

## CONTINUITY

Preservation Action Council of San Jose Newsletter

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# Happy 10th Anniversary! Ten Years And Counting!

reservation Action Council of San Jose was formed ten years ago this month...in November of 1990. It's been a wild ride...lots of ups and downs...but the satisfaction of knowing that we are doing everything possible to preserve the historic fabric of San Jose has been rewarding beyond measure. Especially in light of the fact that until PACSJ was formed there was no organized effort to save historic buildings in San Jose, with the exception of the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission, which is a City commission and was sometimes up against constraints imposed by the City. In spite of those constraints the Commission achieved some important preservation successes. However, during those earlier years many of San Jose's most architecturally and historically important structures were demolished.

Every member and friend of PACSJ has been important in our preservation efforts. Our Grateful Thanks To Each Of You! By the time you receive this newsletter, PACSJ will have celebrated its tenth anniversary at the elegant Banker's Club in the 1926 Bank of Italy/Bank of America building in downtown San Jose. We hope that each of you enjoyed the event, and we thank you for joining us for this exciting celebration. Next issue of *Continuity* will have candid photos and a review of the event. In the meantime...Here's To The NEXT TEN YEARS!

#### NEW LIFE FOR THE SAINTE CLAIRE BUILDING

by Jack Douglas

The historic Sainte Claire Building, commonly known as Original Joe's, has been purchased by the Mobedshahi Hotel Group, the owners of the Sainte Claire Hotel. According to Shirley Lewis, former San Jose City Councilmember and currently Vice President of the Mobedshahi Hotel Group, plans are to renovate the long vacant upper floors as offices. Original Joe's will remain at its long-time location but the Hotel Group plans to remove the 1950s facade and return the corner to its historic configuration.



Sainte Claire Building c.1932 Gordon Collection Photo, SJSU Library



#### From the President

by John Olsen

As I write this, I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming event. It is really good for me to meet the people who support the cause, and I learn things at each of our events that only a large network can collect. In PACSJ's tenth year, it's clear that everyone's work and time over the decade has made a big difference, and we're making plans for the next ten.

Right now feels like the best of times and the worst of times! We're enjoying fantastic adaptive reuse projects and strong support for historic preservation from all quarters, and at the same time we're seeing huge pressures for new growth hinting further threats to historic districts. Both effects result from our happily booming economy.

We're seeing great results from a lot of past campaigns. The City of San Jose and the Redevelopment Agency are going full steam on major seismic retrofits to the Montgomery Hotel and the Jose Theatre, and are actively working with beautiful assortments of prospective operators for these, and for the Twohy Building also. San Jose State's Scheller House is on its way back to grandeur.

The city's long-needed downtown survey project is complete, although it points out some opportunities for further research. The Redevelopment Agency has launched a fine project to write guidelines for working with historic properties, in an effort to make things clearer for everyone when a project is conceived. We hope this will ultimately help prevent many future problems.

We just saw the groundbreaking for the adaptive reuse of the mighty Del Monte Plant 51 into an imaginative residential complex (to be named "Plant 51").

On the growth side, the Convention Center expansion and Almaden Boulevard development are gnawing steadily away at an old neighborhood. And the proposed city hall wants to usurp a historic neighborhood and tower 320 feet (32 stories) into the airways above what little will remain, while its employee parking garage(s) will litter the adjoining neighborhood. In fact, it is still hard to say week to week what the project will end up being, or how high the costs will go. (I repeat my theme of my last column: the benefits of this project do not nearly make up for the costs and losses!)

To make everyone even more jumpy, we all woke up one fine day to see a diagram in The Mercury News showing new highrises, each the size of the Knight-Ridder building, covering all the land for miles around downtown. When the shock wore off, I read that it was showing the implications of the growth predicted by BART-to-San-Jose planners. A few days later I saw a drawing published by the Downtown Strategy Task Force depicting new highrises completely enveloping St. James Park! In a bad story, I'd wake up and find it was a dream, but in reality, I make a few calls and hear, "don't worry, it's only a concept." Hmmm.

Well, I have no doubt that PACSJ's next ten years won't be boring. That's one reason why I'd like to encourage everyone to come out to our monthly board meetings (except in December!) and see just how much is going on, and how much PACSJ needs and relies on its members.

SAINTE CLAIRE continued from page 1

The building, located at the corner of South First and San Carlos Streets, was designed by the architectural firm of Weeks and Day, who also designed the Sainte Claire Hotel and the California Fox Theatre. All were T.S.Montgomery projects which were completed in the late 1920s and were part of the 1912-1927 Montgomery-inspired expansion of San Jose's commercial district down First Street.

The five-story Sainte Claire Building was constructed at a cost of \$300,000 in 1920s dollars. It will be wonderful to see this ornate terra cotta clad building come alive again.

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Ow-oooo! Ow-oooo! That's me and my pals baying at the moon in honor of the impending death of so many of our vintage haunts round-and-about San Jose. There's all those warm and friendly homes sitting in the path of that dagratted, misguided plan to move City Hall downtown, and all the other buildings planned to support it, not to mention the problems a fella' has crossin' an ever-more-congested street. My underground advisers tell me city-hellions, pardon me, meant hallions, keep harpin' about the need for more housing, yet they're out there plannin' to tear down houses to provide "daytime housing" for themselves. Where's the sensitivity in that toward those friendly folk with the ready hands to give a guy a handout or a pat on the head, or even a warm place to sleep on a cold night. Pretty hard to curl up against a cold pre-cast concrete wall.

Then there's that "concept" brochure RDA put out, Crossroads to Tomorrow, showing the possible ways to develop greater downtown San Jose. Even though it was only a concept, what nincompoop, excuse me, meant misguided two-legged animal, even had a passing thought of putting high rises all around St. James Square, one of our most important historic districts. It appears that idiotic thinker proposed replacing the current historically important buildings with those high-rises. And what even greater nincompoop, excuse me, misguided two-legged animal, thought the idea was valid enough to put in a brochure and mail it, at great public expense, to almost every human, two-legged creature in San Jose! Did they think there would be no outraged howling in the community? Come on, Susie, get real!

Speakin' of scar-r-r-y things, seems like the ol' Merc News celebrated Howl-o-ween a bit early by publishing a frightenin' graphic a few weeks back showin' the number of buildings needed to support BART's extension to downtown San Jose. I coulda taken off like a helio the way it made my tail and head spin! I ran outta toes real quick, but looked like it would take some 150 buildings the equivalent of the Merc's own 17-story Knight Ridder headquarters to hold enough two-legged varmints to make the extension work. Now, don't go yappin' at me about how that was only to show what'd be needed and wasn't showin' where the buildings would actually be. Any bird-brain, let alone a sharp fella' like me, knows our head honcho is lookin' for every spot possible to stick those needed millions of square feet, whether the spot holds a friendly trea-

sured historic building or neighborhood or not. "Knock 'em down, full speed ahead," he says! "Gr-r-r-r-r!" says I.

Enough of this hyperventilatin' ... too hard on an ol' dog like me ... rather indulge in friendly gentle pantin' although that's pretty hard to do when those two-legged excuses for top dogs keep pokin' sticks at me.

On the brighter side, hot doggety, did I have me a time a couple weeks ago, watchin' that ol' Scheller House twistin' 90 degrees, then doin' the sidestep for a bit. Now that was ex-cite-ment of the good kind! Hard to figure why those humans would want to move it, but at least my undercover agent tells me it's goin' to become its old elegant self, thanks to a multitude of two-legged students who had the foresight and wisdom to vote a fee on themselves to do it!

I'm salivatin' at the chance to sneak into PACSJ's big todo celebratin' their tenth anniversary. Understand it's goin' to be strictly top dog, with good food, great visitin' with all kind of folk, and chances to bid on interesting auction stuff. I hope to see you there...will have all the low-down on the happenin' next time we rendevous.

Aw, shucks, I can't seem to stay out of the doghouse for long, here I am back at City Hall...not only did some of those same irrepressible humans overlook that the design was too tall for the air corridor, but the cost has taken off like a doggoned space rocket before they even turn a shovel! Looks to me like I'm not the only one that should be banished to the doghouse.

Speakin' of the doghouse, maybe this'll be my last chance to bark at you. My human is makin' noises like I maybe shouldn't say some of the things I do. She's probably right, but I get so doggoned frustrated at some of the human shenanigans it's hard not to howl. MAYBE I'll still be around, if the rope isn't too strong.

The Dog

## PACSJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION BALLOT ENCLOSED

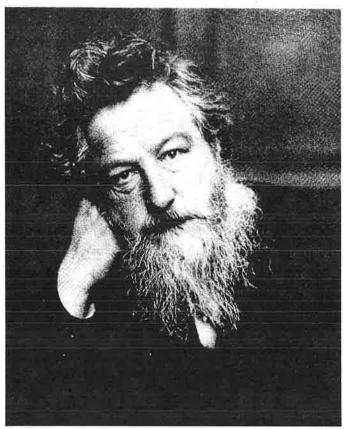
All members are urged to complete the enclosed ballot for the election of officers for PACSJ's Board of Directors. The board encourages members to indicate interest in serving on the board in the future by marking that space on the ballot. We need your new ideas, enthusiasm and talent to extend our preservation efforts into the next ten years!

#### ROOTS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION: THE ANTI-SCRAPERS

by Jack Douglas

A broad based consciousness of historic preservation is a relatively new one in the United States, particularly in the West. Very little concern was shown when most of historic downtown San Jose was razed in the name of redevelopment in the 1960s. Our own Preservation Action Council is only in its tenth year.

Elsewhere, in England for example, the concept of historic preservation can be traced back to 1876 when the artist-craftsman William Morris became appalled by the sight of an ancient church being "restored" by the removal of moss and the romantic patina of age. His plea, which was printed in the Athenaeum, to prevent such destruction struck a responsive chord among the artists and intellectuals of the aesthetic and craftsman groups of the time.



William Morris, 1887, photograph by Fred Hollyer

Labeled the "Anti-Scrape Movement" by the press, this first English preservation action group was officially organized as the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). Its members (over 400) included many of the most prominent Victorians of the day including John Ruskin, Burne Jones, Walter Crane, Holman Hunt, Thomas Carlyle, Leslie Stephen, Thomas Hardy and, of course, William Morris. They were responsible for the passing of the first Ancient Monument Act in Parliament in 1882.

SPAB can be credited with inventing the idea of a national architectural heritage — an idea which is perpetuated by our own Preservation Action Council and similar groups across the nation. And, by the way, SPAB

is still, 120 years later, a potent force for historic preservation in England.

## GARAGE AND SALVAGE SALE SUCCESS

by Patt Curia

PACSJ's Annual Sale earned \$2000 from sales of donated items and a generous cash donation by member Keith Watt. Many thanks to the sales team of Bev Blockie, Judy Borcherding, Rosa Ren, Bobbie Cronquist, Diana Wirt, Patt Curia and Ellen Garboske. From cow bones to antique gas stoves, lava lamps to glass door knobs; we sold an amazing assortment from the attics and basements of members and Naglee Park neighbors. A matching set of black leather chairs are now placed in the apartment of Opera San Jose's newest baritone. Five Victorian farmhouse doors will be installed in the River Street Gardens enclave. The sale officially started Saturday August 26th but neighbors and dog walkers stopped



PACSJ Member Bobbie Cronquist closes sale with a smile.

to shop Friday evening during the "No Bargaining Allowed" set up period. Thanks to member Bob Johnson for supplying pizza to the Friday crew. Please save August 25, 2001 and all your great donation items for the next amazing sale!

## SCHELLER HOUSE MOVED, SCHEDULED FOR RESTORATION

by Ellen Garboske

It was another long, torturous preservation journey, but the magnificent 1904 Scheller House which sits on San Jose State University property, and ten years ago was scheduled for demolition, has finally been placed in its permanent location, and will be restored. Way back in February of 1991 PACSJ met with city and university officials to discuss preserving the Scheller House, and the

university officials agreed but said it would have to be moved.

A private party agreed to move the structure, but that plan was aborted in 1993. Unfortunately, during that two year delay, asbestos removal was undertaken, and the house was open to weather damage. During this period original vintage hardware and other architectural elements disappeared.

View from the top of Fourth Street Garage as the Scheller House is rotated and moved. Photo by Joel Turner — SJSU Spartan Daily Staff

The fortunes of the house went up and down over the years, as one plan after another failed. In 1994 university officials again announced plans to demolish it to clear the site for parking.

Finally, in September of 1994 PACSJ filed suit and obtained a temporary restraining order to prevent the demolition. A month later a preliminary injunction was granted, on the basis that the University did not comply with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which requires an environmental impact report for projects which affect historical resources. In January of 1995 the court ruled in favor of PACSJ, saying that the University must do an environmental impact report.

The house continued to sit, suffering "demolition by neglect." In the spring of 1996, Robert Caret was selected as the new President of San Jose State University, and it began to look like there was hope. PACSJ board members, led by task force leader Tom Simon, met with President

Caret several times in the next few months resulting in plans to relocate the house to another site on the University campus. While our organization prefered that the structure remain in its original location, at least the Scheller House would be saved.

Time continued to grind on, the house continued to suffer, while plans were formed and then cancelled. Here we are in the year 2000, almost ten years after PACSJ started action to preserve the Scheller House, and the house has finally been rotated to face the plaza (where San Carlos Street used to run through campus) and moved a few yards east

from its original location. The Scheller House has finally completed its amazing journey!

The 5,700-square-foot house is slated to be renovated, then used as SJSU Associated Student offices. To create space for a new computer lab where the Associated Student previous offices were, the students voted for an \$18 per semester student fee increase to raise the estimated \$2.3 million necessary to move and renovate the Scheller House.

The history of the Scheller family, and the related Martin family, can be found in the July/August 1994 issue of *Continuity*. Many local history books also

have information...with details on why those families and their architecturally beautiful home are important within the history of San Jose.



San Jose resident Larry Sarver uses metal detector to search for objects under Scheller House original location.

Photo by Joel Turner — SJSU Spartan Daily Staff

#### RESTORATION IN PROGRESS

by Kate Rogers

If you've been in the vicinity of Julian and North Second Streets recently you've probably noticed that the structure at 311 North Second Street is encased in scaffolding and is in the process of historic restoration by owner (and PACSJ member) Rusty Lutz of Top Hat Homes.

The six-unit building was completed on October 1, 1903, by Anna Moody. At this time little is known of the history of Anna Moody, but research is ongoing. The six units have bay windows, built-ins, and decorative fireplaces. Several units have arts and crafts style redwood wainscoting. The house is approximately 75 feet deep and 30 feet wide. There are three stories, three interior stairways, a full attic and basement.

Rusty Lutz (center) discusses restoration process with visitors. Photo by Patt Curia

When the 1989 earthquake struck, the brick foundation cracked and was severely damaged. Rusty evacuated the building, hung a plumb line and when it moved an inch in thirty minutes, he knew that the building was collapsing. He quickly decided to save it if he could. The structure was jacked up while the entire foundation was replaced and new center beams put in. The building was vacant for the duration of the work.

One day Rusty arrived at the building to find that thieves had worked there through the night and had vandalized the entire building. Every wire had been pulled from the building; every original hardwood door cut with a chainsaw to remove the ornate hardware and hinges; every sink was cut from the counter and the pipe knocked out with a sledge; every original light fixture was ripped from the wall. The heartbreaking damage was done to sell not for rehab but as scrap metal.

Thanks to the help and encouragement of Rusty's family and friends, he was able to continue his work restoring and replacing and five years after the earthquake was able to reopen the building to tenants.

The current restoration has included stripping off all the old layers of paint to get to the redwood siding. Much of the siding is in 30 foot lengths. Every nail has been pulled and the oxidation cleaned out of the wood, the hole bondoed, sanded, primered and then the siding refastened with screws.

The many windows and frames have been salvaged whenever possible. When needed, new wood pieces were milled by Kevin, the mad woodchuck and Victoriana, and replaced by Rusty and Sanchez, the amazing carpenter. The attic window in the front had to be replaced. The asbestos apron shingles were removed and will be replaced with Cedar Valley fishscale panels.

Asbestos roof tiles were removed and are currently being replaced by Colortex Presidential shingles in Yosemite

Green and Shadow Gray — a novel color combination from Al's roofing. Two skylights are being added with one opening to allow future access to the roof. The chimney was skillfully rebuilt by Jose Hernandez, the project foreman, with four feet of height added in a lovely Victorian design.

At least two coats of oil base primer have been applied and finished with two top coats. The eight paint colors were chosen by Rusty, fine tuned and pulled together by Wendy Teague, architect and color specialist at Garcia/Teague. Carmine Morales sprayed out the gold trim around the building and Chello Perez is doing the fine hand detail painting. The front columns are being faux painted in marble by Rusty's fiancee, Kate Rogers.

The rest of the crew — Daniel, Roman, Gregorio and Antonio — are day laborers who are skilled and dedicated and are taking rightfully gained pride in their wonderful

accomplishments.



Scaffolding surrounds 311 N. Second Street
Photo by Patt Curia

On your next visit downtown you are invited to stop by to see this magnificent structure first hand as it nears completion. Rusty and the crew will gladly answer your questions about the trials, tribulations and rewards of preserving and restoring historic buildings.

#### JUANA BRIONES HOUSE, ENDANGERED HISTORIC RESOURCE

by Gail Woolley

On February 14, 1844 as John C. Fremont and Kit Carson were looking for a pass through the Sierra, they sighted the body of water we know as Lake Tahoe. On November 7 of that year Juana Briones purchased the 4,400-acre Rancho La Purisima Concepcion. The house she subsequently built there still stands, tastefully enlarged in the early 1900s. The present owners are suing the City of Palo Alto for denying their application to demolish it.

The house is situated on a knoll, a glorious 1.54 acres in the southwest corner of the city. The three core rooms of the early period are of rammed earth construction. Only a few examples using this type of earthen construction remain in California.

Juana Briones herself was a remarkable woman. When her husband proved to be of little help in raising their family of eight children, she did what was rare in Alta California in the 1830s, she secured a separation. She became the first settler in the today's North Beach where

she supported her family by selling milk and eggs to ship crews. She was also known throughout her long life for her humanitarian efforts in caring for the sick and wounded.

In 1900 Charles Palmer Nott bought the property from Juana's heirs and added two wings in the Arts and Crafts style producing a U-shaped building.

Accomplished women again resided in the house after 1925. The third owner, like Briones, was an entrepreneur. Edith Cox Eaton had a couture business in San Francisco. Edith shared her home with Lucretia Van Horn, an artist of national reputation. Edith's step daughter, Marjorie Eaton, who built an adobe brick home nearby, was an artist of the Taos School and a successful actress.

The property is a rich resource. From archeology and architecture to art, from women's and Hispanic history to ecology.

BUT the house is threatened. The seeds of the Juana Briones Heritage Foundation were sown in the fall of 1998. The new owners canceled the Mills Act contract on the property and claimed that the earthquake damage which had occurred nine

years earlier had rendered the house unlivable. They petitioned the City of Palo Alto to demolish the house and sued the city when the petition was denied.

Several neighbors and others concerned about the loss of this early touchstone with the past came together, incorporated, and secured non-profit status. The Foundation's mission is to restore and preserve the Juana Briones House as a public educational resource for California history. Although the owners do not wish to sell now, the Foundation intends to be prepared to acquire the house if the lawsuit is settled in favor of the city and the owners decide to look elsewhere for land.

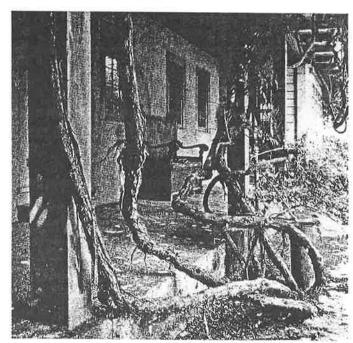


Front elevation, 1901. Note barns down the hill.

The litigation drags on with a possible trial date in early 2001. Meanwhile the house is unoccupied and unsecured. The owners seem to be employing demolition by neglect and the city so far has refused to take action due to the litigation.

You may help us widen our base of support by emailing us at

juanabriones@yahoo.com. You will receive our monthly email updates and, if you include your street address, our brochure. You may also learn more from our web site, www.brioneshouse.org.\*



Front of house with wisteria, 1962

## THEY LEFT THEIR MARK: CARL WERNER AND THE SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE

by Jack Douglas

San Francisco architect Carl Werner designed a number of significant buildings throughout California, but his greatest achievement in our city is the ornate Scottish Rite Temple (now the Capital Athletic Club) facing St. James Park at Third and St. James Streets. Dedicated in May 1925 this building was, and still is, the most ornate monument in San Jose.

Carl Werner (1875-1943) was born and educated in Philadelphia. He studied architecture at MIT and, at the age of twenty, moved to San Francisco, later establishing an office where he specialized in school buildings. He also acquired numerous wealthy clients for whom he designed

Nob Hill residences — all of which were destroyed in the 1906 conflagration. Built after the earthquake were his Embarcadero YMCA Building (1924), one of his most important projects in the City, and his fourth Church of Christ Scientist (1913) at Funston and Clement Streets. This latter has all the classical elements which he later applied to our Scottish Rite Temple. Werner's ties with the Order were considerable. A 33rd degree Mason, he designed nine out of ten Scottish Rite temples in

California, including those in Bakersfield, Sacramento and San Francisco. (From: Architect and Engineer, June 1943.)

#### San Jose's Scottish Rite Temple

Built in classically Roman design, the Temple has many interesting artistic touches which were created by the noted artist and sculptor Jo Mora in his studio in Pebble Beach near Carmel. The two large sphinxes are of travertine marble which was quarried near Fairfield. The marble was ground up and mixed with cement prior to being poured into a mold.

Masonic symbolism is apparent on almost every surface. The larger-than-life sized figures standing at both ends of

the entablature represent Solomon (on the north) and General Albert E. Pike, an important Mason, on the south end. Both statues were carved by Mora from white marble. The bronze details and the heavy bronze doors (now replaced) were also created by Mora.

The interior exhibits a lavish use of marble on the stairways and balustrades. The ceremonial hall with a stage and organ loft, the largest auditorium in the City at that time, could seat 1500 people. The banquet room below the main hall could seat 1400 and it too had its own stage and scenic equipment. (This lower area has been totally made over into exercise rooms, spas, saunas and changing

rooms for the Athletic Club. A swimming pool and a building housing basketball and racquetball courts has been added to the area that was formerly the parking lot.)

The third floor contained the ladies' banquet room, li-



Scottish Rite Temple San Jose California Postcard courtesy of Jack Douglas

brary, card room and offices. Interior decorations, tapestries, furniture, etc., were all in Italian motif. Some of the furniture and most of the decorative elements remain today.

Now more of a public space than ever, the main hall is used for weddings, meetings and other City events. The Capital Athletic Club probably represents the best adaptive reuse of a historic building in San Jose.

Carl Werner is in the pantheon of notable California architects who have left their mark on the St. James Park National Register Historic District.

# PACSJ DONATES FUNDS TO CALIFORNIA ROOM IN MEMORY OF RICK SHERMAN

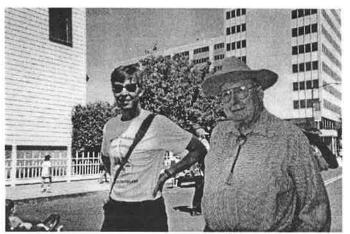
The California Room at San Jose's Martin Luther King Library was the recent recipient of funds donated by PAC members. The funds were collected in memory of Rick Sherman, former President of PAC's Board of Directors, who died in August of 1999. The funds will be used to purchase books relevant to the history of California and our local community. Members are encouraged to donate history books or funds by contacting Bob Johnson, California Room, at (408) 277-4867.



PACSJ Board of Directors present check to Bob Johnson (center back), California Room Librarian, in honor of Rick Sherman



California Room Librarian Bob Johnson (right) accepts check from PACSJ President John Olson and Marcella Sherman in honor of Rick Sherman.



PACSJ President Joh Olson poses with author and retired San Jose Mercury News writer Harry Farrell at the California Sesquicentennial festivities on September 9, 2000.

#### SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATED

On September 9, 2000 San Jose celebrated the 150th birthday of California statehood. The event was co-sponsored by the City of San Jose and History San José.



Broschart & Braun Catalog, ca.1900 — Panel Ornaments, 6 X 27 inches, \$1.20 per pair

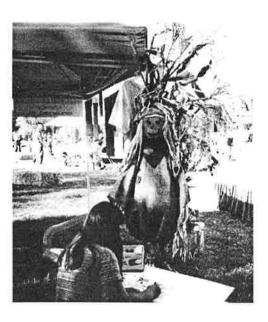
lameda History Days and APumpkins-in-the-Park gave PACSJ the opportunity to reach out to the public with our message that preservation of San Jose's historic fabric is important and good for the pulse of our city. Members staffed a booth at both events, and were kept busy answering questions about the organization and all the current historic building preservation issues facing the community. At Pumpkins-in-the-Park staffers were kept busy with children's activities while adult visitors viewed our photos of historic buildings. A new and exciting feature was the exhibit of paintings of the River Street Historic District homes done by Tony May's San Jose State University art class. Booth visitors were very interested in those original art works...many thanks to Tony and his students! And thanks to all our enthusiastic booth staffers!~



PACSJ President John Olson and Vice-president Kitty Monahan man the booth at Alameda History Day. Photo by Ellen Garboske



PACSJ member Patti Phillips teaches visitors to make "Popsicle Ghosts" at Pumpkins-in-the-Park. Photo by Ellen Garboske



Pumpkins-in-the-Park booth visitor does Halloween drawing while PACSJ member "Oscar" beams his approval, Photo by Ellen Garboske



Back of Bascom grave marker highlighting Bascom family contributions.

#### BASCOM GRAVE MARKER UNVEILED

by Linda Larson Boston

A bout 100 members of the Argonauts Historical Society attended the Bascom grave marker unveiling at Oak Hill Memorial Park held on California's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of admission to the Union, 9 September 2000.

Leonard McKay spearheaded the project to obtain a marker for the previously unmarked 11-person plot. He believes that the burials were originally interred on the Bascom farm. Several were children, and whatever information was available (name, birth and death dates) was engraved on the front side of the marker. McKay raised \$600 through public subscriptions, to which Oak Hill donated the remainder for the two-sided marker.

At the ceremony McKay spoke of Anna Maria "Grandma" Bascom's contributions to San Jose, and he interviewed a costumed Sherry Simmons who played the role of Grandma Bascom. The back of the

marker highlights the contributions of the Bascom family.

The grave is located just north of the Pioneer Section on the east side Oak Hill Cemetery on Curtner Avenue just east of Monterey Road.

#### COMPUTER NEEDED!

After years of working out of officer's homes, PACSJ has the opportunity in the near future to set up an office. To accomplish this, the organization needs a computer system of recent vintage to handle our data base, spread sheets, e-mail, graphics and all the standard business programs. If you are thinking of upgrading, and have a new or equivalent system, please consider donating it to PACSJ. Since we are a 501c3 non-profit organization, there should be tax benefits to the contributor. If you can help, leave a message on PAC's answering machine at (408) 947-8025.

PRESERVATION ACTION COUNC	IL OF SAN JOSE MEMBERSHIP FORM
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#### **CALENDAR**

#### November

17 (FRI) PACSJ | OTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

BANKER'S CLUB, 1 ST & SANTA CLARA STS.

6-9pm - By Reservation Only

20 (Mon) P/

PACSJ OPEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

7рм Mother Olson's Inn,

72 N. FIFTH STREET

HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING

#### DECEMBER

No PACSJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

BEST WISHES FOR A PEACEFUL
HOLIDAY SEASON AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

#### JANUARY

15 (Mon)

PACSU OPEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 7PM MOTHER OLSON'S INN,

72 N. FIFTH STREET

The Preservation Action Council of San Jose is a nonprofit 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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PO BOX 2287 SAN JOSE, CA 95109-2287 (408) 947-8025

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