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HISTORIC HOMES AVAILABLE FOR RELOCATION

It appears that the Civic Center Plaza project is moving forward, in spite of the concern of many regarding the cost of moving city hall, the predicted traffic and parking problems, and the loss of many historic homes in the impacted area. PACSJ requests that members and friends take the time to look at the homes along South Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Streets between Santa Clara and San Fernando Streets. There are many beautiful and historic homes there which are scheduled to be moved or demolished. We would like to see as many as possible moved and saved, as the best of a tragic situation. If you or an acquaintance have a lot which could accept one of these "orphans" contact Nancy Lytle at the Redevelopment Agency of the City of San Jose. She will request a letter of interest from persons interested in the houses. Please send a copy of your letter to PACSJ — we would like to monitor interest in these structures, and be sure all interested parties, with appropriate lot size and location, receive replies and consideration of their proposal.



PACSJ HONORED WITH PRESIDENT'S AWARD

by Karita Hummer

On May 21st, the Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PACSJ) was awarded a President's award by the California Preservation Foundation (CPF) during its awards ceremony at its '99 Annual Conference in Palm Springs. PACSJ was especially recognized in this, its 10th Anniversary year, for the 1999 President's award — for its savvy, effectiveness, thoroughness, daring and unwavering determination to save the historic architectural resources of San Jose.

restoration and preservation of these buildings and waging extensive, full scale public campaigns and legal battles on their behalf.

Moreover, PACSJ was recognized as having effectively tapped and utilized every tool in the preservationist's armamentarium: public relations, legal remedies, organizing support, educating the public, and facilitating preservation development.

It was noted that for ten years, PACSJ has served as the vigilant watchdog for historic buildings in San Jose, promoting the

In bestowing the award, Cassandra Walker, President of CPF, recognized PACSJ as having arrived to the point

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From the President

by Rick Sherman

This issue of *Continuity* again tells the story of the Preservation Action Council's efforts to preserve the historic treasures of San Jose. PACSJ continues its litigation to preserve the Jose Theatre intact and a committee, the Friends of the Jose, are developing contacts with theatrical and film groups which will make the José a respected and working performance center. We are also working cooperatively with the City of San Jose to save the Montgomery Hotel. There are efforts underway to keep the Del Monte Cannery intact as viable live-work space and to assist the owner of the Metropole Hotel in preserving this interesting old building. It is also necessary to monitor preservation process on the Letitia, Eu and Twohy buildings downtown as well as the Studio Theater. It is important that we maintain the historic integrity of these structures. We continue with the planning for the River Street Project and are keeping a wary eye on the planning for the new Civic Center downtown since it threatens the life of quite a few of our historic structures. Recently, we have been asked to assist in a project to preserve the West Campus of what remains of Agnews and also to support the preservation of a residence on the Alameda designed by Julia Morgan. This is the last building remaining in San Jose by this famous California architect, her YWCA building downtown was destroyed years ago. These are just a few of the projects taken on by PACSJ's members and board of directors.

The PACSJ board and some of our members have dedicated themselves to these projects. Some of them are new and others you have read about in past issues of *Continuity*. All these projects demand constant attention to detail as well as attending a multitude of meetings. I have had the misfortune to miss all of this activity during the past three months since I was in the hospital for major surgery and then recuperating at home. I have been able to join in the e-mail messages flying on the internet from our members and the board and am markedly impressed with the degree of success PACSJ has enjoyed thanks to their dedication and hard work. I especially wish to thank John Olson, our Vice President, who not only took on my role but continued his own tasks as an officer of the board. He has represented us at a variety of meetings and conducted correspondence in our name with the cooperation of other members of the board. Tom Simon has continued with the litigation process on the José and Montgomery as well

as maintaining our web site. Marti Wachtel bends her efforts to save the Del Monte. André Luthard is point man for the River Street Project as well as assisting gaining funds for refurbishing the Metropole Hotel. April Halberstadt has been active as a liaison with city hall and shares her knowledge and experience on our other projects. Beth Wyman serves as our representative on the Fountain Alley Project. Ellen Garboske continues to make certain *Continuity* is properly edited and gets out on time and now takes on the task of our Presidio Tour.

PACSJ has enjoyed a greater degree of success since we have a new mayor who considers preservation of our historic buildings an asset for the city. It offers the opportunity to work with, rather than against, the city. But the members of the board and a very few PACSJ members cannot carry on these efforts alone. We need to expand our membership and include them as active participants on these projects. André Luthard stressed this fact in his last letter as President. Members must be enlisted to write letters, attend meetings and public hearings and be prepared to speak at these, representing PACSJ. In other words, to work with our board members to keep PACSJ strong as the advocate for preservation and history in San Jose. With your active support, we can continue the battle.✍

LUNCH IN THE PARK

The Horace Mann Neighborhood Association continues their program of meeting for lunch in St. James Park on the first and third Tuesday of each month (weather permitting). Grab your brown bag lunch and meet at noon at the McKinley statue. Support this peaceful and enjoyable method of taking back the park for use by individuals and families, and meet your neighbors, fellow downtown employees, and a dedicated group of people.✍

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Watchdog Report

Hoo, Boy! The weather's not the only thing hot around here! I'm a bit hot under the collar myself. I'm ramblin' down South First Street, sniffin' out some of my old haunts, and happened on a bunch of two-legged varmints tearin' into the **Studio Theatre**. My great-grandpappy favored the **Jose Theatre**; my grandpappy snuck into the **Fox** whenever he could; but the Studio is my generation and deserves respect for its design. My ears perked up when I heard an RDA fella asking the perpetrators about permits. Seems they hadn't bothered. Now when I do something without permission I get banished...let's have equal treatment here guys!

And that's on top of the permitless carnage a few months back at my favorite old **Lou's Donuts**, known as **Fredkin's Market** to some of you older dogs. Those criminals didn't get banished, either, but I hear they got whacked with a hefty \$90,000 fine. Won't bring that venerable building back, but reckon it's better than nothing. A few days solitary in a one-star doghouse wouldn't hurt.

There are hot DOGS, then there are HOT dogs, and there's never been any to compare with Mark's Hot Dogs on Alum Rock Avenue, situated in the San Jose Landmark **Giant Orange**. This piece of venacular architecture is going to roll around the corner onto Capitol Avenue, where it'll grind out those spectacular dogs for another 50 or 60 years. Watch for a BIG celebration this fall. I LOVE a parade!

My old pal and oft-times adversary **FRANK TAYLOR** got a royal send off recently when he retired as Director of the RDA. He's been around longer than me, but has decided the grass might be greener elsewhere now that there's been a changin' of the guarddog in our fair city. Gotta give him a pat on the head, though, he got things movin' and shakin' when downtown San Jose was close to goin' to that doggie heaven in the sky. San Jose's a better city thanks to his maneuvers, and he has my respect in spite of a few bad spots he made. All us old dogs leave our marks in different spots...he made his marks, I make my marks. Sometimes it's hard to tell them apart. So long and farewell, Frankie Baby, and thanks for the memories!

San Jose's new top dog holds a tight leash. You better have your kibbles all in a row or your project won't survive the muster. Some of my favorite old buildings got taken off the subsidy agenda until restoration plans can be scrutinized and reevaluated. Includes the **Eu Building** and

the grand old **Letitia**. Word is that **Gonzales** favors the restorations but wants to rein in the costs.

At the same time, a bunch of new projects have been approved recently. Some good, some that leave a lot of us old dogs whimpering. I'm going to have to sniff out a new trail to get around a new City Hall, Symphony Hall, Fairmont annex, Marriott Hotel, office buildings and parking garages. The RDA subsidy for all these projects would make any dog stagger. Let's get a few of those millions back to historic preservation of our venerable old buildings like the Eu and the Letitia. A deserving project is the new **Horace Mann School**, three barks for that one! Renovation of the street and basement levels of the **Bank of the West Building** to house a Walgreen's is another project that wags my tail.

One last tidbit before I meander off on another chase — My cohort in crime, Underground Louie, who manages to sneak through closed doors and eavesdrop on secret sessions, reports that costs for the renovation of the beautiful Fox Theatre to house Opera San José have increased dramatically and are still rising. You can write to me in care of this rag with comments on this or any other preservation issue. Carpe Diem!

The Dog

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO STAFF PACSJ BOOTH AT THREE EVENTS

One of the most enjoyable ways to support preservation of our wonderful historic structures is to staff PAC's booth at one of the local festivals. This is your opportunity to meet other members, and help inform the public of the importance of historic preservation. Visitors enjoy seeing our collection of photos and receiving information on projects. This is a proven method of building our membership and gaining support for preserving San Jose's historic architecture. The events are:

- Tapestry In Talent, September 3-6
- Alameda History Day, October 3
- Pumpkins In The Park, October 16

If you can help staff our booth for any of these events, please call PACSJ's answering machine at (408) 947-8025, leave your name, phone number and dates you are available. Please speak clearly and someone will return your call. Because it is a four-day event, we particularly need help for Tapestry In Talent.☺

YOUR HELP IS APPRECIATED...PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

Continued from page 1

where the organization has become a powerful persuasive community voice, heeded now at the highest government levels in the City of San Jose, a definite force now in decisions in the city that involve historic preservation issues. Ms. Walker said PACSJ was a model community preservation organization, one that can and should be emulated by others in the State.

PACSJ's success with buildings and achievement of greater community awareness about historic preservation was viewed as directly related to the high activity level of so many community leaders who have devoted countless hours to its mission and projects. Preservation Action Council's many accomplishments in San Jose were acknowledged and given state-wide recognition at the awards ceremony, including:

1. Winning a legal case against San Jose State University, preventing the almost certain demolition of a Neo-Classical home, the Schellar House, on campus.
2. Saving an enclave of buildings, River Street Historic District, through Section 106 means for inclusion in the Guadalupe River Park against all initial odds, the Redevelopment Agency, the mayor, the city council to the point that city council eventually completely reversed their position and embraced the proposal.
3. Campaigning, and then fighting (and raising the funds for) the legal fight on behalf of the Jose Theatre in the historic Commercial District of San Jose. It has become the little vaudeville theater that refuses to die, despite all death knells votes against it, the latest coming through a permanent stay in place as it moves into the State Court of Appeals. Now we have the ear of the new mayor and negotiations are under way to save the building, paving the way for another success with the Montgomery Hotel.
4. The development of a campaign to save important industrial buildings for adaptive re-use.
5. The preparation of a feasibility study on behalf of the First Church of Christ Scientist, with a campaign now to find users, with the developer inviting us to the table, before any problem emerges.
6. An education program for seismic retrofit procedures.
7. Four successful tours of historic districts.
8. Awards to preservationists of the year.

The Awards ceremony is an annual event at CPF's annual conference. This year's conference in Palm Springs was entitled "Transcending the Centuries, Preservation of the



CPF President Cassandra Walker presents President's Award to PACSJ's Karita Hummer, Tom Simon and Jack Douglas.

Ancient and Recent Paths." Next year CPF will bring its conference north again, marking its 25th Anniversary in Monterey, in the year 2000!!! PACSJ will have the opportunity at that conference to show firsthand that there are no hearts that beat harder for preservation than in San Jose, and no minds that think more strategically for success than in San Jose.☞

AGNEWS HOSPITAL

by Ellen Garboske

80 acres of the west campus of Agnews Hospital won listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the time Sun Microsystems began planning to build at that site. The Agnews Preservation and Open Space Referendum Committee has submitted an amendment to expand the boundaries of the historic district to cover the entire west campus. An application is also being prepared to grant the east campus of Agnews Hospital the same listing. PACSJ supports both the amendment to the original listing and the nomination of the east campus.

Agnews Insane Asylum — A Brief History

During the last decades of the 19th century, California's burgeoning population brought a new problem to the state, how to house those then referred to as the insane. In the early years of statehood, some were locked up with criminals aboard a ship in San Francisco Bay, then in other equally unsuitable quarters. The Insane Asylum for the State of California was built in Stockton in 1853. In most

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cases patients were simply locked up, receiving little or no treatment. Napa State Hospital was built in the 1870s, and in 1885 the Legislature approved plans to build an asylum in the small town of Agnews.

Originally called the California Hospital for the Chronic Insane, the first “incurable” patients arrived in November of 1888. By March of 1889 the name was changed to the State Insane Asylum at Agnews and was redesignated to serve all mental patients. Agnews became the first state hospital in California to adopt modern methods of treating mental patients and was widely recognized as a model institution. In direct contrast to dark ship holds and hospital basements, Agnews was built on the theory that light and air, and humane treatment, were important to the welfare and possible cure of mental patients. Agnews hospital was a 3½ story brick building with a high basement and a tower flanked by separate wards for men and women. In 1897 the state created the Commission on Lunacy and Agnews became Agnews State Hospital. Shortly thereafter the first cottages were built to relieve the congestion in the main buildings and to reflect the new approach to treating patients.

Agnews was severely damaged in the 1906 earthquake, causing the death of 101 patients and 11 employees. Those 112 deaths were the greatest single loss of life in that devastating earthquake, and many more patients were injured. The superintendent, Dr. Leonard Stocking, reported “In one minute’s time every single department of this hospital was rendered useless and we had in our care 1073 patients—dead, wounded, or well and active—without a single provision or resource thought necessary for care of such people.” The staff and the community responded quickly. Tents were erected the first night and three days later temporary barracks designed by architect Frank D. Wolfe were under construction.

Out of the tragedy of the earthquake came the opportunity to build a new facility with the latest methods and facilities to treat acute patients and release them back into society. Dr. Stocking toured mental hospitals across the nation to gather ideas, but found no satisfactory models. With the help of State Architect George Sellon, Stocking drew his own plans showing a decentralized facility of small two-story, reinforced concrete buildings arranged in a campus-like setting. Patients would be exposed to light, air and the outdoors, all aspects considered to be therapeutic. The buildings would be fire and earthquake proof, and would provide quarters for a variety of purposes in a homelike atmosphere.



Tower and Main Building at Agnews

The Stocking-Sellon plan was adopted with some modifications. There was a central green with a main drive leading from the direction of the railroad station and the town of Agnews, and a building with a tower at the center of the surrounding buildings. Service buildings, a supervisor’s residence, physician residences and modern cottages were constructed. Streets formed a grid-like relationship to the main structures. The hospital raised much of its own food, with areas for truck farming, orchards, poultry and swine. Patients did much of the work on the “farm” and the work and outdoors were considered important to their mental improvement.

Dr. Stocking remained as superintendent until his death in 1931, and new structures were constantly added and improved during his time. Under his supervision Agnews became known as one of the most advanced, modern mental hospitals in the world. In 1926 he arranged the purchase of 426 acres, which is now known as the east campus. Stocking’s ideas were used even after his death for construction of buildings on both campuses. There was a change from Stocking’s eclectic style of buildings to the Spanish Colonial Revival style used in the 1940s, and some modernization of the original buildings, but the campus retained its overall appearance, which is the Agnews we know today.✍

LIVING HISTORY DAY ON THE ALAMEDA

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 3, from 10am to 5pm, and join one of San Jose’s liveliest and most interesting events! On The Alameda between Hanchett and Hester Avenues, this festival will highlight the rich

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Campbell Union Grammar School — Courtesy of Jack Douglas

WILLIAM H. WEEKS, 1864-1936

by Jack Douglas

Though never a permanent resident in our county, architect William Weeks certainly acquired a number of major commissions here. He designed some of our most distinctive landmarks — the DeAnza Hotel and the Medico-Dental Building are standouts. His commissions for schools made up a large part of his output, both here and throughout northern California.

William Weeks was born on January 18, 1864 in Charlottetown on Canada's Prince Edward Island. His father was a builder, so the family moved a number of times. It is not clear how William obtained his architectural training -- perhaps he worked on his father's building projects. While in Wichita, Kansas he met and married Maggie Haymaker who bore him nine children. The young architect moved with his family to Watsonville in 1894 and soon had many projects in that city and in neighboring Salinas, Santa Cruz and Monterey.

His first commissions were a series of large homes done in the popular Queen Anne Style. Designs for banks, Carnegie funded libraries, schools and hotels followed.

Schools

In the 1920s, with new standards for earthquake safety, California needed many new schools. By 1930 Weeks could boast of eighty school projects which ranged from Santa Barbara to Red Bluff. His local works included Campbell Union Grammar School (1922), Woodrow Wilson Jr. High (1925), Roosevelt Jr. High (1926), Berryessa School (1927), Herbert Hoover Jr. High (1930), and the Campbell High School (1936).

His school buildings were almost all designed in the popular Spanish Colonial Revival Style, with bell towers, inner courtyards and arched walkways. His generous use of decorative tile by the local tile firm of Solon and Schemmel gave an added richness to these buildings.



*De Anza Hotel
Courtesy of Jack Douglas*



*Campbell High Auditorium (note tile work)
Photo by Jack Douglas*

Medico-Dental Building

At the time it was built (1927), Weeks' Medico-Dental Building was the tallest structure in town. Its distinctive vertical modern style lines made it stand out on East Santa Clara Street. This one-stop medical facility with attached two story parking garage was a new concept which fit in well with the new automobile age. (The Medico-Dental will soon be dwarfed by the new City Hall — one wonders how well parking and traffic congestion will be managed in the new millennium.)

Hotels

Weeks' architectural firm was responsible for a number of Bay Area hotels, many of which are in the distinctive Art Moderne Style. Foremost of these is the Palomar Hotel in Santa Cruz (1929) and San Jose's DeAnza Hotel (1931). These structures emphasize strong vertical lines and the subtle use of Spanish Colonial decorative elements that are consistent with their names.

Other Weeks' hotels in the area include the Monterey Hotel in Monterey (1922), the Durant in Berkeley (1928), and the Oxford (?) in San Francisco. He was responsible for the restoration of San Jose's rambling tourist hotel, the Vendome, after the wood frame structure was damaged in the 1906 earthquake.



*Roosevelt Senior High
Courtesy of Jack Douglas*



*Herbert Hoover Junior High School
Courtesy of Jack Douglas*

William Weeks, a dedicated professional, was active right up to the time of his death of a heart attack at the age of 72 in 1936. Though he maintained only temporary offices in San Jose, he was well known in our valley, and it is a reflection on his skill as an architect that most of his buildings here have been preserved or restored for present and future generations to appreciate. ♪

FINIALS AND FRETWORK

by April Halberstadt

Musings from a dedicated preservationist

Fredkin's Market Update

You may have seen the editorials in the Mercury News or heard about it elsewhere, but Storm Development will pay a fine of \$90,000 for the demolition of Fredkin's Market without a permit. The news is a comfort to local preservationists for several reasons. First, it sends a strong message to developers that the city wishes to preserve its old buildings. Second, it renews our faith in the City Attorney's willingness to see that local laws and ordinances are enforced. After watching some of the casual code enforcement efforts, we sometimes have our doubts in that regard. And finally the City Attorney has made these efforts in a timely manner, moving the process right along and keeping the interested parties informed. We like it when the Process works!

Now what happens. Storm Development still wants to build a replacement building to replicate the old Fredkin's Market and Walgreen's is still an interested tenant. But the process seems to have slowed somewhat during the summer months. Despite repeated rumors that San Jose Hospital will be demolished in the next few years, Walgreens is still interested in the site. They are also going to be opening another store in a downtown location. Neither the neighborhood or PACSJ has met with Storm in recent weeks. So at this time all we can say is that an opening date for the new Walgreens does not seem imminent.

Old Chinatown

San Jose's second Chinatown site, sometimes known as the Woolen Mills Chinatown was carefully excavated last May. The Caltrans archeology team led by Mark Hylkema invited scores of local politicians, city and county staff members and other interested parties to look at the extraordinary remnants of a little town that covered about six city blocks. Then the archaeologists carefully covered it all back up.

Caltrans is building an extension of the Guadalupe Expressway and the Chinatown site will soon be under a bridge and freeway off ramp near the Taylor Street exit. Under the federal regulations, Caltrans was required to excavate and document all significant historic and cultural sites. The Chinatown site revealed a little town with its own plumbing. Diggers uncovered a remarkable sewer system made of redwood and clay piping, an outdoor community fire pit for cooking meat which was apparently a precaution taken to avoid potential house fires, and many small artifacts such as household utensils and broken crockery.

Local preservationists are very interested in any historic archeology in the downtown since much of early San Jose from the pueblo period now rests just beneath the surface. Mark Hylkema has lectured extensively on this subject. Watch for announcements of future lectures.

The Agency Watch

There are times when it seems the Redevelopment Agency has finally gotten the message that it needs to follow federal guidelines regarding our historic structures. Then again there are still times when they seem to be totally oblivious to their legal responsibilities. The agency will be taking out another large chunk of the neighborhood behind the Convention Center, boarding up the houses and making no attempt to "mitigate" this round of destruction.

Our current look at the downtown shows that they are quietly destroying the Autumn Street neighborhood in order to expand parking for the Arena, the old Washington Square neighborhood near 5th and Santa Clara for the new City Hall, and the Balbach Street neighborhood for the expansion of the Convention Center.

Let's see here, are they interested in encouraging people to live downtown or not? It's hard to tell. On one hand they destroy entire residential enclaves, then insist they have to subsidize developers to build new downtown housing.

The neighborhoods surrounding the Downtown clamor for help for improving their housing stock and the Agency turns a deaf ear, pointing to the 20% of the RDA budget that goes to the Housing Department. It would be helpful if the RDA itself had a neighborhood revitalization strategy, but at this point they still prefer to remove housing from the downtown and replace it with apartments. Our score sheet shows approximately 120 houses currently earmarked for demolition by the RDA, about 68 houses in the Civic Center project alone. What's wrong with this picture?

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and diverse cultural history of The Alameda and San Jose through the use of photos, hands on activities and historical memorabilia. The Alameda was the original route traveled between the Pueblo de San Jose and Mission Santa Clara, part of the El Camino Real. Organizers promise the public many new features, in addition to antique and craft vendors, antique cars, horse-drawn carriage tours, history walks, historic photos and memorabilia, some dramatic moments and kids activities. Don't miss this enjoyable event.



PAC SJ Board of Director André Luthard and Bill Ryan of Swenson Builders compare original and replica doorknobs from the Letitia Building

Swenson Builders has recently completed a careful renovation of the Letitia, which was designed by Jacob Lenzen, one of early San Jose's most famous and active architects. Builder C. T. Ryland named the building in honor of his wife, Letitia, daughter of California's first governor, Peter Hardeman Burnett. With the tenants in place, the Letitia is a fine example of restoration and reuse of an historic commercial building. Swenson Builders is to be applauded ... preservationists look forward to an equally careful renovation of the adjoining Ryland Block.

LETITIA BUILDING VENUE FOR RECENT BOARD MEETING

PAC SJ Board of Directors held the May open board meeting in the Letitia Building, one of San Jose's most historic and loveliest structures. The directors, along with attending general members and guests, were led on a tour of the building by Bill Ryan of Swenson Builders. The Letitia, constructed in 1890, holds landmark status and is one of the most important structures in San Jose's Downtown Historic Commercial District.



Restored woodwork detail in Letitia Building entryway

GUADALUPE PARK & GARDENS INTERPRETIVE TOURS

Take a summertime stroll through San Jose's beautiful Guadalupe Park & Gardens. With tour guides giving information at points of interest along the way, this is an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and learn about our environment and history at the same time. Tours are scheduled for August 14 and September 18, beginning at the Garden Center, 715 Spring St., at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at noon with a docent-led presentation of the Heritage Rose Garden. Cost is \$7.00 a person, with a minibus to transport participants to the south end of the park to begin the tour. To reserve a space, and for further information, call the Garden Center at 408-798-7657.

JOSE THEATRE AND MONTGOMERY HOTEL IN HOLDING PATTERN

As we go to press, there are no final resolutions in place regarding the preservation of these two historic structures. We continue to be in litigation on behalf of both these buildings, awaiting the outcome of negotiations between the city and the developers. PAC SJ continues to be optimistic regarding the fate of these important issues. Mayor Gonzales has indicated his concern, and is attempting to initialize a resolution and settlement. We look forward to current and future efforts by city government to place high emphasis on preserving San Jose's built fabric, and the opportunity for PAC SJ to work closely with the city to achieve these goals.

RIVER STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

UPDATE

by André Luthard

From time to time people ask me “What is going on with the River Street houses?” The answer is a complex one, but be assured that PACSJ is continuing to work closely with all parties to move this exciting project forward.

A couple of years ago, the River Street Development Group (RSDG), of which PACSJ is a partner, began the process of securing a construction loan to fund the rehabilitation of our nine building enclave. To our surprise, we were told that no loan would be forthcoming due to two issues; 1) uncertainty surrounding the Flood Control Project/Guadalupe River Park and its schedule of completion, and 2) lack of sufficient parking.

Concurrent to this discovery, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Santa Clara Valley Water District and other agencies were sued by a coalition of environmental organizations concerned about the migratory fish population of the Guadalupe River and the impact of the flood control project on the riparian habitat. After many months of negotiations, an agreement was reached to redesign the Flood Control Project/River Park and leave the riverbank substantially unchanged. For those of us who have been involved in this project over the years, this means that most of the 43 historic buildings in the district would not have needed to be demolished for the flood control project!

Also, in approximately the same time frame, PACSJ was petitioning the City Council to expand the boundary of the City Historic District to include all remaining historic structures in the district!

Ultimately, the Flood Control Project design, parking issues, Guadalupe River Park Master Plan and Historic District designation came under the aegis of the Guadalupe River Park Task Force. I represent PACSJ on that committee. After several more months of fact finding, planning and meetings, the GRP Task Force is close to making a final recommendation that preserves the remaining 22 historic structures, creates an Historic District as part of the River Park, and addresses the needs of the flood control project. I am hopeful that even before the master plan is approved, the RSDG can begin restoration of our buildings.

Finally, PACSJ and Garavaglia Architecture, with assistance from the City of San Jose and Redevelopment

Agency, submitted at the end of July a formal nomination to the State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO) in Sacramento to place River Street on the National Register of Historic Places. This is a huge step in formalizing the importance of River Street in the history of San Jose around the turn of the century.

We are all looking forward to when residents and visitors alike can visit and learn about the contribution that working Italians made to our city, while enjoying our beautiful Guadalupe River Park.☞

PELLIER PARK IN JEOPARDY

Local historians and preservationists, along with the Mirassou family, are very concerned about the status of this small but historically important park. Located on a tiny island in the middle of busy Julian Street, the park is a designated City Landmark, dedicated to the memory of Louis Pellier, known as the father of the prune industry in the Santa Clara Valley. The Pellier and Mirassou families are connected by early agricultural and vineyard/winemaking endeavors, as well as by marriage. Because of the surrounding fast traffic, the park is virtually inaccessible and has been closed for many years. It has been proposed that the park be resituated in a more beneficial location, including what remains of the plaques and other artifacts. The most logical location would be within the Guadalupe River Park or Fallon House areas. Funds were budgeted in '98/'99 to begin the design of the relocated park, and the funds to complete the project are allocated in the '99/'00 budget. We urge our readers to write or phone Councilmembers Cindy Chavez, Frank Fiscalini, or your area councilmember requesting that Pellier Park be rebuilt in another location in honor of these early San Jose/Santa Clara Valley pioneers, and that the project proceed in a timely fashion. Now that we have public art and parks honoring the Ohlone, Spanish and Mexican importance in the history of San Jose, maybe this is the opportune time for Captain Fallon's statue to come out of its expensive hideaway and take his place on the Julian Street traffic island.☞

**PACSJ
THESPIANS
SHINE IN THREE
MINUTE
SUCCESS STORY**

by Karita Hummer

A glow from the morning's President's award in the opening ceremonies of the California Preservation Foundation in Palm Springs, on May 21, Friends of the Jose Theatre had their debut with their performance, "We saved the Jose." Reducing the Jose story to three minutes was

a preposterous challenge, but with the able assistance of Ellen Garboske, who penned the narrative script, the cast performed admirably in word, dance ("soft shoe") and song ("Mammy, How I love you...") in showing the saga of the Jose, in throes of woes, anguish and success. Prepared to the teeth by rehearsal, props, slides by Tom Simon, and talent galore, the cast belted out and proclaimed PACSJ's success with all their heart. Props included heavy shoulder pads, rouge, money bags, and a kind of a shining armor to depict all the villains and hero of the city's long resistance and conversion. The cast included: Tom Simon (the new mayor, Ron Gonzales), Beth Wyman (Al Jolson and Frank Taylor), Jack Douglas (developer), Cherilyn Widell (the old mayor, Susan Hammer), Leslie Dill (preservationist) and Karita Hummer (narrator). The show is ready to take on the road and for an extended stay at the Jose Theatre!!



PACSJ members Jack Douglas, Beth Wyman, Tom Simon, Leslie Dill and Karita Hummer ham it up at CPF Conference

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CALENDAR



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.

<i>AUGUST</i>
14 (SAT) WALKING TOUR, GUADALUPE RIVER PARK & GARDENS 8:30AM (408) 798-7657 FOR INFORMATION
16 (MON) PACSJ OPEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 7PM MOTHER OLSON'S INN, 72 NORTH FIFTH STREET
<i>SEPTEMBER</i>
3-6 TAPESTRY IN TALENT FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS 1 OAM DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE
20 (MON) PACSJ OPEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 7PM MOTHER OLSON'S INN 72 NORTH FIFTH STREET
<i>OCTOBER</i>
3 (SUN) ALAMEDA HISTORY DAY FESTIVAL 1 OAM TO 5PM THE ALAMEDA NEAR HESTER AND HANCHETT AVENUES
16 (SAT) PUMPKINS IN THE PARK 1 OAM TO 4PM, ARENA GREEN
18 (MON) PACSJ OPEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 7PM MOTHER OLSON'S INN 72 NORTH FIFTH STREET

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