

CONTINUITY

Preservation Action Council of San Jose Newsletter

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION

by Tom Simon

Things are looking up for the Jose Theatre and Montgomery Hotel. Even though we are still in litigation on behalf of both of these historic buildings, activity outside the courtroom is starting to look hopeful. PACSJ has always been interested in finding a way to work with the city and developers to move redevelopment projects along, while still saving our dwindling historic resources.

Even though we just filed our opening brief on the Jose Theatre lawsuit appeal, we are finding that Mayor Gonzales places a high value on historic preservation. This could be the crucial difference needed to generate some new thinking and ideas that can lead to saving these significant buildings.

Even so, our enthusiasm is tempered by the rising tide of development that threatens buildings such as the Del Monte Plant #51 near the arena, the First Church of Christ Scientist and Letcher's Garage on St. James Square. Also of great concern is the destruction or removal of a wonderful row of Victorian houses for the planned new Civic Center Project. Plus we are still reeling from the loss of Fredkin's Market (former Lou's Donuts), the PG&E substation on Coleman and the old FMC building at Julian and Highway 87. Also at risk are some fine older homes, including the family home of Opera San José's Irene Dalis, which stand in the projected path of the Vasona Corridor Light Rail project.

The policies of the previous administration, which placed a low value on preservation, are still carrying forward with disastrous effects. Public comments on all these projects can help change the momentum within city hall. Call planning at 277-4576 to comment by name on any of the above projects. Or better yet send them a fax.

CIVIC PLAZA PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

by Ellen Garboske

Concerns about traffic, parking, construction upheaval and, foremost, astronomical costs were not enough to keep a committee of downtown interest groups from issuing an endorsement of the efforts to move City Hall downtown. The committee voted to recommend that the city council establish a new Civic Plaza Redevelopment Area in the vicinity of Fifth and Santa Clara Streets.

If the Planning Commission approves the EIR, the recommendation will go before the City Council sometime in June. Creating a redevelopment area is a major step in allowing the RDA to purchase the land and pay for moving residents and businesses located within the area.

In addition to city hall, the project would include a new San Jose Symphony Hall, a *Continued on page 5*

Membership Renewals Due, Please Check Your Mailing Label

PACSJ values and needs your membership support. If your mailing label doesn't have '99 in the upper right, you haven't renewed for 1999. We urge you to use the form in this newsletter and renew now.



by André Luthard

Presidential Farewell and Hail to the New Chief (and other ramblings)

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Rick Sherman has been confirmed as the next president of Preservation Action Council of San Jose. We are fortunate as well to have John Olson as vice-president. His thoughtful and tireless contributions in the past and in the future will be key. As I hand the proverbial gavel over to Rick, it seems appropriate to review the accomplishments, large and small, that have occurred over the last two years or so, and provide some motivation for progress already being made for the future.

First of all, I am indebted to Ellen Garboske, my predecessor, who laid the foundation for much of what we were able to achieve and continues to this day to give to our organization. Second, I was backed up by Patt Curia and an excellent Board of Directors that helped provide administrative support, meeting coverage and guidance. Finally, a huge "thank you" to Tom Simon, Karita Hummer and the Friends of Jose Theatre Task Force for their dedication to saving this San Jose landmark!

If you remember back to December 1996 when I was about to assume office, PACSI was just receiving notification of the preparation of the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report on the Century Center (Jose Theatre) project. The comments submitted in response to that notice were the first formal summation of the issues raised by the potential demolition of the Jose and Hong Kong Market, and the impact on our Downtown Historic Commercial District. To a large extent, this was the beginning of our administrative record so important in our legal battle, and the genesis of all of our Task Force meetings, City Council, Planning Commission and Historic Landmarks Commission testimony and fund raising efforts. We have come a long way and are hopeful still for successful preservation of both the Jose Theatre and the Montgomery Hotel.

In the last two years, we have improved our financial operating basis significantly. We have had the most successful membership drives in the history of our organization. Our quest for membership support was driven by an organized effort to update our membership database, send out renewal letters consistently and outreach to others in the general public. Through the coaxing of April Halberstadt, PACSJ was the recipient of a large donation facilitated by the salvage of building materials from houses being demolished in Naglee Park. In addition, a fundraising event to benefit our legal fund was well planned and well attended that resulted in a huge improvement in our financial standing. In the environment of developers and agencies with deep pockets threatening historic resources, we need the financial capacity and inclination to fight back with dollars as well as words. This increased financial presence may also require heightened financial reporting and controls.

I have consistently stressed with the board and at every opportunity that we need to expand our base of support within the membership. We cannot succeed for very long if every letter, meeting, rally or public hearing has to be supported by a board member. We will burnout and cease to be effective if the entire burden is carried by a small core group of people. To help address this issue, we held a board retreat last August in order to organize ourselves more efficiently and focus on those activities that will yield the most results. I expect that it will be the goal of Rick and his team to continue to strive to reach out to you, our members, to volunteer for activities that support our historic preservation efforts.

Through all of our efforts, Preservation Action Council has become a respected and powerful force. Our new Mayor Ron Gonzales has told me that he believes historic preservation is good public policy. This powerful combination bodes well for the future of our city.

andis Lithard

Editor's note: PACSJ's newly elected president, Rick Sherman, underwent major emergency surgery within a few days after being elected. Rick claims he is not ducking his new responsibilities! He is recuperating, and expects to be fully recovered and writing *From the President* by the next issue. We wish him a speedy recovery.

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Please submit your comments and suggestions to Preservation Action Council of San Jose, CA 95109

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I'm in the doghouse, and while you might think that appropriate for someone of my persuasion, I'm used to roamin' and ramblin' and my editor-human says I can't come out until I make my apologies! Never thought I'd have to eat crow (YUK! definitely doesn't compare with Lou's donuts) but seems I made a boo-boo (or poo-poo) in the last issue, and dared to intimate that the *Head Honcho* for the on-going **Historic Building Demolition Derby** (read that as the RDA) was pushing to tear down the Del Monte Plant, one of my favorite past dumpster diving spots. Seems I got my paw pointed at the wrong villain, Del Monte isn't a RDA project. My apologies to the RDA, I'm just so used to blaming you, I forgot to check my facts. OK Ms. Editor, can I come out now?

Speaking of the RDA, I've always wondered what that stood for. Could it be the Roarin' Demolition Agency? Whoops, better be careful, my boss is kinda cranky. I might find myself on the tail end of a civil disobedience action if I don't cool it.

Sniff, sniff, sniff...I smell smoke. It's developers and contractors with money to burn, tearing up old buildings in an effort to spend all that loot that's burning a hole in their pockets. They all want to build *something*, *anything*.

First there is the issue of the "monster houses" and the way contractors put them up. In this town you can tear down everything but part of one wall and avoid getting a demolition permit — it becomes a rehabilitation project rather than a "new home." Arf, arf, arf, isn't that a howl!

Now I hear the Big Wheelers (there's only one thing wheels are good for) are talking about a new baseball stadium downtown, planning on tearing out perhaps the **Del Monte** building behind Orchard Supply. There goes another of my favorite scroungin' spots. The sky's the limit, just name your location and for the right "deal" it's yours. Actually I'm really good at chasin' fly balls; just let me at 'em!

Big houses on tiny lots, the city can't build 'em fast enough. Out Evergreen way they are planning on tearing out one of the few remaining rural properties that gives the area any character, replacing the houses, tank tower and barns with eight mini-mansions. Evergreen used to be, well, ever green...a nice place for a ramble. Now it looks like just another old 'burb.

Poor old developer *Ed Storm*'s ears are pretty droopy. It looks like he will have to take some of that nice juicy check the city council just gave him for a piece of property on San Pedro Street and put it into some liver snaps for the **Naglee Park** people after he left a big hole in their turf. Well, gotta stop yappin' for now — I like turf and I like holes, so better amble over and see what use I can make of a bad situation.

Editor's note: Don't look at me! I do my best to keep the dog in line, but the leash keeps slipping out of my hands!

DEVELOPER LEVELS HISTORIC STRUCTURE WITHOUT REQUIRED CITY PERMITS!

by April Halberstadt

Chalk one up for the new District Three Councilman Cindy Chavez. With great firmness she introduced a three-part resolution on Fredkin's Market which 1) will punish developer Ed Storm, 2) replace the historic building and 3) force the developer to get project approval from both the neighborhood and Preservation Action Council of San Jose.

After more than a year of meetings and consultation, the neighborhood thought they had a deal with developer Ed Storm. He had committed to rehabilitate a 1920s mission style structure at 16th and Santa Clara Street for Walgreen's drug stores. The building had been the former home of a neighborhood and community favorite, Lou's Donuts.

Although the building was in questionable condition, the developer assured the neighborhood that it could be salvaged. Instead, the entire structure was demolished without any City permits. Adding insult to injury, developer Storm did not contact anyone in either the City or the neighborhood with an explanation. Even the San Jose City Planning department was dismayed by his action.

Councilman Chavez has asked the City Attorney to seek punitive measures against the developer. She also directed the Planning Department to require that the replacement structure be of the same architectural style as the demolished building. She let Mr. Storm know that he will be directly answerable to the Naglee Park neighbors, the Preservation Action Council and the City for the Fredkin's Market replacement. Thank You, Cindy!

Preservation Loses a Loyal Friend

Glory Anne Laffey lost her battle against cancer on April 18th, 1999. April Halberstadt wrote the following in honor of a special lady, loved by all who knew her, a great loss to the community.

For a research historian, one of life's great gold mines is to discover a detailed obituary for someone being studied. Glory Anne Laffey was Santa Clara Valley's premiere research historian. As the author of *County Leadership*, a book with a biography for every Santa Clara County supervisor since 1855, she searched diligently for information about each of them. So it seems fitting that her own obituary is as complete as her own work.

Glory Anne Graham Laffey was well known throughout Santa Clara Valley history circles for her meticulous research, her careful documentation and her attention to the contractual guidelines which governed her work. Her research provided the basis for adding dozens of buildings to historic registers. With two graduate degrees from San Jose State University, Library Science in 1964 and Social Science in 1981, she was well trained for her life's work.

In 1978 she began a career in cultural resource management, helping many local cities document and save their historic buildings. She established her own consulting and research firm, Archives & Architecture, in 1990. Her practice covered Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties.

Glory Anne was born in Indio, California, in 1943 to Charles and Harriet Graham. She had one younger sister, Charlene. Her mother was a schoolteacher and her father was a Range Management Specialist. Glory Anne was noted among her friends for her beautiful penmanship, a skill learned at her mother's knee in the one-room schoolhouse in the Sierra Foothills town of O'Neals where her mother taught.

Glory Anne married John Laffey in 1963. They raised two sons, Richard and Johnny, in their home in southern San Jose near the Santa Teresa foothills. Her husband is an industrial studies teacher at Leland High School, and was the recipient of a 1999 Teacher of the Year Award.

During two terms on the Landmarks Commission for the City of San Jose, Glory Anne authored the City's Preservation Handbook. She was the Executive Secretary of the Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History at San Jose State from the late 1980s until her death, monitoring dozens of grants.

Noted for her superb organizational ability, Glory Anne's expertise was eagerly sought by her professional organizations. She was an officer of the California Council for the Promotion of History, the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, the Society of California Archivists and was a founding member of the Heritage Council of Santa Clara County.

Glory Anne is remembered for her exceptionally sweet temper, her loving nature, her faith and her charity toward all. She was afflicted with cancer in October of 1998. Despite the prognosis, she maintained a positive attitude and productive work schedule. Glory Anne leaves her parents and sister, her husband and one surviving son, one delightful granddaughter, Amy, and nephews Robert and Peter Detlefs. Glory Anne and her husband actively participate in the ministries of the Evangelical Free Church.



HISTORY MUSEUMS OF SAN JOSE PRESENT EXHIBIT ON THE GOLD RUSH

The San Jose Historical Museum is the venue for an exciting look at the gold rush and the early Santa Clara Valley history. The exhibit has ten thematic sections, beginning with the California Indians, where visitors can examine native American baskets and learn how the Indians lived. One section is devoted to the tribulations and triumphs of traveling to California by land, usually in organized companies, and typically in wagons drawn by oxen. There is information on the opening up of trade in the Santa Clara Valley, as a result of Mexican independence. The valley became a vast cattle empire and hides were traded like bank notes for tools, household goods and luxury items from the trade ships anchored in San Francisco Bay and at Monterey.

Did you know that most grizzly bears in California had been killed by the turn of the century? The last grizzly, which graces our state flag, was seen in California's Sequoia National Park in 1925. These are just a few examples of what you can see at the Voices of Gold exhibit at the San Jose Historical Museum in Kelley Park. For further information phone (408) 287-2290, or visit their website at www.sjhistory.com.

Continued from page 1

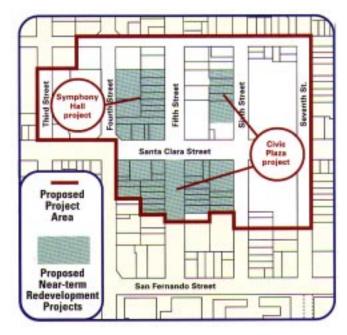
new Horace Mann Elementary School and reconstruction of the nearby Lucky Supermarket. Committee members and residents feel that this project will revitalize the neighborhood, and that traffic and parking problems can be solved. Construction of the city hall alone is projected to be \$214 million and cost overruns are almost a tradition on redevelopment projects.

PACSJ has several concerns with this plan. 1) The cost of rebuilding City Hall at its present location would be less than building in the downtown area, considering the cost of buying land and paying residents and businesses to relocate.

2) Traffic and parking problems cannot be shrugged off; they will make a major impact on that area. 3) Many of the

houses to be demolished or relocated are historic and their loss will lessen the interesting aspect of that area, as well as wipe out remnants of a vital residential neighborhood.

We sympathize with the businesses and residents, and understand their desire to revitalize their neighborhood. But is this the best, and only, way to accomplish this? Has anyone considered building only the symphony hall and new school in this area, improving the supermarket, and adding a parking structure? This could be done in a much smaller footprint, and leave city hall where it is.



Civic Plaza Redevelopment Plan



Examples of houses within the Civic Plaza area that would be moved or demolished.







Photo courtesy of Jack Douglas

RALPH WYCKOFF, LOCAL ARCHITECT, LEAVES HIS MARK

by Jack Douglas

In an era of quickie, cookie cutter-like buildings it is a feast for the eyes to come upon a unique and nicely detailed building like those which came off the drawing board of San Jose architect Ralph Wyckoff (1883-1956). Specializing in schools and public buildings, Wyckoff's most distinctive building in San Jose is the old Main Post Office which faces St. James Park. A native Californian, Wyckoff had a career that was characteristic of the period when California architecture was coming of age.

The Making of an Architect

Ralph Wyckoff, born and raised in Watsonville, began his training there as a draftsman for the firm of William H. Weeks. The reconstruction of San Francisco after the '06 earthquake required the services of many architects, and Wyckoff was transferred to Week's northern office in San Francisco. His talent there would earn him a scholarship to the famous Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, the institution where Bernard Maybeck and Julia Morgan also studied.

Wyckoff became a licensed architect in 1914 and set up his office in Berkeley. Shortly thereafter he returned to Watsonville to take over the business of architect H.B. Douglas. During the next four years Wyckoff would design a number of distinctive buildings in that City, including several schools and the beautiful Watsonville Women's Club. Designed in the Arts and Crafts motif, the Women's Club is similar to Julia Morgan's Saratoga Women's Club of that same period.

In 1919 Wyckoff moved his office to Salinas and went into partnership with Hugh White. There they did the plans for the Salinas High School, for buildings on the Hartnell College campus and for the Elks Club.



St. James Post Office Photo courtesy of Jack Douglas

Settles in San Jose

The building boom of the 1920s in San Jose encouraged Wyckoff to move his firm here in 1921. He continued to do a number of projects in Watsonville, including the Ford's Department Store in 1924 and the Fire Station in 1925. He got started in San Jose just as the Great Depression was sweeping the country, so his major contributions to the architecture of our area were the WPA work-inspired buildings, one of which, the new Post Office, required the architect to travel to Washington D.C. to get the plan approved. Built on the site of the old St. James Hotel, the Post Office is one of seven buildings surrounding St. James Park that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in the popular Spanish Colonial style with

lavish use of terra cotta facing and ornamentation, the Post Office appears as fresh today as it did when it was constructed in 1933. While the Post Office was under construction rioters used building materials on the site to throw at Sheriff's deputies and to batter down the door to the jail during the infamous lynching in St. James Park.

The beautiful Spanish Colonial style Science Building at San Jose State was another major project for the Wyckoff firm. Here again there is ample use of terra cotta and colorful art tile design throughout the building. Recently restored and renamed Washington Square Hall, this building is probably the best surviving example of the firm's many school projects. Other local school commissions included the Anne Darling School, Willow Glen Gram-

mar School, McKinnon School and Washington School in Santa Clara. Wyckoff's downtown commercial buildings include the Moderne Drugstore Building at 2nd and Santa Clara Streets and the San Jose National Bank Building at Market and Santa Clara Streets. Wyckoff was consultant on the city's plans to develop the Civic Center on North First Street, and he designed the county's jail facilities there.

Wyckoff worked in many styles over the expanse of his career, from Craftsman to Period Revival, Spanish Style and the Moderne Styles of the 20s and 30s, and lastly to the stark functional buildings of the 1950s. His 1950s The-

ater Arts Building at San Jose State could not be more different from his ornate Spanish Colonial Science Building of the early 30s.

Family Life

Ralph Wyckoff's family can be traced back to Peter Claeson Wyckoff, an early settler who built a home in Brooklyn, NY in 1638. This structure, which still stands, was also the home of the Dutch Governor Van Twiller. Wyckoff's grandfather came to the Pajaro Valley from Illinois in 1867.

Ralph married his childhood sweetheart, Nellie M. Cornell, on August 30, 1905 in Watsonville, and they later adopted a daughter Frances. After moving to San Jose they lived in



Science Building interior courtyard at San Jose State (now called Washington Square Hall) Photo courtesy of Jack Douglas

their home at 310 Sequoia Avenue. Ralph was an avid photographer who co-authored a text *How to Build and Equip a Modern Darkroom*. Active in professional circles, he served as president of the Central Coast Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and he was also a member of the San Jose Rotary and the Elks Club. He died on August 16, 1956 and is interred at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Note: A number of Wyckoff's architectural drawings are in the collection of the History Museums of San Jose.

DEL MONTE PLANT #51 DEMOLITION DESERVES TO BE CANNED

by April Halberstadt

It was back to the drawing board for the Del Monte project, a multi storied apartment complex that will replace the old Del Monte warehouse on The Alameda. The current developers propose retaining only a small portion of one wall of the historic building. The San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission has looked at the project twice, has held special study sessions and has been meeting privately with the developer. The proposal still does not do justice to San Jose or the fruit industry that was pioneered in this valley by Del Monte.

The neighborhood associations in the area, Shasta-Hanchett Neighborhood Association and the St. Leo's neighbors, have been meeting on these proposals over several years and they are exhausted. Starting with the Midtown Plan seven years ago, neighbors were hopeful that the city would begin to address the problems of blight and deterioration in the area.

Plans call for a neighborhood park, a revitalized commercial area and housing near the railroad station. Now it appears that light rail will be going underground in this area and new apartment owners will have to share light rail access with Sharks arena attendees.



Del Monte District Manager's Office The Alameda

The city has not combined the nearby project which is proposed to demolish the Western Pacific freight house, the last remaining vestige of any historic railroad freight facilities in San Jose. Once the longest freight facility in the Western Pacific



Del Monte Plant #51 Bush Street

company, the building now known as The Archer's Den was located adjacent to the Del Monte building to handle fruit shipments.

Del Monte, better known locally as Cal-Pack (California Packing Company), is adjacent to the Western Pacific site. Another apartment complex is proposed for the Western Pacific site. The Preservation Action Council has been urging the city to find a developer with the stature of Joseph Esherick, designer of the Ghirardhelli Square project in San Francisco. This project demands a developer with the expertise of turning brick industrial buildings into successful, attractive housing and/or retail complexes. The local community would also like to see the valley's fruit industry commemorated in the complex that was once the center of the Santa Clara Valley fruit industry.

FEDERAL TAX CREDITS PROPOSED FOR HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

Two major new housing renovation proposals have been introduced in the House and the Senate. Sponsored by senior members of the tax-writing committees of both houses, the two almost identical bills have attracted bipartisan support, making chances of passage this session very good. Home buyers could qualify for up to \$40,000 in tax credits or discount mortgage rates if they buy and renovate older townhouses, detached homes, condominiums, cooperatives or rental apartments if they are located in historic neighborhoods. This would apply in every town and city across the nation.

The bills are intended to bring life back to urban neighborhoods by allowing buyers to benefit in either of two ways:

1) Buyers of older homes in historic neighborhoods could take 20 percent federal tax credits up to \$40,000 against their rehabilitation expenses if they fix up properties and live in them at least five years. Unlike deductions, tax credits come off the bottom line of federal tax returns, therefor if the buyer owed \$20,000 in federal taxes and had a \$20,000 tax credit, no taxes would be due. 2) Buyers with moderate or low income could convert their tax credit eligibility to other incentives, since they typically would not have large enough tax liabilities for quick use of tax credits. These incentives could be interest rate reductions on their mortgages or lower down payments.

Buyers would be required to follow federal guidelines on their rehabilitation expenditures, and to use the properties as their principal residences for at least five years. A recent article in the San Jose Mercury News, written by Kenneth Harney, real estate columnist in Washington, D.C., gave some examples of how these credits could benefit buyers.

A couple whose children were either gone or about to leave the nest could sell their home and realize profits tax-free of up to \$500,000 according to current capital gains tax law. They then could buy an older, architecturally distinguished home in a charming historic neighborhood (such as San Jose's Naglee Park, Willow Glen, etc.) that is close to public transportation, cultural attractions, entertainment and place of employment. The ideal would be to find a run down house within an area where owners have restored or maintained their homes. This unrestored house should carry lower sales price and a promise of substantial capital gains if renovated with care. The couple buys a house, but finds that rehab costs will be \$200,000. If they follow federal guidelines on the renovation, move into the property as

their principal home, they could qualify for as much as \$40,000 (\$200,000 x .20) off their federal income tax bill. Credits could be taken in stages — \$20,000 the first year, \$10,000 the next, \$5,000 the next and \$5,000 in year four.

The second example is for a family with a moderate income, modest tax bill and no need for a tax credit. They want to buy and renovate an inexpensive, poorly maintained old house in a historic district. Renovation costs come to \$100,000, which they could finance if the interest rate were affordable. Instead of a tax credit, they obtain a "historic rehabilitation mortgage credit certificate" worth 20 percent of their qualified renovation expenses — \$20,000. They take it to their lender, who works with them to use the \$20,000 to "buy down" or lower their mortgage rate to produce a monthly payment they can afford. The lender can then use the credit certificate to reduce its own tax bill.

These bills have drawn the support of mayors, bankers, home builders and historic preservation advocates. The National Trust for Historic Preservation considers the bills extremely beneficial. It appears that these bills, which unite Democrats and Republicans, have a very good chance for fast action. Call or write your congressman or senator and urge support for HR1172 and S664.



Rosette "Instant" 30x30 inches Each, in parts \$2.70 Complete \$3.50 from the Broschart & Braun Catalog of Ornamental Designs From Architectural Sheet Metal, ca. 1900

MEMBERS ELECT NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Rick Sherman was elected president and John Olson elected vice president by PACSJs membership. Ballots returned by members also confirmed current board members Ellen Garboske, André Luthard, Tom Simon, Patricia Curia, April Halberstadt, Tom King, Franklin Maggi, John Olson and Kitty Monahan to new two-year terms on the Board of Directors.

PACSJ members are encouraged to consider serving on the board of directors. There is an urgent need for persons to manage the data base, membership and fund raising needs for our organization. There is always a need for those with preservation law, grant application and local history backgrounds. If you don't wish to serve on the board, but are willing to help in any of these areas, we welcome your help. Leave your name, phone and a short message at (408) 947-8025 if you can help.



Outgoing President André Luthard presents gavel to newly elected PACSJ President Rick Sherman. Vice President John Olson (l) and Secretary Patt Curia (r) look on.

1999 CPF CONFERENCE

It's not too late to register to attend the annual California Preservation Conference in Palm Springs on May 20th through the 23rd. Don't miss out on the last statewide preservation conference in this century! Phone (510) 763-0972 for registration information.



PACSJ Board member Ellen Garboske discusses pending legislation with Senator Boxer's representative Jay Rosenthal.

PACSJ MEETS WITH SENATOR BOXER'S REPRESENTATIVE

Jay Rosenthal, Field Representative for Senator Barbara Boxer requested a meeting with PACSJ to discuss pending legislation which could provide funding of historic preservation projects. Under the title Permanent Protection for America's Resources 2000, Senator Boxer is introducing legislation which would provide substantial and permanent funding from offshore oil resources for the acquisition, improvement and maintenance of public resources throughout the United States. Funds from this source have been available for 30 years, but have never been allocated for the use intended, which was for public resources. This legislation would correct that situation. The funding comes from existing offshore oil drilling, and does not allow additional offshore drilling.

Funding from this source is estimated to be \$2.3 billion annually, and would be allocated for various environmental protection projects such as Land and Water Conservation, Urban Parks and Recreational Recovery, Ocean Fish/Wildlife Conservation, Native Fish/Wildlife Conservation, and Farmland and Open Space Preservation.

In addition to these important environmental issues, \$150 million would provide funding for the programs of the Historic Preservation Act, maintaining the National Register of Historic Places, and administering numerous historic preservation programs. Up to one-third of the funds would be for priority preservation projects of public and private entities, including preserving historic structures and sites, as well as significant documents, photographs, works of art, etc. In the form of grants, funds from this source would be an important resource for preservation of historic structures. The preservation community should support this pending legislation by contacting Senator Boxer's San Francisco office at (415) 403-0113.

VASONA CORRIDOR LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

by April Halberstadt

There's good news and bad news on the Vasona Corridor Project and, strange to say, it's the same item. The Vasona Corridor light rail project occupies the space once used by the South Pacific Coast Railroad, the little narrow gauge railroad that opened the Santa Clara Valley for the fruit industry in 1877. The proposed light rail line will travel between Los Gatos and downtown San Jose although the first phase goes just to Campbell.

The good news and the bad news is that there is now going to be federal money in the project. The Big Checkbook means that Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is now able to change the scope of the project. Hang on to your calculators, we can start to spend spend with Uncle Sugar picking up the tab.

First on the shopping list is new trackage. We no longer need to share the trackage in the existing Right-of-Way (ROW) with the Union Pacific. We want a new set of tracks, right next to the existing ones. There is plenty of room except for three or four teensy little areas.

The current bridges over Highway 17 and Highway 280 are too small -- we will need additional bridges. And we are right on the edge of Los Gatos Creek near the Pruneyard so we will have to figure out how to squeeze in an extra rail without upsetting the salmon.

We need to squeeze under the old overpass by Orchard Supply so that will need to be rebuilt. And we will be by-

passing the historic Del Monte Cannery on The Alameda because we are planning to dig a tunnel, making a big turn under the San Jose Station on Cahill Street. This turn lets the rail line swing back toward San Carlos Street. The new route plans on taking out the historic houses of the Lakehouse neighborhood, keeping the rail snugly up against the side of Highway 87 and joining with the existing line on San Carlos Street.

Total number of turn-of-the-century structures to be demolished...only a dozen or so. But who wants to live next to the trolley? The Vasona Corridor project is reasonable and does little "collateral damage" until it gets downtown. Then our heritage is once again at risk.



Franklin Maggi Resigns From Board

Board of Directors member Franklin Maggi has submitted his resignation as a member of PACSJs board of directors. Franklin has been a board member since 1995, and has been very active in our goals of preserving San Jose's historic structures. His expertise has been extremely important in our on-going efforts to preserve our built environment. He is now working as Project Manager out of the Los Gatos office of Architect Leslie A.G. Dill, and will be working on historic projects throughout the Santa Clara Valley. Franklin will continue his support of our organization by serving on the advisory board. We wish him great success in his new position, and look forward to working with him on current and future projects.

>				
PRESERVATION A	СТ	ION COUNCIL (OF SAN JOSE ME	MBERSHIP FORM
Name:			My interests include:	
			☐ Newsletter	☐ Graphic Arts
Address:			\Box Grant Writing	☐ Photography
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Fax/E-mail address:			ENCLOSED IS MY \$	CONTRIBUTION FOR
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☐ Individual \$20		SCHOOL/NON-PROFIT \$25	PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM, ENCLOSE IT WITH YOUR CHECK, AND MAIL TO:	
☐ Family \$30		Benefactor \$1,000		
\square Senior (over 65) \$10 \square Sma		SMALL BUSINESS \$100	Preservation Action Council of San Jose	
☐ Contributor \$100		Corporation \$250	P.O. Box 2287, San Jose, CA 95109	

CALENDAR

May

I 7 (Mon) PACSJ OPEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 7PM SECURITY BLDG., 84 S. FIRST STREET (CORNER FIRST & SAN FERNANDO)

20-23 CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL CONFER-ENCE PALM SPRINGS (510) 763-0972 FOR INFORMATION

JUNE

I O-1 2 CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM (408) 287-2290 FOR INFORMATION

2 I (Mon) PACSJ OPEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 7PM MOTHER OLSON'S INN 72 NORTH FIFTH STREET

JULY

I 9 (Mon) PACSJ OPEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 7PM MOTHER OLSON'S INN 72 NORTH FIFTH STREET

On-Going

VOICES OF GOLD EXHIBIT, SANTA CLARA VALLEY

AND THE GOLD RUSH, THROUGH DECEMBER '99

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Lunch in the Park, Reclaim our Park | Ist & 3rd Tues Year-round (weather permitting) Noon, McKinley Statue, St. James Park

BIKE TOUR, GUADALUPE RIVER PARK & GARDENS
TWO THURSDAYS JUNE, JULY & AUGUST '99
(408) 277-5904 FOR INFORMATION

The Preservation Action Council of San Jose is a non-profit membership organization providing information to property owners and education to the public, and promoting programs and policies for historic preservation and compatible new architectural design.

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