

CONTINUITY

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Preservation Action Council of San Jose
Dedicated to Preserving San Jose's Architectural Heritage

Summer, 2018

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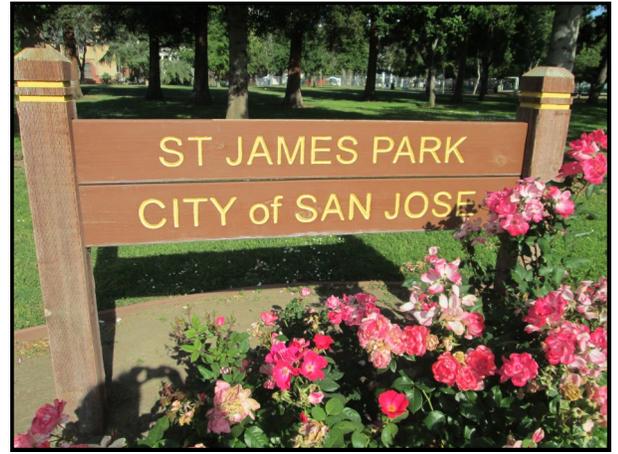
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What's New at St. James Park By Ed Bautista

In the mid-1800s, downtown's St. James Park became San José's primary public area. By the turn-of-the 20th Century it had reached its peak in popularity as a park where citizens would congregate in open space.

Over the years, the historic St. James Park area has undergone many transformations and master plans. The park itself had its own master plan in 1985 and, in 2001, a historical analysis defined seven-character-defining features of the park. Another master plan followed in 2002 to ensure a presence of historic fabric meshed with the demands of a modern civic center.



The latest design plans, *St. James Park – Remember – Imagine*, is intended to preserve the relationship between the park and the buildings, primarily historic, that surround it, while reinvigorating it for recreation and enjoyment in the 21st century.



The children's playground at St. James Park.

While the major improvements and design are still in the development stage, San José's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) has a continuing goal of activating the park through interim improvements while work continues on the future park design.

(Cont'd p. 3)

PAC*SJ Executive Director's Message

It's almost summertime and the livin' is supposed to be easy, but that's not the case as the threats to our historic resources continue and we deal with those threats and fulfill our mission to preserve the architectural heritage of San Jose.

As we went to press we learned of an egregious action by the County of Santa Clara. They granted a demolition permit to allow the destruction of structures on a historic resort site known as Twin Creeks located in New Almaden in unincorporated Santa Clara County.

The permit was granted knowing there was interest in saving the structures and also knowing these were likely historic resources. The County's Historic Inventory is out-of-date and no historic report was done prior to issuing the demolition permit.

We are working with other interested parties and gathering additional information, but it appears the County may have violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by not requiring appropriate historic review prior to the issuance of the permit.

This may be just the beginning of this saga so watch for more details as we attempt to remedy this outrageous action by the County.

Meanwhile in San Jose, the Station Area Advisory Group (SAAG) continues to review the potential impacts from the proposed Google campus project that encompasses much of the Diridon Station Area. As noted previously, the SAAG does not have an official representative from the historic preservation community. This was an intentional decision by the city to exclude the historic preservation community and continues to give us a diminished voice as this likely project moves forward.

We continue to make the City, Google and the SAAG aware of the potential impacts this proposal could have on historic resources as best we can, but not having a voice at the table puts historic preservation at a distinct disadvantage.

The SAAG will continue to meet for several months, but it remains unclear what the end result of its meetings will be.



Brian Grayson
At First Church on St. James St.
Photo: Silicon Valley Community Newspapers

In the meantime, we and some members of the SAAG will continue to raise the issue of historic preservation in order to include it as part of the discussion as this proposal moves from concept to reality.

Fundraising continues as we work to raise enough to restore the iconic Stephen's Meat Products Dancing Pig neon sign. We are edging towards 2/3 of our goal so we are making progress but we still have work to do to reach the goal. If you haven't already donated please make a gift to help restore the sign.

We continue our work to save other historic San Jose signs. One of those is the Diving Lady sign that advertises the City Center Motel. The good news is that the developer is willing to save the sign and reuse it if possible. If it can't be successfully incorporated into the project it will be relocated to a site where it can hopefully be viewed by the public.

In more promising news, we are pleased to welcome the City of San Jose's new Historic Preservation Officer (HPO), Juliet Arroyo. Juliet's experience includes having served as the City of Glendale's Historic Preservation Officer and owner of Arroyo Resources Consulting in Los Angeles for the past 12 years. Juliet has experience in design review, environmental review, peer review, design guidelines, resource identification/assessment and surveys and related documentation of historic and cultural resources. As a professional Architectural Historian and Preservation Planner, she is well versed in community outreach and stakeholder engagement. Juliet holds a B.S. in Geography from California State University, Fresno and a Master of Arts in Urban Planning from University of California, Los Angeles. *(Cont'd p. 3)*



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Editor: Gayle Frank

Please submit your letters and comments to info@preservation.org

Or to 1650 Senter Rd, San Jose, CA 95112-2599

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*PAC*SJ is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization*

St. James (Cont'd)

The month of May is National Pet Month and pet owners now have a new dog park at St. James to run and play with their favorite pets. The new temporary dog park opened last month with 3,000 square feet. Residents and community members can bring their dogs, let them off leash, and frolic in the safe, enclosed area. Pet owners even have a bench to sit on and those ever-needed “doggie clean-up bag stations” are available.



The new temporary dog park at St. James Park.

(Photo: Ed Bautista)

Summer will soon be here and through *Viva Parks Downtown*, formerly known as *It's Happening in St. James Park*, PRNS's Placemaking Team will once again offer activities and programs. This summer, program elements will focus on health and wellness, personal fitness, local music and performances, and celebrating the arts—all under the umbrella of family (and pet) friendly programming.

Whether you grab a bite to eat, step out of the office and hold your meeting under the shade of a tree, or participate in any of the free activations, St. James Park provides a perfect location to engage with your community or unplug to enjoy your natural surroundings. The season is set to launch this month, and is expected to continue through the

end of September. Stay connected and visit our website for our summer calendar of events at sanjoseca.gov/placemaking.

To help keep the park clean and green, our parks team has just recently named a new groundskeeper, Joseph Parra, for St. James Park. He will increase the maintenance operations of the park, including mowing, weed

abatement, removing a non-working drinking fountain and dead trees with a new truck, trailer and mower equipment dedicated to the park.

As the days get longer and the weather more perfect, stop by St. James Park and bring your dog or take in a class or listen to music. Things are happening at St. James Park. ☼

Ed Bautista, CFEE, is from the Office of the Director, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services.

To view an excellent video on the history of St. James Park, produced by Sourisseau Academy at SJSU, go to www.sanjosehistory.org/2015/07/03/st-james-park/

E.D. Message (Cont'd)

Our thanks to Susan Walsh who has been serving as the City's HPO. Susan has been handling the HPO duties in addition to her responsibilities of supervising the Planning Department's Environmental Team. She will continue as Supervisor of the Environmental Team and assist with the transition of the HPO responsibilities.

Thanks also to the City's Planning Official, Steve McHarris. Steve recently left San Jose to join the City of Milpitas as Deputy City Manager. Steve has been a friend of PAC* SJ and has been very supportive of historic preservation within the city.

We wish him good luck in his new position and thank him for his efforts on behalf of preservation and good planning.

Have a great Summer! Keep an eye on our Facebook page, watch for updates on our newly redesigned website, be sure to renew your membership when you receive your renewal notice and please become a member if you are not already one. ☼

— **Brian Grayson, Executive Director**

Saving a San Jose Treasure

The Victorian-era apartment building at 8 East Reed Street has been on the potential chopping block to make way for the new hi-rise tower project at 600 S. First Street. The San Jose City Planning Department is working with the developer to find a suitable site for the building to be relocated.

The handsome two-story structure (pictured right) is green with white trim and holds four residential units.

The project by KT Urban, called Garden Gate Tower, proposes the construction of a 27-story high-rise tower to include up to 285 residential units with ground floor retail, common open space and a rooftop outdoor terrace.

This is the same project that threatens the City Motel Sign (see page 10) and the brick one-story building occupied by Garden City Construction at 618 S. First Street. ☞



Victorian-era Apartment Building at 8 E. Reed St.

(Photo: Gayle Frank)

San Jose City News

Historic Preservation Office

The City of San Jose now has an official Historic Preservation Officer, Juliet Arroyo, officially joining the City on Monday, April 23rd. To learn more about her background, see page 2.

On another note, Steve McHarris has left his post as planning official and deputy director of the San Jose Planning, Building, & Code Enforcement Department to rejoin the City of Milpitas as the Deputy City Manager. Steve was a great supporter of historic preservation and he will be missed.

A New Light Tower?

The San Jose City Council has unanimously endorsed the San Jose Light Tower Corporation (SJLTC) to move

forward with plans to design and construct an artistically inspired and iconic structure downtown, as a gift to the City of San Jose.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services and the Office of Economic Development/Office of Cultural Affairs will guide the SJLTC on site selection, amenities, and fundraising strategies for this proposal. The design for this light tower, as a tribute to San Jose's light tower from the past, will be selected from a worldwide competition for the best design.

The project's goal is to complete the light tower by 2022. ☞

Notable Quotable

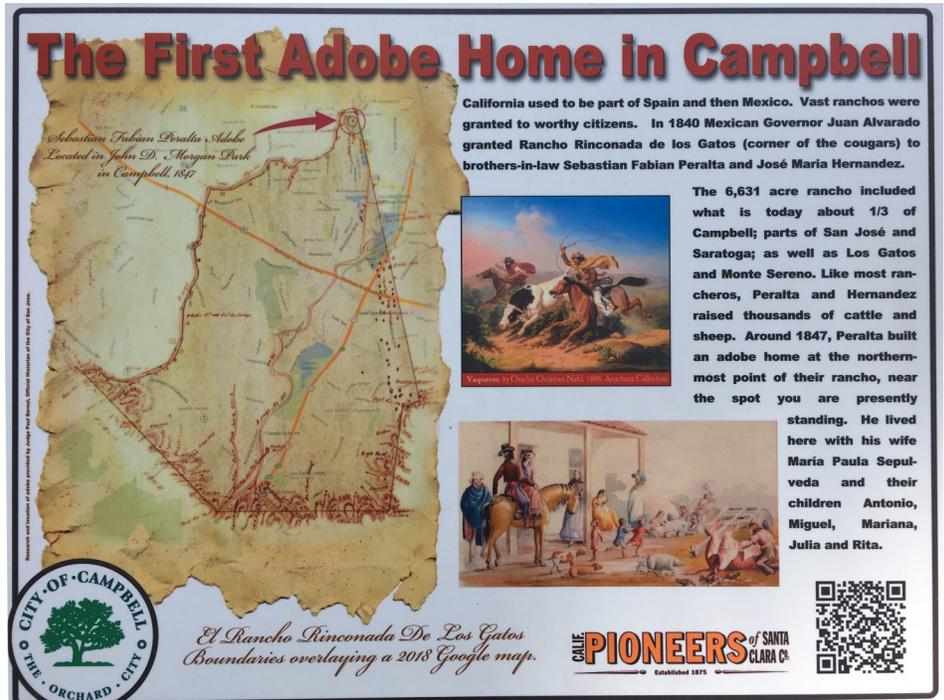
We want to know...the beautiful or useful things that were built and the originality that was shown, the adaptations that were made and the grace-notes to life that were sounded...We want to keep before our eyes as part of our lived life as a people, and as connecting links between a past which millions of Americans helped make and a future we must continue to make.

— Sidney Hyman,
"With Heritage so Rich" [1966]

Celebrating Local History

Marker Raised for Adobe Site in Campbell

On May 9, historians, guests and 200 fourth graders celebrated the new marker (see right) placed at John D. Morgan Park in Campbell that established the location of the first adobe home built in Campbell around 1847. The marker has been placed at the site where the small adobe was built by Sebastian Peralta (nephew of Joseph Peralta of downtown San Jose's Peralta Adobe). Sebastian Peralta (1794-1859) and his brother-in-law, Jose Maria Hernandez, were given the Rancho Rinconada de los Gatos (6,631 acres) by the Governor of Alta California where they both worked as cattle and sheep ranchers. The marker was a joint project of the City of Campbell and the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. ❧



The new marker, placed in John D. Morgan Park in Campbell, honors the site of Sebastian Peralta's home (circa 1847) in Rancho Rinconada de los Gatos.



Antioch Baptist Church Celebrates 125 Years

The Antioch Baptist Church (pictured left) is celebrating its 125th year anniversary. It has been located at the same site, 268 E. Julian Street, since its founding in 1893. The Church is the oldest African American Baptist Church in San Jose. In 1996, the Church was added to the City of San Jose's Historical Landmark inventory. For more information on the Church, visit abcsj.org. ❧

Save the Date: PAC*SJ Walking Tour



Historic River Street District

Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018

10 AM-11:30 AM

Tour Guide: André Luthard

Don't miss out on our first historic walking tour this year. Tours are only \$10 each for PAC*SJ members and \$15 for non-members. To reserve your spot on this walking tour, go to our website, www.preservation.org or call 408-988-8105. Space is limited. For questions, email us at info@preservation.org.

About the River Street District

Join PAC*SJ for an enlightening tour of the River Street Historic District, a neighborhood with local and national significance that sits between W. Julian and W. St. John Streets.

The River Street neighborhood originated even before 1875, with early settlers arriving from northern Europe. Sometime after 1884, Italian immigrants began to move into San Jose, and by 1925 two-thirds of the homes in the River Street District were owned by families of Italian ancestry. The Torino Hotel (present-day Henry's Hi-Life) became the center of culture for the neighborhood.

The River Street district is important because of the people who built the homes and lived there. These residents were not the "rich and famous" who had mansions along the Alameda, but were the common men, many working immigrants, such as lumbermen, cigar store owners, carpenters, railway men,



Photos: Gayle Frank

laborers, plumbers, bookkeepers, cannery workers, etc.

The homes in the district were modest interpretations of a handful of architectural styles popular between 1875 and 1925, designed and built without the services of an architect. More than a few homes were built by their owners who then sold them to build a second home in the neighborhood. Out of the original 43 structures, 19 remain and the majority of the houses are now restored for adaptive re-use. The District was vulnerable to flood waters so the flood control project necessitated reducing the number of houses. The rescued houses were selected to represent the various styles and designs of the District.

The River Street District was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1988 and was designated a City of San Jose Landmark District in 1997. PAC*SJ spent ten years working to preserve and establish this District.

— André Luthard

A walking tour of the Shasta Hanchett Neighborhood is scheduled for Saturday September 22. More details will follow in the Fall Continuity.

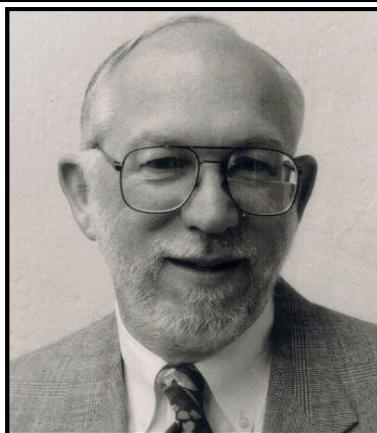
Meet Our New Board Member

Walter Soellner joined the PAC*SJ Board in March and has already participated in several "Save the Dancing Pig" campaign events. In April, he invited the Board to his house for its monthly meeting.

Walter is a retired Professor of Art and Design at Evergreen Valley College. He is currently writing a historic fiction 5-book series¹ with the fourth book coming out at the end of 2018. The series follows the adventures of two families across four continents and three generations during the first half of the 20th century.

Walter grew up in Detroit and later earned multiple degrees (B.S., M.A., and M.F.A.). He has taught at the University of North Carolina and one summer at Hust University in Wuhan, China. From 1978 until 2004 Walter taught at Evergreen Valley College.

Walter and his wife, Sandra Soellner, live in a lovely Victorian home in downtown San Jose. Sandra also volunteers often for PAC*SJ events. In fact, the first PAC*SJ Hat Party was held at their house in 2006.



Walter Soellner

Walter was a founding partner of Precious Objects Gallery in Los Gatos. He has served on the following boards: California Crafts Museum, S.F.; Society of North American Goldsmiths; Retired Faculty Assoc. of the SJECCD (Evergreen College); Victorian Preservation Association; the San Jose Arts Commission; and the South University Neighborhood Association. As Walter likes to say, "I am a long-time board member—of many boards."

Walter's interests are: local public service, cycling, reading, movies, collecting 19th century militaria, Asian Art, and 19th & 20th century paintings. He travels to many sites featured in

his books including China, Egypt, Japan, Russia, Africa, Middle East, Central America, England, Europe and the Mediterranean countries. He has told us, "I spend most of my free time writing my book series."

PAC*SJ is pleased that Walter Soellner has joined our Board. Welcome!! ☘

¹ Book 1: "The Perilous Journey;" Book 2: "The Storm That Shook The World;" Book 3: "An Incident In Africa."

Donate for Our Dancing Pig Sign

You can help our campaign to restore and relight the Stephen's Meat Products Dancing Pig sign by donating to the Save the Pig fund. Donations may be made at our website:

www.preservation.org/donations

Any amount will help, and we will match a portion of the funds donated. The assessment and estimates are in progress to determine the costs to repair and maintain the sign. Thanks for your support and together we will have the pig dancing again!

GIVE A HAM!
HELP SAVE OUR
DANCING
PIG!



To learn more visit:
The San Jose Signs Project

www.preservation.org/pac_donate.html

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ON THE RADAR



Pellier Park

Sometime in June the City of San Jose will lay down sod and install irrigation on the parcel it owns as the former Pellier Park near W. Julian Street. The grass will be temporary until

the final park restoration takes place but in the meantime, it is an improvement over dirt. A remaining triangular plot of land is in the process of being transferred to the City to be included in the future Pellier Park. The public art design component is expected to be completed soon and construction will hopefully begin in May/June of 2020. We may have a completed park by the Fall of 2021. The public outreach process will be starting soon and will include community meetings.

Scheller House

PAC*SJ has received a written response from San Jose State University (SJSU) to our early January letter about our concerns for the Scheller House. A letter from the VP of Administration & Finance/CFO confirms that SJSU has no intention of demolishing the historic house, but it does plan to relocate it on campus.

Station Area Advisory Group

Future plans for the Diridon Station area are being explored with a cross section community team called the Station Area Advisory Group, or SAAG. Upcoming events to which the public is invited include walking tours and presentations on various topics such as housing, jobs, transportation, education, public space, neighborhoods and land use/design.

The future of our city will be dramatically impacted with what happens in this Diridon Station area of about 240 acres, bounded by Highway 280, Market Street, Stockton Avenue, and the Guadalupe River. To learn more and find events to attend, visit www.diridonsj.org.

City Center Motel Sign

PAC*SJ is exploring the options for saving the City Center Motel sign (below) at the SE corner of 600 S. First and Reed Streets. The iconic neon sign includes a small lady diver along with words and an arrow.

The parcel is scheduled for a high-rise residential tower and the owners/developers have agreed to at least install the top portion of the sign on the roof of their proposed building near the swimming pool but it will be mostly invisible to the general public. One preferable option includes moving the sign in one piece to an alternate space.

PAC*SJ is working with the developer in hopes of finding a solution that will preserve the sign and keep it visible to the public.



(Photo: Gayle Frank)



PAC*SJ is Still Keeping An Eye On —

- First Church
- Graves House
- 27 S. First St.
- 170 Park Avenue
- Wehner Mansion
- Agnews Developmental Center

PAC*SJ 2018 Calendar

- Jun 16** Saturday, 6:00-9:30 PM. History San Jose Annual Fundraiser at History Park.
- Jun 18** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. Off-site. Call for more information.
- Jun 21-23** PAC*SJ **Yard Sale**, Thurs, Fri., Sat. 260 S. 13th St. To donate or volunteer, please send an email to donations@preservation.org.
- Jul 16** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House. *
- Aug 20** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House. *
- Aug 25** Saturday, 10 am. PAC*SJ **Walking Tour** of River Street Historic District.
- Sept 17** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House. *
- Sept 22** Saturday, 10 am. PAC*SJ **Walking Tour** of Shasta Hanchett Neighborhood.
- Oct 15** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House. *
- Nov 13-16** National Trust Historic Preservation Conference, PastForward 2018. Details at: savingplaces.org/
- Nov 19** Monday, PAC*SJ Board Meeting & Annual Meeting, 6:30—8 PM. History San Jose, Pasetta House. * ** Call 408-998-8105 or email us to confirm meeting location*

History San Jose's 2018 Annual Fundraiser

635 Phelan Ave



June 16, 6-9:30

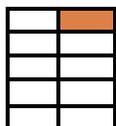
The theme for this year's annual fundraiser that benefits the award-winning HSJ Education Programs is Celebrating the Valley at Play! and the innovations that revolutionized entertainment in our Valley. HSJ invites you to a night out to play at History Park! You can flash back to the era of electromechanical pinball machines and games that revolutionized entertainment right here in the Valley of Heart's Delight! '70s and '80 attire is encouraged! You will experience live music, fabulous food by Catered Too!, a silent auction, and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play on vintage machines outside, under the stars, in the gaming area.

Find details at <http://historysanjose.org/wp/event/valley-of-hearts-delight-fundraiser/>

ADVERTISE IN CONTINUITY!

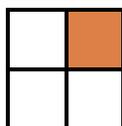
Continuity is distributed to over 500 San Jose preservationists, homeowners and decision-makers. It's a great way to get your message out to your best potential customers! For ads larger than the business card, you must supply camera-ready artwork, or PAC*SJ can provide it at an additional charge.

Buy ads in 6 issues and SAVE! Plus, all multiple-issue ads come with a free membership!



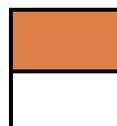
Business Card

Single issue \$50
3 issues \$120



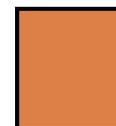
1/4 Page

Single issue \$100
3 issues \$250



1/2 Page

Single issue \$200
3 issues \$450



Full Page

Single issue \$375
3 issues \$700

PAC*SJ Busy Campaigning for Pig Sign

PAC*SJ members have been busy attending events in San Jose for our campaign to restore San Jose's iconic dancing pig, the Stephen's Meat Sign at 105 S. Montgomery Street.

The SoFA Street Fair on South First Street, April 22, was our first Spring outing. We staffed a booth starting at 2 pm and were able to talk with a multitude of attendees about how important it is to save the neon dancing pig sign.

Buttons and t-shirts picturing our beloved pig were popular items sold that day.

At the second event on May 6, PAC*SJ volunteers staffed a booth at History San Jose Park for the Bicycle Festival. Again, blue and white t-shirts with the pig sign logo and more little piggies on the back were a hit, along with the buttons in 3 different sizes. Flyers were handed out and our "San Jose Signs Project" books were also sold. ☘



Gratia Rankin, John Mitchell and Doug Crafts promote our Save the Dancing Pig Sign Campaign at SoFA. (Photo: Gayle Frank)



Above, André Luthard and Walter Soellner at the History San Jose Bicycle Festival. (Photo: Walter Soellner)



Left, Lisa Wangsness and Heather David at the SoFA Street Fair. (Photo: Patt Curia)

PAC*SJ Summer Garage Sale



June 21-23
260 S. 13th Street, San Jose

Visit us on June 21-23 for a chance to buy unique and vintage items at great prices.

Hours

Thursday, June 21 & Friday, June 22

8 am till dark

Saturday, June 23: 8 am till noon.

Please bring donations to the porch after June 1st. Usable and useful items as well as strange, vintage and weird items are welcome. Contact Patt Curia to volunteer or to donate at donations@preservation.org.

Left, If you have always wanted a historic Dictaphone, here's your chance.

(Photos: Patt Curia)



*A mid-century Vohann vase with metal stand for sale at the PAC*SJ Garage Sale.*

CA State Archives Launches Digital Alfred Eichler Exhibit

The California State Archives has launched its latest online exhibit: "Alfred Eichler: Art and Architecture in the Golden State." Eichler influenced architecture across the state with his diversity of styles including brutalist to Spanish mission revival to midcentury modern.

The exhibit features Eichler's drawings and paintings housed at the California State Archives and includes San Quentin Prison, Camarillo State Hospital, renovated Benicia State Capitol building, Sacramento's Tower Bridge, and buildings on the campuses of San Diego State, University of California at Santa Barbara, the Science Building #2 at San Jose State University and more.

Alfred Eichler is not to be confused with the well-known post-war developer of Mid-Century modern style tract housing in California, Joseph L. Eichler. His designs introduced modern architecture from custom residences and corporate buildings to the general public. Joseph Eichler housing tracts still endure throughout the greater Bay Area and in Southern California.

The Alfred Eichler online exhibit, hosted by Google Arts and Culture, is accessed at artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/PgIy5a954-OUIw or google Alfred Eichler.

PastForward 2018

Save the date—November 13-16

The National Trust for Historic Preservation PastForward Preservation Conference comes to San Francisco! From its golden bridges to its painted ladies, San Francisco conjures up distinctive images of landmarks, architecture, and bohemian culture.

At the PastForward conference, iconic San Francisco will be featured—see a progressive city that is tackling climate change and urban density while maintaining its cultural landscape and intangible heritage issues that will resonate with preservation practitioners across the country.

For more information go to:
<https://savingplaces.org/conference>.

PAC*SJ Members Visit Grant Ranch House & Park

PAC*SJ members toured the Grant Ranch House at the Joseph D. Grant County Park on Saturday, April 7. The group was treated to an excellent guided tour by Lisa Papanastos, County Park Ranger (and PAC*SJ member). Lisa has worked for the County Parks since 1995, much of it at the Grant Ranch Park.

We met in front of the ranch house and cookhouse while admiring the stately oaks in front. The house was originally built by Adam Hubbard in



Adam Hubbard



Joseph D. Grant

1881 and was much smaller and less grand. Joseph D. Grant (1858-1942) purchased the ranch house from Hubbard's son in 1927, expanding and remodeling the house to 13 rooms; 7 bedrooms, 6 baths, an office and several large sitting rooms. Many more out-buildings were also added. Grant's goal was to replicate the original

Rancho Cañada de Pala from earlier days.

Our tour proceeded to the interior of the large, two-story ranch house, which was a pleasant surprise. It was like entering the 1930s, and although most of the furnishings were not original to the house, the look and feel was authentic. Through the front door, J. D. Grant's office was located to the right, holding his safe, ledgers, desk and copies of stocks/bonds and company certificates on the walls. He was a skillful businessman and made his money in a power company, oil, steel, real estate and railroads. Grant was an important

contributor to the industrial development on the West Coast along with his influential friends such as Leland Stanford. Their endeavors resulted in less dependency on East Coast products.

One of the first floor bedrooms, belonging to Grant's eldest daughter, Josephine Grant McCreery, is filled with photos and mementos of her and her husband's life at the ranch. After her father died, Josephine managed the ranch until her death in 1972. A second first floor bedroom holds photos and artifacts from the younger Grant daughter, Edith.



Josephine Grant McCreery

A large bedroom upstairs, with a dramatic view of Lick Observatory through a wide bay window, holds artifacts, photos and a few original furnishings belonging to J. D. Grant.

(Cont'd p. 14)



A stately oak in front of Grant Ranch House and tank house. (Photo: Gayle Frank)

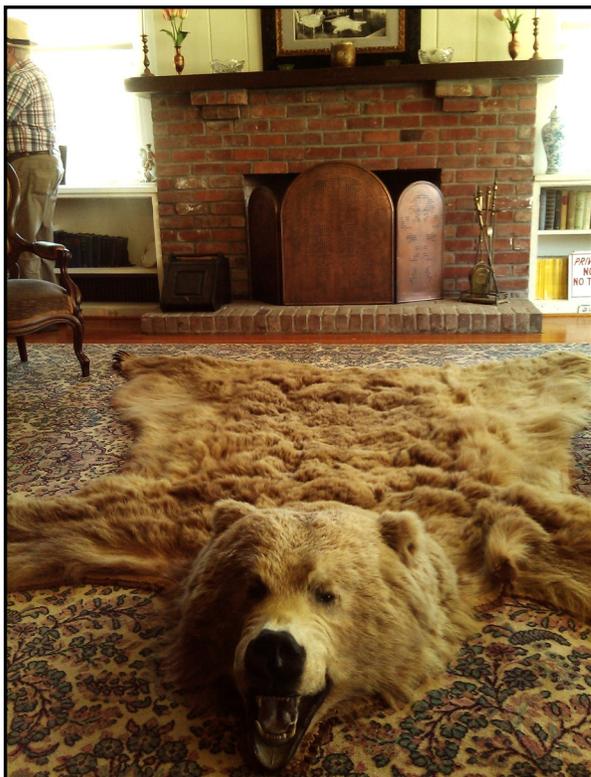
Grant Ranch Visit (Cont'd)



(Photo: Gayle Frank)

*PAC*SJ tour group: top row, Robb Moore, Stan Ketchum, John Mitchell, Tim McAuliff and Bill Traill. Bottom row, Jack Nadeau, Patt Curia, Sandra Ketchum, Mary Paigly, Soteria Riester, Ester Scarborough and Lisa Pappanastos*

In the upstairs hall, an exhibit with photos illustrates Grant's passion for saving redwood trees. He served as President of Save the Redwoods League for 21 years and was instrumental for legislation creating a centralized state park system.



Left, grizzly bear rug in one of the sitting rooms in the Grant Ranch House.

(House photos: Gayle Frank)

The main kitchen was separately maintained in the cookhouse next door but a small pantry with appliances and a sink was installed off the main rooms of the house for simple preparation of snacks or light meals.

Original photos and artifacts of the family are displayed throughout the house, many donated by Grant's living granddaughter, Elspeth Grant Bobbs.

We then walked through the other buildings on site: the cookhouse, the staff living quarters, caretaker's residence, the carriage house, garage, etc. Past the historic gardens, where restored San Francisco street lights are installed, we walked down to a lower group of buildings where signage informed us of Mount Hamilton Road history and the 12-hour round trip from San Jose's Hotel Vendome to the Observatory during the horse and buggy days. The road was built in 1876 to enable the construction of Lick Observatory.

(Cont'd p. 14)



One of the sitting/game rooms in the Grant Ranch House.

Grant Ranch (Cont'd)

The 10,000 acre Grant Ranch was almost lost to development. In the 1970s, thanks to a one-vote margin by Dominic Cortese, the Santa Clara County Supervisors approved the purchase of the Grant Ranch to be transformed and preserved as a county park. This site, with its wide expanses of natural settings, is an excellent reminder of the early ranch history of our Valley. (See next page for more information about saving the Grant Ranch.)

The following is a quote from a letter dated October 2, 1975 from John B. Dewitt, Secretary and Executive Director of Save the Redwoods League who wrote to then Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Dominic L Cortese:

"Dear Mr. Cortese, I want to thank you for your effective action to complete the Grant Ranch Park purchase. Future generations will praise your leadership and foresight in making possible this great public park for the people of the South Bay Area. The public will long remember your wise decision to make this park a reality. Sincerely, (Signed) John B. Dewitt" (Source: Santa Clara County Archives: Grant Ranch). ☿ — Gayle Frank



Left, one of the 7 bedrooms in the Ranch House.

Right, entry and staircase of Grant Ranch House.

(Photos: Gayle Frank)



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Grant Ranch - The County Park That Almost Wasn't

By John Mitchell

A large area of land in the east foothills which we know today as Joseph D. Grant Park was primarily used for ranching and cattle grazing since the days when it was part of an even larger Spanish land grant known as Rancho Cañada de Pala.

After the passing of patriarch Joseph D. Grant (1858-1942) and his daughter Josephine (1899-1972), the ranch that bore his name was passed on to the Menninger Foundation of Houston and the Save the Redwoods League. The two institutions managed the property from afar as neither had a strong link or interest in the ranch, which was leased to surrounding cattle operations for grazing.

In the early 1970's I used to visit friends who lived in Hall's Valley just along Mt. Hamilton Road. They rented the small house overlooking Grant Lake. The house sat on a 40 acre parcel that was surrounded by a much larger piece of property commonly known as Grant Ranch.

The house of my friends, Cindy Jones and Kent Newman, was small but the living room had a nice picture window that allowed us to observe wildlife on and around the lake below. They had a telescope for closer observation of ducks, wild pig and deer.

At given times of the year vast flocks of Canada Geese would use the lake as a rest stop on their migrations to and fro along the Pacific flyway. Once as we were admiring a flock of hundreds of geese floating on the lake a Bald Eagle swooped down and glided the length of the lake only a few feet above the heads of the geese. As if synced to a single brain the geese all rose up simultaneously and took flight.

We enjoyed the beauty of the ranch. The peace and tranquility made all the hustle and bustle of busy San Jose seem very far away.



One day we received news that the ranch was to be sold

to some speculators who intended to turn the ranch into a vast development of mini ranch-ette type properties. New paved roads and houses would be complemented with a country club, golf course and other amenities.

Cindy and I decided that would be a terrible thing to happen to the ranch. While she lived on the small separately owned parcel, the idea of development all around seemed like a bad plan for the scenic hills and wildlife. We decided to act.

It was not our deliberate intention to make the Grant Ranch into a park. In fact no one thought of it as a park. We just "knew" what it wasn't supposed to be—a vast swanky subdivision. We had seen plenty of that kind of development spread across the entire Santa Clara Valley.

No, we just wanted to save the ranch and keep it intact as a whole, thinking it should remain as is for posterity. We didn't consider ourselves "preservationists" as that word was not part of our vocabulary—yet. We were simply out to keep the ranch from being broken up.

It is fortunate that Cindy and I were young and naïve, otherwise we would not have undertaken the task of saving the ranch. We had gotten word that the asking price for this piece of heaven was "about 3 million dollars." We considered who would have that much money and be interested in buying a working cattle ranch.

Then Cindy and I began a campaign where we called on every environmental organization that we could think of. We met with the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy and then approached the Save the Redwoods League hoping they would simply buy out the half interest of the Menninger Foundation and keep the entire ranch.

The polite reply we got from everyone was the same: no. While the property was beautiful, there was a lot of land in the Diablo Range that looked the same. We were told there was nothing unique about the Grant Ranch that made it an obvious candidate for protecting.

(Cont'd p. 16)

Grant Ranch (Cont'd)

There were no soaring mountain peaks, no raging rivers and not even any giant ancient trees. There was the small stand of redwoods Joseph Grant himself planted near the ranch house but that didn't qualify as a natural ecological site.

Someone suggested that we contact the Santa Clara County Parks department as they had an acquisition fund specifically for buying land for park use. This fund was reported at that time to be nearly thirty million dollars! So we approached the County Parks Department and met with the director. But he was adamant that county parks would not buy the Grant Ranch saying it was, "too far, a bad road and no one would use it." We were discouraged. In the meantime Cindy told me that she had seen, "business types [people] with suits and ties driving around the property."

We then decided to approach the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors; after all they controlled the county parks and those park acquisition funds. By now we improved our approach with a polished appeal on saving the habitat and protecting the environment.

We made appointments with each of the five supervisors and gave them our "pitch." All the supervisors were polite, exhibited interest and said they would consider buying the ranch. Individually they all seemed open to the idea. However after some deliberations with other county personnel including no doubt the Parks Director, the idea of acquiring the ranch was turned down.

The Grant Ranch was destined to become sub-divided into hundreds of small parcels. Streets with fenced mini pastures and modern, upscale housing would replace the bucolic and quiet tranquility of nature.

Then one day I was talking to my good friend Frank Schiavo who taught environmental studies at San Jose State University (SJSU). He suggested we talk to Dr. Don Aitken who founded the Environmental Studies Department at SJSU and was called upon occasionally to give expert testimony to the U.S. Congress. We managed to get

on the agenda for the next county supervisors meeting. It was at that public board meeting that Don spoke eloquently about the imperative for saving such a large intact piece of property for the sake of environmental protection. Such a sizable bio-diverse expanse was critical to a number of plant and animal species. The supervisors then voted to purchase the Grant Ranch with some of the county park acquisition funds.

The developers threatened a lawsuit but it never materialized. Even the attorney for the developers shook my hand and congratulated me for winning. I seem to recall his name was Warburton and he was pleased with the county plans for the purchase. I've always figured that even though he was the legal representative for the other side he knew the right course of action and that history would bear him out.

Neither Cindy Jones nor I ever expected a county park would evolve from the Grant Ranch. After a year spent running everywhere we could think of to find a savior with the financial means to save the ranch and keep it intact, the ranch grew into a park. It was the obvious and natural conclusion and we were ecstatic.

Cindy Jones passed away many years ago. She lived to see the ranch become a park and was pleased that wildlife would benefit with this arrangement. Along the way we grew from being ranch protectors, wildlife advocates and open space enthusiasts to what is called today— "preservationists." ☘



*Oak tree in front of Grant Ranch
Cookhouse. (Photo: Gayle Frank, 4/18)*

Exploring San Jose's City Landmarks

Here is the next San Jose Landmark from the City list. Check previous *Continuity* issues for earlier landmark descriptions on our website at www.preservation.org.

HL92-75; Lyndon Building, 177 W. Santa Clara St.

The Lyndon building (below) was designed by prominent architect Theodore Lenzen and constructed in 1884. The two-story brick commercial building was remodeled in the early 1900s with a new Beaux Arts architectural design.

Previously, Lenzen's original design had been an Italianate style with bay windows.

The upper story façade is ornate with an elaborate cornice supported with enlarged dentils (modillions) and a frieze (band) of medallions.

Four out of the five sets of rectangular windows on the second floor are encased in frames with rounded corners and a smaller glass section above. Pilasters with Corinthian capitals divide each window. Arched moldings surround the left, center and right windows with sculpted designs

placed above each window. Rectangular sculpted motifs are featured over the other two windows.

The ground floor holds three retail spaces at present: the 5 Points Bar (east), Britannia Arms (center), and the west side that appears vacant. There is a concrete addition attached to the west wall of the building with "SVG Innovation Center" signage. These ground-floor facades have been altered numerous times over the decades.

This building is especially historic because it was designed for a newspaper operation. Charles Shortridge purchased the Mercury newspaper from J. J. Owens and combined his Morning Times to form the Times-Mercury, moving into the Lyndon building in January, 1885. The printing presses operated on the vast loft-like second floor. By 1902, the business, now the San Jose Mercury News, moved to Lightston Alley. Other printing companies moved into the Lyndon building but eventually it was home for various restaurants such as the

(Cont'd p. 18)



Landmarks (Cont'd)

Balconades Ballroom, the Pacific Fish Co. Restaurant and Club Miami.

The California Public Market occupied the Lyndon Building beginning in 1930, where produce, dairy, bakery, fish and appliances were sold. A cigar store and later a beauty shop and watch repair shop also moved in.

By 1945, the Mercury Herald returned near to the Lyndon building but relocated to Ridder Park Drive in the late 1960s. By 1970, Heald Business College moved in, followed by various restaurants and offices.

The building underwent seismic retrofitting and rehabilitation after the west wall collapsed in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

The original building owner, John W. Lyndon (1836-1912), was a prominent Los Gatos businessman who arrived in Santa Clara Valley in

1859. He invested in land, primarily in Los Gatos, owning the Hotel Lyndon, the Opera House, a lumber yard and developed the first sub-division in Los Gatos, to name just a few of his endeavors. He, his wife and two daughters lived in a grand house on a knoll in Los Gatos. ☘



Above and below left, note ornate decoration at the cornice and upper floor windows.

Lower right, attractive façade of the eastern retail space.

(Photos: Gayle Frank)

- Sources: *Historic Reference Survey (Survey Reference #28), Glory Anne Laffey, 12/10/1991.*
- *Clyde Arbuckle's History of San Jose, 1985.*
- *The Trailblazer, June 2016, p. 7.*



Mt. Umunhum Tower Needs Assessment

As you know, the historic Radar Tower atop Mt. Umunhum has been spared the wrecking ball for now, but it has not yet been preserved. More work remains to make sure that it will be around for the future.

In April the MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District's (MidPen) Board of Directors was asked by its staff to take the first step towards such preservation, a professional engineering assessment of the Tower's condition. At that meeting the Board refused to authorize the assessment. Again, at the May 9 meeting it once again refused to allow the assessment to be conducted!

Note that the Umunhum Conservancy has offered to hire a qualified expert to perform an assessment. MidPen has informed the Conservancy that no such outside evaluation will be allowed.

Please let the MidPen board know that it must allow an engineering assessment of the Tower to be conducted! See contact information below.

Web: <https://openspace.org/about-us/board-member-contact-form>

Phone: 650-691-0485

Email: info@openspace.org

—Sam Drake / President / Umunhum Conservancy
www.umunhumconservancy.org

PAC*SJ Membership Application

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| Individual | \$40 |
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| Non-profit or School | \$25 |
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Preservation Action Council of San Jose Membership Application

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*Email addresses enable you to receive timely notices of news, announcements and events. PAC*SJ will not release your contact details to others without your consent.*

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Join at the \$100 level or above and receive a special premium, *Signposts Revisited*, by Pat Loomis or the Bay Area Mid-CenturyModern playing cards.

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PAC*SJ 2018 Board

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

We believe that historic preservation is **good for our quality of life, good for business, and good for the environment.** We aim to integrate a strong commitment to historic preservation into the land use and development decisions of the City of San Jose 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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