such fun we wanted to follow with a sequel. We will show short historic movies on Willow Glen, Moffett Field, Del Monte Fruit Packing Plant & the Guadalupe River.

Samples of the famous spam/fruit cocktail loaf and other forgotten fruit cocktail recipes from the 1950's will again be featured.

Come and enjoy this festive night out!



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PAC*SJ Naglee Park Home Tour

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May 12th—Friday Night: Hot Jazz & Bathtub Gin Party *plus* Home Tour

May 13th—Saturday: Home tour of 5 beautiful homes in Naglee Park

Friday Night: \$75

Enjoy an evening home tour, a party at the special hospitality house, scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and hot jazz.

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Naglee Park Hospitality House where the Hot Jazz & Bathtub Gin Party and Home Tour will begin on Friday night

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PAC*SJ Ghost Tour—Haunted San José



The winners of the PAC*SJ auction tour, (from left) Jill Arnone, Barbara and Wil Marshman, Janice Rombeck, Judy Stabile, Sherri Moreles and Sara Langton

A donated tour of San José haunted sites was auctioned at the PAC*SJ Celebration in September 2005. On January 15, 2006, it was my great pleasure to give this tour for Jill Arnone, Barbara and Wil Marshman, Janice Rombeck, Judy Stabile, and Sherri Moreles.

The tour started and ended at the Trials Pub at 265 N. First Street. On the tour, we saw sites or buildings that are reputed to be haunted, unearthed artifacts and rarely seen photos from the 1933 infamous lynching in St. James Park (the Brooke Hart kidnapping/murder).

Trials Pub is a charming (and haunted) Victorian historic landmark dating back to 1894. The building was built by a Swiss grocer named Tagnazzi and served as a hotel for the railroad workers; later it became a brothel. In the early 1900s, the basement was used as an auxiliary facility for the County Jail to hold the overflow prisoners from the nearby jail. Some suggest the ghostly sounds and sightings, experienced by various people, may come from the haunts of a murdered warden or prisoner.

Our next visit was to the 95 year old building at 449 North San Pedro Street, which houses the “Military



Medals Museum” and Sara’s Consignments. Early on it was a railroad saloon, and subsequently it was used as a grocery store, church, Indian Center, brothel, and a greenware factory.

Sara Langton tells building history

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PAC*SJ Ghost Tour—Haunted San José (cont'd)

This building used to be on a walking tour as the oldest standing saloon in San José. Sara and John Langton purchased this building in 1980. Sara tells the story about an early saloon robbery and how the culprit was caught, dragged to the dirt cellar and killed. The consignment store has a trap door in the floor, under which the killing occurred. Sara, who had sensed an unusual presence previously, confirmed the haunting when a psychic friend of hers who was visiting, revealed the presence of a ghost.

In 1981, Sara started the consignment store and her late husband, John, opened the Military Medal Museum, which was the only museum of its kind in the U.S. at that time. The City of San José gave John a commendation for opening the museum. Later, Sara coordinated an effort to beautify the corner by covering the graffiti with a mural of the original railroad station that was torn down and moved to Montgomery Street in 1956. Sara worked with the Fine Arts Commission and received donations from the city and neighbors for the paint, artist fee and scaffolding. The mural was completed in three years.

Next on the tour we were privileged to enter the Letitia Building at 70 S. First Street. The Letitia building is not haunted, but it is a spectacular example of a beautifully renovated building. The building used to house a bakery, retail shops, residential rooms and a photo lab. The first female physician in San José located her office in the Letitia Building. It has spectacular 12-foot ceilings and is bathed in natural light from the many windows and large sunroof. Interestingly, the original lincrusta in the building is still manufactured. The Hopkins & Carley law firm now uses the building as its headquarters. The firm has photos of all those involved in the development of the building except Letitia Burnett herself.

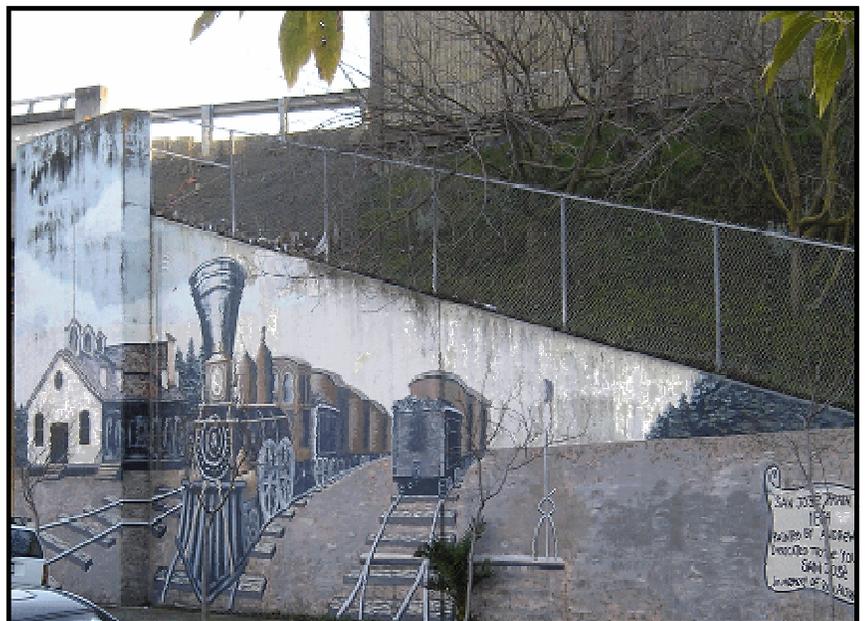
Let's talk about the Winchester House. It is one of the most famous Victorian houses in America. But is it haunted? My son was a tour guide there and does not feel it is haunted, though many tour guides felt a cold creepiness at a certain third floor location. Haunted or not, it is a fun tour, so take it, and you decide.

The ghosts of San Jose are sedate and private, making them hard to research! But they're here. I now appreciate San Jose's past and pioneers more than ever. If you have any local ghost stories, please send them on to Deb Wible at debwible@scbglobal.net.

I want to thank the following people for sharing their hospitality, encouragement, and stories about San José's history with me:

Jill Arnone (History San Jose), Rob Van der Molen (Trials Pub proprietor), Sarah Langton (proprietor of Sara's Consignments), Art Bernstein (Letitia Building), Tom McEnery, Leonard McKay (San Jose historian), Joe Drechsler and Mrs. West (photographs by Eastie West of the St. James Park lynching), Adrienne Foster (historic hotel reviewer), Mary Pope-Handy (www.HauntedRealEstate.com), Ann Wolff, Jim Fassbinder (proprietor for the San Francisco Ghost Hunt), Jim Reed (History San Jose Archivist), Pat Curia (PAC*SJ), Tracy Thorpe, Janice Rombeck, Judy Stabile, Barbara & Will Marshman, Sherri Moreles.

Deborah Wible



Mural of the old train station: Beautiful proof that citizens can make a difference in their neighborhood

Reception for PAC*SJ New Executive Director

Brian Grayson, and his wife Nina, hosted a reception for our new Executive Director, Megan Bellue, at their beautiful Willow Glen home on January 15th. Board members, City Council members and other guests enjoyed delicious appetizers and interesting conversation. Thank you Brian and Nina for such a wonderful party!



*Councilman & Mrs. Forrest Williams, Megan Bellue (PAC*SJ Executive Director), and Montgomery Anderson visit with guests*



Hostess Nina Grayson and Councilwoman Linda LeZotte enjoy the party

Early Morning Earthquake Centennial

This coming April 18th, a Tuesday, you may be awakened from a sound sleep by the tolling of bells throughout downtown San José at 5:12 in the morning!!!! This will mark the 100th anniversary of the great 1906 earthquake that caused considerable damage and significant loss of life right here in our town.

“Its About Time” is a volunteer group that has set out to rebuild the clock tower of the old Federal Post Office, now home of the San José Museum of Art located at the corner of San Fernando and Market. “It’s About Time” and the San José Museum of Art are teaming up with History San José to provide a number of public events, including a walking tour of downtown featuring photographs of site specific destruction. If anyone has information, insight, passed on recollections, photos, diaries, etc., please consider what contributions you might add to the overall community education. History San José will also have exhibits and displays at the History Park.

For some fascinating reading and historic photos of the earthquake, visit the Bancroft Library at <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/earthquakeandfire/index2.html>. In the search function, type in San José .

And if you are awakened by bells on April 18th please don’t call the San José Museum of Art.

POP Makes a Find at PAC*SJ

You can find all sorts of interesting items at PAC*SJ garage sales and auctions. Pictured is a beautiful antique dress over 100 years old that was purchased from PAC*SJ by *Portraits of the Past* (POP), a talented volunteer group under the auspices of History San Jose. In the picture, the POP members are examining the black lace dress to plan its restoration. The dress is thought to originate from the 1880's and was donated to PAC*SJ by Ms. Kristiane McKee Maas for a fund-raising event. Sometime in the future, you may see this dress in a POP show.

The POP shows present historically accurate portrayals of significant and amusing characters and events from our Valley's history. The shows are excellent educational programs and fund-raising events. The many historical vignettes include men and women's clothes from the 1850's to the 1960's, and from all strata's of society.

To see pictures of the performers, or to learn of volunteer opportunities, visit www.portraitsofthepast.org. POP always needs more men and women to help on or off stage. And it is so much fun portraying early Santa Clara Valley citizens in clothes of the past.



*PAC*SJ and POP members, Ethel Reinegger (left) and Julie Pifer (right) show off their newest project, purchased from PAC*SJ*



634 North Santa Cruz Avenue

JUST LISTED

Two of San Jose's most historic and beautiful landmark Victorians are now available for sale. Call agent for informa-

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THE RUCKER MANSION

- 418 South 3rd Street, San Jose
- 1890s Victorian-Queen Anne Mansion and carriage house
- Impeccably maintained 8 unit apartment building and separate carriage house located in the heart of downtown San Jose
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- Offered at \$1,795,000



HOUGHTON DONNER MANSION

- 156-160 E. Saint John, San Jose
- Lot size is 18,900 SF
- Two free standing structures, one is a four plex and the other is the impressive historic 9 unit Houghton Donner Mansion with 9,000 combined square footage
- Zoning CG General Commercial
- Visible high traffic corner location one block from the new San Jose Civic Center
- Offered at \$1,995,000

Information believed to be accurate but not verified. If your property is currently for sale, this is not a solicitation for your

THEY LEFT THEIR MARK: ANDREW P. HILL, JR.: ARCHITECT & EDUCATOR

Andrew P. Hill, the local artist who was responsible for saving the redwoods at Big Basin State Park, and his wife, Florence, had two sons, Andrew Jr. and Frank. Frank, a Stanford graduate, gravitated to New York where he became a noted newspaper editor. His elder brother chose to stay close to home and enroll in teacher training courses at San Jose Normal in 1908.

A handy man with a drafting pencil, Andrew Jr. was soon head of a high school manual training program in Palo Alto. He then decided to pursue a degree at Stanford, as well as taking architecture courses at U.C. In 1910 he accepted the position as head of the manual arts program at his alma mater, San Jose High.

With a firm foundation in architectural basics from U.C., Andrew began to design homes for clients in San José. The 1913 San Jose City Directory was the first to indicate his new status as a professional architect with offices in the Elk's Building. By 1917 he was listed with a partner, Howard Higbee, in the Porter Building on East Santa Clara Street.

Hill's contributions to the local architectural scene were almost all homes for San José's rising middle class prior to World War I (1913-1917). The largest number of his designs (six) are to be found in Naglee Park. There are at least five in north San José, and some in Hanchett Park. The largest is the Colonial Revival home that was designed for J.W. Chilton at 1050 Bird Avenue.

The two-story home at Empire and

North Third, built for the Borchers family, is another fine example of his work. Hill and Higbee also drew up plans for three homes in Burlingame, one in South San Francisco, and another in Milpitas. Hill also did plans for additions to the Grant Elementary School in San Jose.



Andrew P. Hill, Jr.

(Continued on page 19)



The Colonial Revival home at Bird Avenue

THEY LEFT THEIR MARK: ANDREW P. HILL, JR.: ARCHITECT & EDUCATOR cont'd

(Continued from page 18)

Andrew Jr. discontinued his architectural practice in 1916, when he was offered the position of director of vocational education for the San Francisco School District. His interest in school buildings and his practical knowledge of architecture made him an ideal candidate to join architects in Sacramento who were planning new school buildings.

He next became Superintendent of Schools for the City of Stockton, where he remained for the rest of his life. He died there on August 2, 1973. For a locally born architect who practiced for only five years, he created a number of fine homes which we can still admire today.

Note: The author wants to thank the San José Souriseau Academy for State and Local History who have the A.P. Hill, Jr. papers, and to Gary Goss for supplying information on the location of the Hill-designed structures.

Jack Douglas, SAH



Home Built for the Borchers family on North Third

Below, early picture of Grant Elementary School



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Preserving Our Documented Past

Every day documentation of the past is lost forever due to neglect, accidents, and "acts of God". How much of the past do we lose every day? No one knows, but if you ponder the question, it brings up serious and worrisome questions:

-How much was lost in New Orleans due to the floods? Not just civic collections, but in the homes of residents.

-How much is being devoured by fungus and termites in homes around the world right now?

-How much is being thrown out for trash? (Accidentally or purposefully.)

If an earthquake hit us could you get into your house before your belongings are flooded from broken water pipes, or burned in a fire? The largest collection documenting the past is not in institutions, but instead, stored in our homes; and also the most vulnerable to loss.

Fortunately, we have an excellent tool to extend the life of old documents: a computer with a scanner. Digitizing old documents not only makes a copy that can be saved, but it brings it into the realm of computer power where it can be organized and found via simple searches. (Instead of rummaging through boxes stashed away in an attic.) But, most importantly, digitizing old documents creates an inexpensive and easy way to make copies and store them safely in another location.

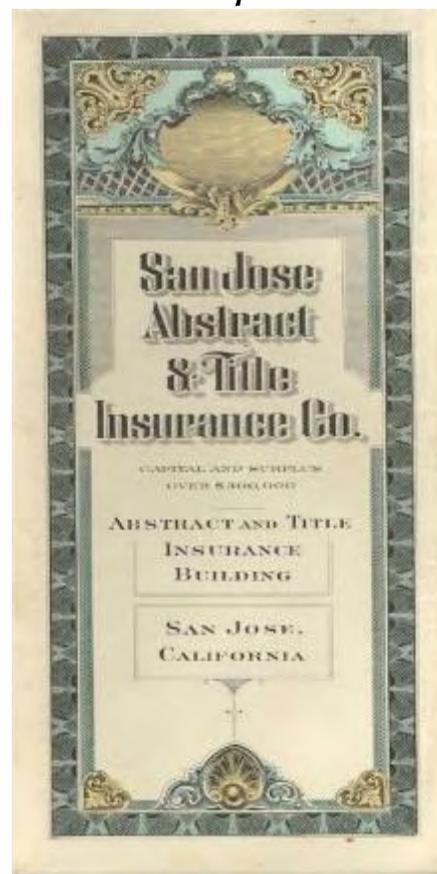
There are a couple ways to do this:

1. Scan your documents to your computer, save them all on a CD, and then send the CD to friends or relatives, preferably in another state or city.
2. Store your documents using an on-line service such as www.box.net , Yahoo or others.

First, get a scanner if you don't have one. Scanners today are remarkably inexpensive. Scanners generally come with the software needed to make rudimentary scans. Before you begin set up a naming convention for your files so you can easily identify them.

(Continued on page 21)

Examples



Delmas & Willow, The Henry French Residence and Family

P-18uu-DelmasNWillow-FrenchResidenceAndFamily

PAC*SJ Garage Sale Coming!

For Sale: Vintage furniture, '50's board games, light fixtures, dishes, jewelry, silver and collectibles.

Friday, March 10, 3:00-6:00 pm; Member Reception, 260 South 13th St.

Saturday, March 11th, 7:30 am to 3:00 pm, 260 South 13th St.

Volunteers needed to help sell.-contact Patt at (408) 294-3599

(Continued from page 20)

For example: *P-18920409s-SanFernando52-JohnDoe-JaneDoe*

Where 'P' indicates it is a photo, 18920409s indicates there is a developer's stamp dated April 9, 1892 on it, the location is at 52 San Fernando Ave. and the subjects in the photo follow. It is assumed the address is in San José. You may want to insert the city name, or you could save all the San José files in a San José folder on your computer.

Always be sure to list the date in YYYYMMDD form so it sorts correctly when viewing them on your computer. In other documents, instead of 'P' use 'Deed' for deeds and 'Letter' for letters and so on. Just come up with a system, write it down and stick to it. It will save you lots of time later on.

And while you're at it, include some documents from the present such as your property deed, photos, etc. One day someone will be thankful you took the time to document your history too!

Mike Borbely
President, Palm Haven Restoration Committee



Chuck Nunnally
Realtor/Broker
Alain Pinel Realtors
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cnunnall@apr.com

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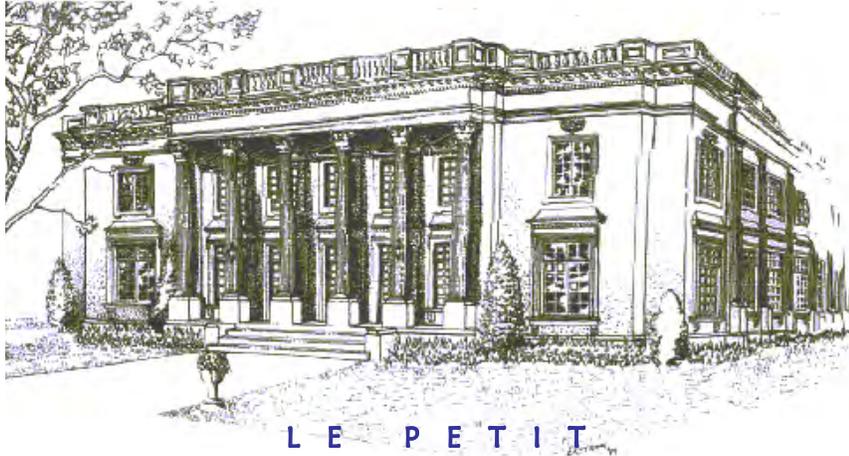
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Please ask your employer about matching programs for your contribution.

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We mostly notify our members of events via email. Not supplying an email address will make it harder for us to notify you about our events.

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|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family / Nonprofit | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Contributor / Small Business | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Patron / Corporation | \$250 |
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As a 2006 member, you will receive our quarterly newsletter Continuity as well as invitations and discounts to our events.

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PAC*SJ will not release your contact details to a third parties without your consent. Please check this box if you would not like us to publicize your name as a PAC*SJ member:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Testifying at public meetings and hearings | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing articles for the newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Education Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with Preservation Celebration | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with Salvage Sale / I have a truck | <input type="checkbox"/> Audit Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pro bono legal assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service Learning Partnership (evaluating properties for architectural significance) | |



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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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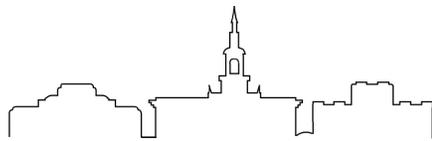
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