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Cultural Reflections: Early Baseball in California

Coming This Fall

This Fall will mark the release of volume 34 in the History Center's Local History Studies series: *Gilroy's Old City Hall*, *1906-1989*. Written by historians Angela Woollacott and Carroll Pursell with Gilroy city planner Chuck Myer, it sketches the lives and captures the spirit of the people of Gilroy and their venerable city hall.

Gilroy's old city hall was conceived amidst the spirit of progressivism which pervaded California at the turn-of-the-century. Mayor George T. Dunlap, who was elected on a "Ticket of Progressive Business Men" in 1904, launched the idea in his inaugural address to the town's citizens: "We shall be sadly delinquent as a city if we do not give early and earnest thought to the subject of erecting a new city hall, eligibly located, and of such general character as will at once meet the needs of the public and reflect credit upon our people."

The City Council retained San Jose architects, Wolfe and McKenzie to design and build their new city hall, and over the years it gained fame as a major Santa Clara County architectural landmark. Travelers along old Highway 101 have stopped regularly to snap pictures and wonder at "the be-gabled, be-portholed, be-turreted structure," while Gilroyans basked in its uniqueness and came to call it "home . . . part of the community."

It survived the 1906 earthquake and another big one in 1959. It avoided demolition in the mid-1960s, when citizens rallied, saved it, cared for it, and got it listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1980 the city leased it out to be adapted for use as a restaurant, and just as it seemed success for the venture might come, the Loma Prieta tremor in 1989 forced its evacuation and caused enough damage to again threaten its life.

Gilroy's Old City Hall, 1906-1989 is being published by your California History Center Foundation in cooperation with the City of Gilroy. As unfortunate happenstance would have it, the citizens of Gilroy are at this moment gearing up for another fight to save their beloved landmark. Foundation



members renewing as Supporters or more will receive a copy on renewal, and copies also will be available at the history center.

* * *

The History Center always has tried to provide a special insight into the people who make California. Through our classes, exhibits, publications, and other activities we've studied, among others, working people, ethnic groups, artists, and farming families. Joel Franks continues this tradition with a look at cultural pluralism in California's baseball history in this issue of **The Californian**, while two new instructors, Evelyn Romero Martinez and Astra Apsitas, join us to further renew our investigation of the multicultural character of California.

Martinez has been a free lance writer specializing in the study of Hispanic Californians. In her new class "Tracing California's Hispanic Heritage," she will guide students through the earliest years of life in Alta California by studying Hispanic families. She draws on her own remarkable research of Hispanic genealogy, much of which she's published over the years in issues of *Los Californios Noticias* and in her book *My Family Back Bone: Genealogy of Early California Families*, 1769-1850.

Looking at a more recent experience in California's multicultural history, Astra Apsitas will share with us the story of Latvian immigrants who escaped to California and the Bay Area from post-World War Two Europe. How did they deal with their journey and the new land of California? How well have they maintained their own culture? Astra's personal experience, raised speaking Latvian and schooled in Latvian schools and camps since age 5, combined with her several years of university study in Latvian history, is sure to shine a special light on the answers to these and other important questions. "Latvians in California," starts on October 31.

Don't miss out! Be sure you get a copy of *Gilroy's Old City Hall* and explore California's multicultural heritage by taking a class or two.

James C. Williams Director

Cover Photo:

John "Chief" Meyers was a Native American from Riverside County and a stalwart catcher for the New York Giants of the early 1900s. Photo courtesy National Baseball Library, Cooperstown, N.Y.

View of the Gilroy City Hall, Gilroy, CA, circa 1906/07, Lake County Museum: Curt Teich Postcard Collection.

CALENDAR

9/6 CHC opens

9/19 De Anza College fall quarter classes begin

10/1 "Santa Clara County — A Half Century of Change"

Exhibit opens to the public.

10/5-7 Exploring the Mendocino Coast

Lee Van Fossen leads a tour of the incomparable Mendocino area with visits to the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens and the Kelley House and Mendocino County Museums. You will also see a play performed by the dramatic group of the Mendocino Arts Center, and take a 40-mile train ride among the redwoods. Emphasizing nature, art, and history, this trip has something for everyone. For itinerary and fee information, please call the history center. Reservation and payment deadline 9/14.

10/14 Exhibit reception.

Open house to be held from 2:00 to 4:00 at the history center Trianon Building. No admission fee, but R.S.V.P. to (408) 864-8712.



10/20 A Day of Painting at the Trianon

A local artist will be at the history center from 10:00 to 3:30 painting and sharing techniques. All ages welcome. Bring your own materials and a bag lunch. Cost for members is \$25, non-members \$32; cost covers honorarium and dessert. Registration and payment due 10/5.

10/21 Discovering Nature Through Drawing

Artist/naturalist Carol Verbeeck leads an exploration of nature as seen through the artist's eyes. Plant identification and drawing techniques will be covered in the workshop, to be held from 10:00 to 4:00 at Mt. Madonna Park. Bring a bag lunch, and wear clothing and shoes suitable for hiking. Rain cancels. Cost for CHC members is \$25, and non-members \$32; cost covers honorarium, dessert and all materials. Registration and payment due October 12. **10/27** Norm's Old House: Restoring the Historic Home Join restorationist Norm Koepernik for a day of demonstration, discussion, and hands-on experience learning various aspects of house remodeling and restoration. The workshop will be held from 10:00 to 3:00 in San Jose. Cost for members \$37 and non-members \$45 includes honorarium, lunch at Germania Restaurant, and construction materials. Reservation and payment due 10/12.

11/9 Artists panel discussion

Three regionally based artists will discuss visual art and its changing role in Santa Clara County. The discussion will take place at the history center from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Admission is free for CHC members and De Anza College students; others pay \$2. Reservation and payment due 10/26.

11/12 Veteran's Day observed. CHC closed; De Anza classes do not meet.

11/22, 23 Thanksgiving holiday. CHC closed; De Anza classes do not meet.

12/13 Last day of fall quarter.

12/15-1/1 CHC closed.

Of Interest to Members

April 4 marked the official opening of the Cupertino Historical Museum, located in the City of Cupertino's new Robert Quinlin Community Center. The museum will be the home for the many artifacts from Cupertino's pioneer families. A good number of the approximately 2000 artifacts have been on display in the museum's first exhibit "Cupertino – The Crossroads of the Valley." Cupertino Historical Museum is open to the public 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday and is located at 10185 N. Stelling Rd., Cupertino. For additional information call (408) 973-1495.

Fruits of Our Labor, exhibit on the growth and impact of the great canneries and dehydrators on the economy and lifestyle of the town of Campbell and the larger sphere of Santa Clara County, Campbell Historical Museum, downtown Campbell, through April 1991, (408) 866-2119.

CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Santa Clara County: A Half Century of Change

During the 1930s, orchards of prune, apricot, cherry, and other fruits covered Santa Clara County's valley floor. Some 200,000 people lived to cultivate the soil and pack the fruit in what some called "Valley of Hearts Delight." Today, however, the world knows Santa Clara County as "Silicon Valley," home of the semiconductor industry and almost 2 million people. In just two generations its landscape has become one of high-technology business, suburban tracts, apartments and condominiums, and thousands of small businesses scattered among a web of highways. Its ethnically diverse people occupy all positions of the economic spectrum, hurriedly darting their way here and there from work to play to therapy.

The dramatic changes in Santa Clara County can be documented in a variety of ways, but perhaps no more vividly than through the works of the Bay Area artists which will be on display at the Petit Trianon from October 1 to January 19. Artistically interesting, these works represent a variety of art media and themes created over the past 50 years. Historically important, they chart the changing landscape of Santa Clara County during a remarkably short time period.

The works illustrated here suggest the range of artists' perspectives. Maggie O'Keefe's "In the Foothills" (c. 1940) depicts the hills surrounding the valley during its agricultural era, while Betsy Williams' "Trees and Barn" captures one of the last rural scenes along Dry Creek Road in 1957. Bob Newick's watercolor, "Montgomery Street," illustrates the neoclassic architecture which characterized early San Jose, and with a pinhole camera, Rebecca Palmer preserved "Mac's House," a craftsman bungalow in Los Altos.

Lydia Mednick's barn and oak tree on Steven's Creek was drawn before the valley's expansion engulfed most of its agricultural landscape. Her 1987 photograph of the same site across from De Anza College graphically reveals the impact of changing times. With the influx of people, Santa Clara County has taken on a new look. Yosh Decker's "Cupertino City Hall" (1989) reveals today's prevalent architectural style, while Anna Koster's acrylic, "Afternoon Moon" (1979), offers a part of the county's newer cityscape.

While by no means comprehensive, "Santa Clara County: A Half Center of Change" suggests the breadth and wealth of artists' views of our region. Through their work its change over time is portrayed in a revealing and insightful way.

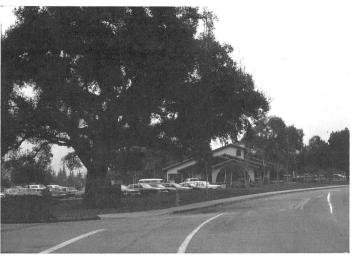


"Montgomery Street" (undated) by Bob Newick.



"Trees and Barn" (1957) by Betsy Williams.





"Cupertino City Hall" (1989) by Yosh Decker.

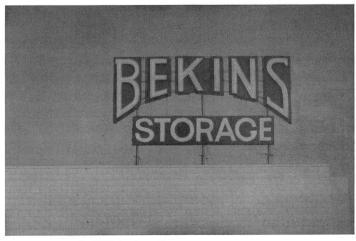
"Stevens Creek" (1987) by Lydia Mednick.





"Mac's House" (undated) by Rebecca Palmer.

"In the Foothills" (c. 1940) by Margaret O'Keefe.



"Afternoon Moon" (1979) by Anna Koster.



"Barn on Steven's Creek" (undated) by Lydia Mednick.

FEATURE

Cultural Reflections: Early Baseball in California

by Joel Franks

Over 40 years ago that renown historian and critic of California's foibles and strengths, Carey McWilliams, described Californians as the "mixed multitudes." He referred to the state's amazing cultural diversity, which marked its past and continues today to represent California's greatest attribute and challenge.

The venerable, often mythologized, sport of baseball has reflected and reinforced California's cultural pluralism. It has provided bonds of community to a state of wanderers, cut off by miles and oceans from loved ones and former cherished communities. It has joined people together of varied social backgrounds so that they could bathe in the glory of regional and civic pride represented by a winning team or a star player. It has allowed the shoemaker and the storekeeper's son or daughter an opportunity to demonstrate their mastery of a complex set of skills that constitutes a good ballplayer, whether professional or amateur. But it has also sadly failed to surmount the racial, ethnic, class, and gender barriers Californians have effectively erected. Even more sadly, baseball in California has too often helped to divide Californians just as readily as it has brought them together.

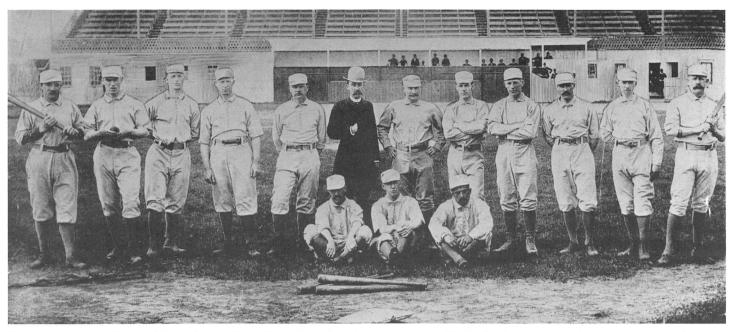
We know that Californians have played baseball as early as the 1850s. A reporter for the *Daily Alta California* described an enthusiastic game of ball in San Francisco in 1852. Finding themselves in communities of strangers, Californians in the 1850s fervently organized social, political, and athletic clubs as a means of reconstituting the community bonds they had left behind in Massachusetts, Germany, and Ireland. Among these early organizations was the Eagles Baseball Club formed in San Francisco in 1859. A similar attempt to organize a baseball club took place in Los Angeles a year later. Apparently, this effort was inspired by the Anglo desire to wean young men away from the Mexican pastimes of horse racing, bull fighting, and fandangoes.

The leading ballplayers of these early years tended to come from white collar or skilled working class backgrounds. John L. Durkee, an early Eagle standout, was a fire marshall and a teammate, John Fisher, was a smelter. They engaged in baseball because it was deemed as a proper American alternative to cricket. A baseball game was perceived as a wholesome and respectable refuge from the office and the work bench, but brief in duration in comparison to cricket contests that could take two days to finish. It was hailed as a "manly" sport because of the physical skill and intelligence it took to play the game well. Accordingly, those presumably lacking the necessary self-discipline and ability — such as the "unworthy" poor, the people of color — were not typically expected nor invited to play the game by the leading clubs in California or elsewhere.

The post-Civil War era fostered a boom in the fortunes of the "national pastime" in and around San Francisco. And a pitcher named "Pedro", described as an Indian by the San Francisco *Chronicle*, did star for the Atlantics in an 1867 game. Not only did he shut down opposing batters effectively, but Pedro drew a walk every time he came to bat, which greatly amused the spectators and the patronizing *Chronicle* reporter.

The issue of Sunday baseball demonstrated that an increasingly pluralistic cultural base supported the national pastime in the late 1860s and 1870s. Remember, working people labored 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week in industrializing, urbanizing America. The one day they could count upon for recreation was Sunday. However, the Protestant, nativist Sabbatarian movement had made Sunday recreation unlawful in many American cities and towns. Because of its largely first generation immigrant population, San Francisco took a far more liberal attitude toward Sunday recreation, but a strong current of Sabbatarianist sentiment existed. Among the targets of Sabbatarianists in the late 1860s and 1870s was Sunday baseball. Indeed, most of the best clubs played games during the week or Saturday. And in 1874, the San Francisco based Pacific Coast Baseball Convention, pushed by its white collar members, banned Sunday baseball. Consequently, one working class club decided to bolt the convention and schedule its games on Sunday.

Nevertheless, the days of dominance by the gentleman, middle class amateur were passing as professionalism gained strength in the national pastime. By the late 1870s, professional players and leagues appeared in the San Francisco Bay Area. With professionalization in California, as elsewhere in the sporting world, came the greater participation of working and lower-middle class men of Irish, German, German Jewish, and Hispanic descent; men who could not afford the luxury of genteel amateurism. Moreover, the social origins of players and entrepreneurs underwent change. Among the finest of California's early professional players were Vincent Irwin (Nava), Charley Sweeney, and Rube Levy, while a man named Mike Finn surfaced as one of the most important entrepreneurs in California's professional baseball circles in the 1880s and 1890s.



Charley Sweeney, second from the left, standing, and Vincent Nava, first on the right, seated, were two of the first San Franciscans to make it to the big leagues. This photograph is of the Providence Grays of 1884. Photo courtesy National Baseball Library, Cooperstown, N.Y.

A son of a Mexican mother and an English father, Nava started his professional career in San Francisco in the mid-1870s using the last name of his father, Irwin. He was a fine catcher and one of the few Californians trusted to handle the fast balls and curves thrown by Eastern professionals introduced to Bay Area baseball in the late 1870s. Early in the 1880s, Irwin caught the eye of famed major leaguer, John Montgomery Ward, who wintered in San Francisco after the 1881 season and Ward's Providence team in the National League signed Irwin in 1882. The young catcher changed his last name to Nava and became known and reviled as one of the first "Cubans" to play major league baseball. Indeed, rumors circulated that Nava was, in fact, Black. And in "Jim Crow" America it was bad enough to be Hispanic. The possibility that Nava, who died in Baltimore in 1906, was Black may have prematurely ended his professional career.

The unfortunate Charley Sweeney was one of the growing number of young Irish-American men who emerged from the city streets to stardom in America's late 19th century sporting world. The working-class, largely immigrant neighborhoods of San Francisco's South of Market area spawned a love of liquor, sports, and politics. Accordingly, the genial, good looking Sweeney was a hard drinker and Democratic Party activist. But before liquor and injuries took their toll, he was also one of the greatest pitchers of the 1880s. After his professional career ended, Sweeney shot a man in a politically motivated barroom brawl. He subsequently spent three years in San Quentin. Released in failing health in 1897, he held on for another five years until he died of tuberculosis at 38 years-of-age.

A shoecutter by trade, Rube Levy was born of German Jewish extraction in San Francisco. Like Sweeney, he too grew up in the South of Market district of San Francisco. But unlike Sweeney, he lived a relatively scandal free life. But also unlike Sweeney, he never got a chance to make it into the major leagues. This is not to say that he lacked talent. Many considered Levy to be one of the finest outfielders in California professional circles in the 1880s and 1890s. Moreover, his popularity was undeniable. In 1890, for example, fans of the California League selected Levy as their favorite player. After an unhappy stint as an umpire in the California and the Pacific Coast Leagues, Levy died in his early forties in 1907.

In the days of the robber barons, owning and operating a professional baseball team provided interesting opportunities to lower middle and working class men, often of first or second generation immigrant backgrounds. To be a successful baseball entrepreneur did not take breeding so much as a knowledge of the game, a good head for business, promotional skills, and political connections. The Irish born Mike Finn combined these attributes quite nicely. Finn's last name was actually Finnigan and he came with his family to San Francisco from New York sometime in the 1870s. He worked as a cutter in a boot and shoe factory and played baseball on vacant lots in the South of Market district. By the 1880s, Finn was one of the finest all around professional ballplayers in California and became a star pitcher and then manager of the Pioneer club in the California League. A Democratic Party activist in a city generally run by Democrats in the 1880s, Finn eventually left boot and shoe work for "contracting" and baseball entrepreneurship. From the early 1880s until 1893, Finn operated franchises in San Jose, Stockton, and Sacramento, as well as San Francisco.

The inner circles of late 19th century California professional baseball represented a substantial amount of cultural diversity. Nevertheless, race and ethnic divisions stalked all Golden State communities. And these divisions were all too readily reproduced in the national pastime in California.



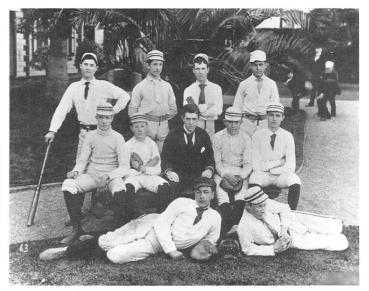
Baseball clubs were formed of day scholars at Santa Clara College in the 1890s. Such nines were composed largely of young men of Irish, Southern European, and

In 19th century California, professional baseball encouraged little participation by Blacks. A Bay Area African-American by the name of Horace J. Wilds was prominent in semi-professional circles in Oakland and San Francisco. Although hailed in the late 1880s as Oakland's most popular player, he still never played in the California League, which was the state's most powerful professional organization for many years.

A non-Californian, Bud Fowler, was one of the great Afro-American players of the 19th century and a pioneer, playing on predominantly white teams throughout the nation in the 1870s and 1880s. In the late 1880s, the San Bernardino nine in the Southern California Winter League signed Fowler as a catcher and team captain. However, while white Eastern and midwestern professionals of negligible reputations were welcomed by California League managers, fine Black ballplayers were excluded from the ranks of organized baseball in California. Even more despicable was the fact that those Blacks who found themselves on a California League team bench were youngsters employed in a patronizing fashion as mascots and good-luck charms.

Jim Crow did not keep Blacks from establishing their own teams in Los Angeles and the Bay Area. In Los Angeles during the late 1880s, a nine called the "Colored Giants" played some of the better white teams in Southern California. In the Bay Area, games between whites and Blacks apparently did not occur very often; although a Black nine unhappily dubbed the "Darkies" was formed in Oakland in 1886 to take on all comers.

No ethnic minority was more despised and perceived as less capable of acculturation in late 19th century California than the Chinese. Nevertheless, reports of Chinese immigrants taking up the national game surfaced in the 1880s. A national sports weekly, the *Sporting Life*, reported in 1884 that a white Californian had organized an all Chinese nine. One gathers that this entrepreneur looked upon Chinese ballplayers as a novelty attraction. Nevertheless, the *Sporting Life* added that he was having a hard



Hispanic backgrounds. Photos courtesy Santa Clara University Archives.

time teaching the rudiments of the game to the Chinese; although as that great baseball historian, Harold Seymour, points out, sports-minded American missionaries and servicemen found the Chinese to be capable ballplayers.

At the same time, baseball served as a useful organizing tool for some of those mounting another in a long line of anti-Chinese campaigns in late 19th century California. In 1886, a boycott was launched against Chinese businesses and firms dealing in Chinese made goods. To promote and gain support for the boycott, a Boycotter's baseball club was formed in the Sacramento area.

As baseball in California headed into the 20th century, it continued to experience the varied and contradictory set of relationships developing between people of diverse cultural backgrounds in the Golden State.

Manufacturing, agribusiness, banking, transportation, and trade were all vital to California's economic well-being at the dawn of the 20th century. What is more, California had become one of America's most commercially alluring playlands, thanks to its much lauded climate and the constant proclamations of its boosters that the Golden State was a wondrous land in which to visit or live, work or play, while, of course, spending a great deal of money. Heeding the call of neverending opportunity and neverending fun under a neverending sun, people from all over the United States and the world came to California. Hopeful whites from Iowa and Blacks from the South came, as did an awesome variety of immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe, as well as Asia. In the meantime, Hispanics suffered continued political and economic marginalization, while Native Americans encounterd the ravages of population decline and the enforced humiliation of the reservation.

This, then, was not a climate in which social and political stability prospered. The forces of labor unrest, reform, and racial exclusion took as firm a stand in California as anywhere in the United States. And baseball proved to be both a relief from such continued on page 9



1989-1990

Yearly Reflections: President's Report

Our most extraordinary undertaking this year has involved the initial steps toward creation of a Regional Cultural Center at De Anza College, combining the energies and facilities of the California History Center, Flint Center and Euphrat Gallery.

Airing of this concept already has given new visibility to the CHC. It has also identified history as a cultural activity — a classification basic in our thinking but one we must sometimes struggle to impress upon donors to nonprofit development work.

Program, project and campaign plans for the Cultural Center are ripening. When they bear fruit, we anticipate exhibits with a common theme running through the three partners' display areas. In addition, the CHC is scheduled to gain new archival and storage space in the cottage nearest the Little Trianon.

We reached another milestone by formally establishing a California History Center Endowment Fund as an account in the Foothill-De Anza Community Colleges Foundation. Members and friends made a generous and gratifying response to our request for donations, spurred by De Anza President A. Robert DeHart's offer to match each dollar given.

Another innovation has begun quietly. The CHC is serving as midwife, so to speak, in the pilot phase of "California Roots," filmmaker Douglas Miller's televideo project that later may put one-minute historical vignettes on TV throughout the state.

Exhibits

"A Century of Cycling in Santa Clara Valley" opened in October with an eye-catching show of high-wheeler bicyclists' vehicles and garb.

Fourth graders from the Cupertino, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara school districts came to the fore in spring in "Exploring the California Dream: A Children's Exhibit," supported by the Twin Creeks Foundation and Hugh Stuart Charitable Trust Center. Their tiles, quilts, dioramas, models and drawings recapitulated our state's colorful history from Native American, Mission and Gold Rush days on up to the Space Age.

Tours & Events

It took only four glorious hours to celebrate "Over 200 Years of Wine Growing in Santa Clara Valley" as a special fundraising event on Feb. 24. But trustees, staff and vintners had devoted more than a year to preparations. Twenty regional wineries poured at the Syntex Gallery in Palo Alto, and items given by many vintners, members and friends were sold at a silent auction. The event, featuring radio chef Narsai David and wine historian Charles Sullivan, was judged an artistic success but a minor earnings disappointment considering the effort it entailed. We'll go on searching for the ideal fundraising format.

The special event of Oct. 17—the Loma Prieta earthquake did little damage to our building and grounds, fortunately.

During the year there were workshops on wreath design, genealogy and drawing spring wildflowers. Tours when to Elkhorn Slough; the San Francisco Bay twice, once with an Ohlone Indian lore focus and once on a Bay cruise; Point Reyes; Japanese Gardens of the Peninsula; and Saratoga with an eye to its beginnings as "McCarty's toll-gate town." Other events includes "Spirits on the Wind," a play reading; "Stories from the Golden State"; and "Children's Books Published in California from 1836 to Today."

In celebration of Women's History Month, the History Center joined De Anza's RENEW program and REI in Cupertino as cosponsor of a women's fair, "Sharing Active, Healthy Lives," on March 11.

History Center classes continue to thrive, with great scope and diversity. The board, by the way, has almost nothing to do with this except to admire their success. Did you know that De Anza ranks No. 1 among California campuses in state and local history courses offered?

Our splendid staff played a leading part in fleshing out the organizational skeleton of the Heritage Council of Santa Clara County. This network promises to muscle up "history power" hereabouts.

Board Members

Margaret Kern Wozniak joined the board during the year as a new trustee, bringing a strong record of community involvement to our service. Mardi Bennett resigned but remains a great resource on the county's Victorian homes. Stephen White decided to step down from the board in June. He has been a faithful board member for 12 years and will be missed. New to us in an ex-officio capacity is Larry Burke, dean of De Anza's Social Science Division. Our other ex-officio member, Robert Smithwick, DDS, currently presides over the Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees, and we greatly value his counsel. Likewise that of our unpaid legal adviser, Austen Warburton, the recent recipient of high honors from San Jose State University.

Publications

By chance, 1989-90 marked a hiatus for us in terms of books actually published. However, several new projects are nearing completion and before long books of special interest to four communities in Santa Clara County will appear, possibly in company with one on El Portal, Yosemite's gateway.

Finances

Thanks in large measure to the leadership of Yvonne Jacobson, president in 1987-89, and to the generous special contributions of members, we weathered a budget crisis and are moving onto firmer ground.

The difficulty stemmed from rising costs of goods and services, and a shortfall from donor sources. Responses of members to a special appeal in spring 1989 brought us back to stability. Since then, De Anza College has eased our budget by picking up the salary of an additional one-half staff position.

The new endowment fund bodes well for the future, but only its interest, if anything, will be used for annual expenses. We continue to need support for yearly operations; for building up underfunded functions, notably the library; and for special purposes, such as specific exhibits or publications. These funds must come from a variety of sources: members, friends, business and industry, public and private foundations and, rarely, governmental grants.

We welcome suggestions concerning revenues and/or programs. We encourage any who are so inclined to remember us in your wills, and ask all members to share in spreading the word of what we do. Surely there must be persons of your acquaintance who would be glad to know of various CHC activities and who might like to join our active — and indispensable cadre of volunteers.

Thank you for your devoted support.

nord Tinstons



More Progress for the Library

The solid restoration work done on the Trianon building and probably a variety of unknown factors spared the History Center and the Stocklmeir Library any but the most minor damage in the October 17th earthquake.

Routine work begun in September resumed quickly following the quake. Helen Windham created cataloging for our map, poster and print collection. Work proceeded on the pamphlet file as clippings and brochures were added, withdrawn and copied for preservation.

Spring 1990 brought two important transitions for Janet Ilacqua, our long-time cataloger of student research papers. The backlog of over 1500 papers was completed, and in June, Janet received her Master of Library Science degree from San Jose State University. Congratulations!

The Stocklmeir Library has been the recipient of great generosity this year. Among material donations that will become part of our permanent collection are antique postcards of local scenes given by William Miller, a collection of books on local history from Gary Bronstein, and books written by Barbara, Rudy and Mike Marinacci given to us by Barbara Marinacci. The City of Mountain View Library donated 25 books. Robert and Audrey Butcher placed in our library Idwal Jones' *Vermilion* and the Louis Stocklmeir article about Cupertino's Hoo-Hoo House.

Rita Sellier and Ruth Habing donated books on California history and photos of the S.P. railroad. Mrs. Jean Mooers provided us with marvelous photos of the 1906 earthquake taken in San Francisco. Photos of Bernard Maybeck structures came from Ann Hogue. Nearly complete bound sets of *California Historical Society Quarterly* and *Pacific Discovery* were given to us by Foothill College Library. Charles Sullivan, CHC instructor, contributed his collection of the *Pacific Historical Review*. Lennart Ahlkvist gave maps, souvenir editions of local newspapers and books on the 1915 exposition published by Paul Elder. In-house periodicals from Libby's cannery in Sunnyvale were donated by Jim Cochrane. Gerd Lapson, a technical writing student, volunteered many hours in the creation of a procedure manual for the library.

Wendell Hammon, a Sacramento rare book dealer and general appraiser, is working on an appraisal of our book collection which he is donating to us. This is an outstanding gift to the library.

Many thanks to Brock Kreiss and the staff of De Anza Learning Center's Open Media Lab for their on-going work on our video and audio tapes.

Lola Hellman and Walter Matt were just two of the volunteers who staffed the CHC's table at the May 19-20 Living History Days sponsored by the San Jose Historical Museum. The center had crossword puzzles of historic information for people to test their knowledge, and paper squares for children to draw on and piece together as a quilt. Photo from San Jose Historical Museum.



The library's De Anza Day book sale was a huge success thanks to the many volunteers who worked that day including, left to right, Helen Riisberg, Betty Petersen, Eloise Rosenberg, Evelyn Turkus, Lisa Christiansen, Nancy Bratman, and Willa Leonard (in background). Photo by Jim Williams.

As the library receives books through purchase and donation, Carole Chapman of the Learning Center's Technical Services arranges cataloging for them, then adds the new entries to the Learning Center's computer catalog.

The Library's De Anza Day book sale was a great success showing a three-fold increase in dollar receipts over last year. Many CHC volunteers participated as donors and/or workers. A special thank you goes to Dee Liotta, who made room for storage of boxes of books in her family's garage as the donations came in.

Donors to this year's sale include: Cecilia Anderson, Nancy Bratman, Gary Bronstein, Harriet Duzet, Mary Jane Givens, Gerd Lapson, Nancy Mason, Betty Petersen, Helen Riisberg, Lorene Speth, Jim Williams and Mary Sylvain, Helen Windham, and Sam Winkelbleck. Funds earned through the book sale are designated for specific library and archives projects.

How does the library make these investments of time, energy, money and materials work for the community? Again the 1989-90 academic year brought hundreds of inquiries from authors, teachers, historians, and librarians. Preservationists, genealogists, designers of exhibits and writers of motion pictures used our resources. The StockImeir Library supported K-12, undergraduate and graduate education . . . high point of the year for us was the use of a portion of our slide collection in a multi-media presentation by Sunnyvale School District 4th graders.

The Library was the scene of much activity, much satisfaction and some frustration in 1989-1990. Problems are posed and solved on a daily basis. The library shelves frequently appear to be on the verge of saturation as new materials are added to the collection. A comment was heard that we often look as though we are moving. I trust we are moving forward.

Lisa Christiansen Librarian

Docent/Volunteer Annual Report

1989-1990! What a wonderful and busy year it was for the CHC and the contributions of the docent/volunteers that helped make things happen at the center.

The October opening of the CHC exhibit "A Century of Cycling in Santa Clara Valley" was a big success. I hope that those volunteers who helped gather artifacts, create displays, host the opening, make the banner and lead tours were pleased with the results of their efforts.

The trimming of the Christmas tree in December was fun, as usual, but most of the volunteers' time was given to the CHC wine tasing and silent auction in February. It was a resounding success due in large part to the wonderful dedication of our volunteers.

Our Spring exhibit showcased the work of local 4th grade students' efforts interpreting different aspects of California history. There was a tremendous number of requests for docent-led tours which taxed our limited number of docents. A total of 7 docents guided 35 tours totaling approximately 550 students and adults during Spring quarter alone.

The CHC volunteers gave 1600 + hours for the second year in a row. Thank you for being so willing to help when called upon — it makes being the docent/volunteer coordinator a great joy and very rewarding for me.

The following people gave generously of their time and energy to make 1989-1990 a banner year:

o make 1909-1990 a banner year.		
Irving Altman	Janet Ilacqua	*Fritz Sperling
Jewel Altman	Gertrude Jacobs	Jackie Sperling
Cecilia Anderson	Farida Khera	Frank Speth
Lily Bauer	Mary LaPorta	*Lorene Speth
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*Harriet Duzet	Tess Moore	Helen Windham
Helen Ewbank	*Betty Petersen	*Sam Winklebleck
Ken Givens	Kay Peterson	
*Mary Jane Givens	***Helen Riisberg	* - over 40 hours
Lola Hellman	Eloise Rosenberg	** - over 100 hours
*Janet Hoffman	Ann Schleich *	** - over 200 hours

A grateful thank-you to members of our Board of Trustees who

also volunteer their time to the CHC:Larry BurkeKen ManningAudrey ButcherJohn RichterYvonne JacobsonRoy RobertsChuck KubokawaBob Smithwick

Ken ManningAusten WarburtonJohn RichterStephen WhiteRoy RobertsWard WinslowBob SmithwickMargaret Wozniak

Mary Jane Givens Docent/Volunteer Coordinator

Tony Lopina

Financial Summary

Revenue Category Definitions

Membership – new and renewing memberships Donations – general donations Tours & Events – heritage tours and events Publications – books/resale; sale/CHC books; restricted publications Exhibits – exhibits; restricted exhibit funds Donated facilities and services – facilities, services, salaries and benefits provided by De Anza College and volunteers Miscellaneous – subscriptions; library/photo fees; library endowments; interest

Expenditure Category Definitions

Administration - general printing; postage; telephone; salaries; equipment repair; cost of goods sold

Donated facilities and services – facilities, services, salaries and benefits provided by De Anza College, private corporations and volunteers

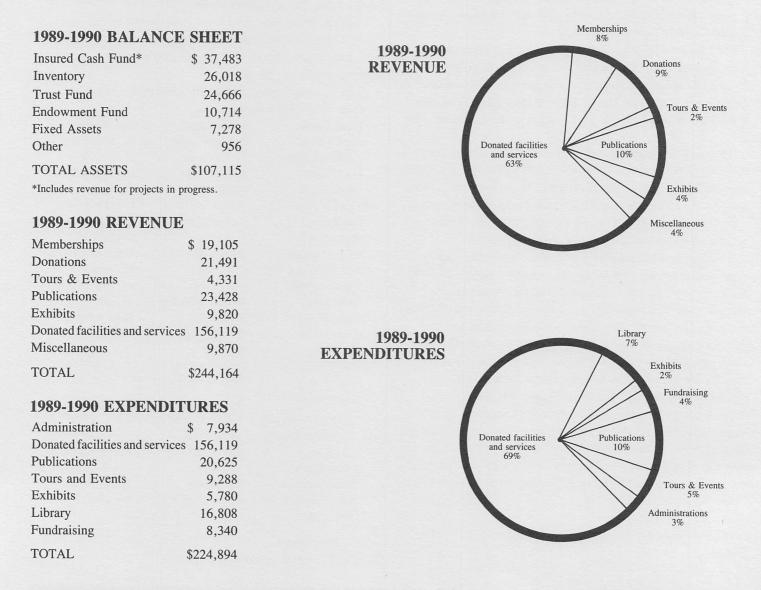
Publications - Californian; printing; restricted publications; salaries; design

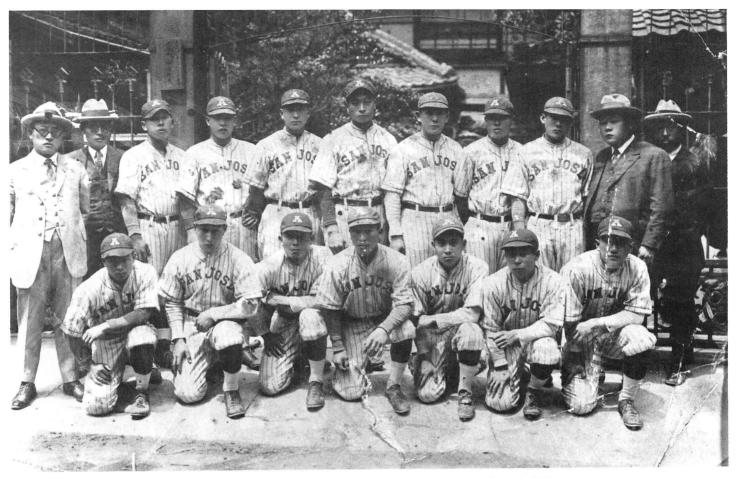
Tours & Events - events; public relations/advertising; field trips; printing; salaries

Exhibits - design; fabrication; openings; printing; salaries

Library - library supplies; books & photos; periodicals; salaries

Fundraising – supplies; printing; services





San Jose's Asahi baseball team, comprised of people of Japanese ancestry, was invited to play in Japan in the early 1920s. Photo courtesy Wayne Kanemoto collection.

tensions and a mirror of social unrest.

On a professional level, baseball reached a popularity hitherto unknown in the Golden State. The big leagues were East of the Mississippi, but minor league ball spread throughout much of the state. Not only were cities such as San Francisco and Los Angeles represented by clubs that may have been the equal of some major league teams, but smaller communities such as Alameda, Santa Cruz, Fresno, and Vernon could boast of professional teams of varied quality.

Jim Crow, however, was as well ensconced among California professional teams as anywhere in the country. Yet curiously the only Black to play organized baseball in the 20th century before Jackie Robinson was a young pitcher named Jimmy Claxton, who hurled a few games for the Oakland Oaks of the Pacific Coast League in 1916. Still, Claxton was afforded this opportunity largely because he was thought to be an Indian.

Individual Native Americans achieved some success in organized baseball after the turn-of-the-century. One of these was Chief Meyers. A Cahuilla Mission Indian from Riverside, California, Meyers' legal name was John Tortes. He went to Southern California's Sherman Institute, which was an Indian boarding school aimed at acculturating Native Americans into the "white man's ways." He went on to Dartmouth, but his performances as a semi-professional under the name of Meyers ruined his college athletic career and he turned professional. Like many Native American ballplayers, he was provided with the nickname of "Chief." However, he did distinguish himself as a long-time catcher for the famed New York Giants.

Hispanics, as long as they were not known as possessing African ancestry, gained a measure of access in organized baseball. For example, Cuban Juacinto Calvo played for the San Francisco Seals and players with Hispanic surnames appeared on Pacific Coast and California League teams. Conversely, given their lack of acceptance among most white Californians, ballplayers of Asian descent neither played with nor were given a chance to play with the leading professional teams in the Golden State.

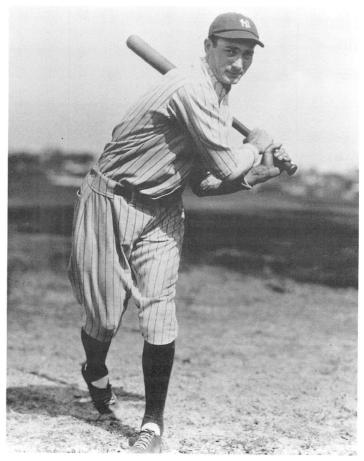
European immigrants faced arduous struggles in California as elsewhere, but their skin color rendered life for their children, if not them, a little easier than it was for immigrants of color, Blacks, Chicanos, and Native Americans. In the first third of the 20th century, California became increasingly well known for sending off sons of European immigrants to the major leagues. San Francisco's Willie Kamm had German parents who knew little of baseball. But after their son signed a hefty contract in the 1920s with the Chicago White Sox, they probably took a keener interest in the American sport. Young men of Italian ancestry emerged from California sandlots to engage in impressive big league careers. In the 1920s, a burly second baseman by the name of Tony Lazzeri joined the ranks of the powerful New York Yankees and became a mainstay of that club for several years. Soon he would welcome other Californians of Italian descent such as Frankie Crosetti and a fellow called Joe Dimaggio.

Outside of the ranks of organized baseball, Californians of varied backgrounds found greater opportunities to express their love of the national pastime. Around the turn-of-the-century, one of San Jose's best amateur ballplayers and umpires was a Black named Ben Gray. All Black semi-professional and amateur nines surfaced throughout the state. And more and more Black professional clubs played winter ball in Southern California and the Bay Area in the 1920s; thus giving Black migrants recently arrived from the South and elsewhere something else for which to cheer beside the lily white Pacific Coast League teams.

Black ballplayers, even while playing on segregated nines, confronted controversy and white hostility. In Vernon in 1917, a gun battle took place between gamblers watching a game between Black and white semi-pro teams. A few years later, Ty Cobb, one of the greatest baseball players of all time, visited San Diego as a member of the Chief Meyers' barnstorming team. The typically arrogant Cobb usually descended to even lower depths when it came to African Americans and he refused to take the field against the Black Lincoln Giants professional club.

While Black baseball in the 20th century has received and merited increasing attention from historians, Hispanic and Asian baseball also deserves greater documentation. Mexican baseball clubs were active in communities such as Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Santa Barbara. In the 1920s, a Santa Barbara Mexican mutual aide society, La Uniona Patriotica Mexicano Independente, sponsored a championship ball club. California's Asian communities also supported strong baseball clubs. The Japanese-American Asahi nine from San Jose successfully took on some of the best non-professional clubs in California. For California's Hispanic and Asian ballplayers, baseball was a way of demonstrating acculturation, but just as important it helped furnish and maintain a form of community in the face of white hostility and discrimination.

Regardless of social background, Californians displayed their love of baseball as fervently as other Americans. Prejudice and discrimination stood in the way of many. Still, their experiences ought to remind us that, as Harold Seymour puts it, baseball has been "the people's game." To be sure, much of the way the sport



A native San Franciscan of Italian descent Tony Lazzeri was a power-hitting second baseman in the 1920s and 1930s. Photo courtesy National Baseball Library, Cooperstown, N.Y.

was organized belies the democratic and egalitarian rhetoric promoting baseball as the "National Pastime." However, there is little that is inherently undemocratic in the game itself. Social and cultural distinctions could rarely be ignored by players and fans. But cultural pluralism and baseball in California meant that not just the stars or the wealthy magnates owned the game, but immigrants and people of color could use baseball to give themselves a sense of community and a sense of self-worth in learning and even mastering baseball's complex, seemingly timeless skills.

Franks, who holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Culture from U.C. Irvine, has taught various courses for the CHC since 1984 and currently teaches for San Jose State University.

EDUCATION

State and Regional History

As a benefit of membership in the California History Center Foundation, the center provides registration assistance to members who are taking history center classes only. All other students wishing to take history center classes or members taking classes in other departments, must register through De Anza College Admissions and Records. The center will register members 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m., Monday through Friday beginning Thursday, September 6.

The history center is unable to accept call-in or telephone registrations; members must come to the center to register. For complete course details, including times, dates and fees, please see the De Anza College fall schedule of classes.

Latvians in California: Astra Apsitas

Latvians in California presents an overview of the Latvian people — their origins, how they came to settle in California and the state of their cultural preservation today. Both history and politics will be addressed in order to gain a better understanding of this active ethnic community. Class sessions will cover how the Latvian community is organized, the traditions and festivals celebrated and the different ways which the Latvians have managed to maintain their cultural heritage in America. Instructor Apsitas was raised speaking Latvian by Latvian parents who were WWII refugees and lived in displaced persons camps coming to America as part of the biggest Latvian migration. She has taught numerous courses in Latvian history and recently completed her Master's degree in Baltic history. Two Saturday field trips to San Francisco Latvian community events are planned as well as guest lectures on present day politics and art, music and dance.

Parks and Trail of the Santa Cruz Mtns.: Tom Taber

Parks and Trails of the Santa Cruz Mtns. provides an opportunity for the first-hand study of California's natural history. Taught by the author of the "Santa Cruz Mtns. Trail Book" and "Where to See Wildlife in California," the class will focus on the general topography, climate, plants and animals of the Santa Cruz Mtns area. Three Saturday field trips to Butano and Fall Creek State Parks and Ano Nuevo State Reserve are planned.

The New Almaden Mine: Chatham Forbes

The New Almaden Mine focuses on this mine located ten miles south of San Jose. Of all of the fabled mines of Gold Rush and Comstock days, the most important may well have been the great New Almaden Quicksilver Mine complex. This enormously rich deposit of cinnebar ore, one of the largest in the world, held the key to reduction of gold ores, to a stable gold-standard currency and to firing pin activation for the Union Armies in the Civil War. One lecture and one field trip planned.

Historic Theater Restorations/Performances: Chatham Forbes

Historic Theater Restorations/Performances in the Bay Area studies the development of the motion picture as both a technology and an art form. The current wave of 1920s and 30s motion picture theater restorations and film revivals is in fact nostalgia for a beloved part of our cultural history. An introductory lecture sets the stage for three field study lecture-tours and film viewings at three outstanding restored theaters in the region: the Paramount in Oakland; the Stanford in Palo Alto; and the Alhambra in San Francisco.

Bay Area Transportation: Betty Hirsch

Bay Area Transportation examines the various forms of transportation used in the Bay Area and how these conveyances met the needs of the populace during different eras. Today we have come full circle, using an updated version of the electric trolleys as a partial answer. Two field trips will give a behind the scenes look at today's public conveyances. Some of the following will be covered: San Jose Light Rail, BART, San Jose's new American Airlines terminal, United Airlines Maintenance Center at the San Francisco Airport and the Air Museum at the Oakland Airport.

Downieville and the Northern Mines: Bill Palmer

Downieville and the Northern Mines are explored through a study of this historic and colorful region. By the turn of the century, the Northern mines had grown to be California's major gold producers and led the world in the overall development of mining technology. Time, circumstance and depletions have taken their toll. Yet today, within these towns, and others nearby, there still remains a rich cultural, and intensely interesting heritage which centers in mining. A weekend field trip will enable students to explore selected sites where both hard rock and placer gold mining developed, flourished for a time, then slowly faded and died.

Tracing California's Hispanic Heritage: Evelyn Romero Martinez

Tracing California's Hispanic Heritage is an examination of Alta California's heritage and history through genealogy. The course begins with the Colonial period of Nueva Espana/Mexico and continues through the Portola and De Anza expeditions into California, sharing their genealogies as the pueblos and presidios are established. Included will be a "how to" course designed to introduce the basic investigative methods to research a family tree, how to read Spanish records, and a capsule view of Hispanic costumes and pattern making. Instructor Martinez, an 8th generation California, has authored three books on the progenitors of Alta California, and has presented numerous workshops and lectures throughout the state of California. Her California Hispanic heritage dates back to the Colonial period of Mexico and Baja California.

The Roaring 20s: Ken Bruce

The Roaring 20s relives this amazing era of bathtub gin, floozies and flappers, gangsters and girls with the inimitable Ken Bruce. Beginning with the election of 1920 and Warren G. Harding, we will weave our way through the Washington Naval Disarmament Conference and the scandal that destroyed the president. We will "Keep Cool with Coolidge" as he wins the election of 1924 and watch as a cast of characters from Big Al to Amy Semple McPherson, Mammy Pleasant, and Fatty Arbuckle parade before us. Finally we will witness the saga of Herbert Clark Hoover as the great bull market collapses in 1929, and the ever changing tides of American history move on to meet the challenge of the Great Depression.

Craftsman Homes of Santa Clara County: Mardi Bennett

Craftsman Homes of Santa Clara County wil take students into the phase of home building that followed the Victorian era in California. Craftsman style homes are the only style of residence architecture which originated in California and moved eastward through the United States. Built between 1905 and 1930, these bungalows are prevalent in many well-established sections of San Jose as well as in the cities of Santa Clara and Los Gatos. On-site inspection of Craftsman neighborhoods will provide practical experience in identifying the various local examples of Craftsman design.



Anyone recognize this smiling threesome? A brother and sisters trio perhaps? If you have information about this photograph and the people in it, please call the History Center at 864-8712.

Guardians of the Gate: Betty Hirsch

Guardians of the Gate covers the various bases, batteries, missile sites, and other installations guarding the Golden Gate, both past and present, and will show how some bases have been integrated into the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to be enjoyed by area residents and visitors. Military expert, Colonel Bud Halsey will join the class on the field trip covering the Marin installations.

Ardenwood: A Teacher's Workshop: Bruce MacGregor

Ardenwood: A Teacher's Workshop is aimed at developing an experienced-based history curriculum for elementary school teachers. Lectures will lay the groundwork for the principles of curriculum development in a living history setting, and apply them to Ardenwood — a historic farming museum in Fremont. The class will develop a generic curriculum for using Ardenwood as a setting for teaching California agriculture, and through a site visit and group interaction customize the curriculum for each participant's elementary school classes. Instructor MacGregor has his doctorate in curriculum development, is a technical training manager with Intel Corp., and has taught many courses for the History Center over the past 10 years.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Thank you and Congratulations!

As *The Californian* goes to press, members of the California History Center Foundation have generously given \$12,109 to our permanent endowment, thereby earning an additional \$10,000 in matching funds from De Anza President A. Robert DeHart's President's Fund.

The endowment fund that was started for the History Center by Will Lester in the early 1980s currently has a balance of \$23,960, giving the CHCF a total of \$46,069 in endowment money. The money donated to the endowment is never spent, only the income it generates (i.e., interest) is used to support the activities and programs of the California History Center Foundation.

With the success experienced this year on the endowment drive and the ever-present need for varied sources of income, the center is setting a goal to increase the endowment fund to \$100,000 over the next four years.

Donations to the endowment fund is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or just to have the satisfaction of knowing that your donated dollar is used over and over again to keep the programs of the California History Center and Foundation alive. Endowment donations are always welcomed.

We would like to thank the following people who gave to the CHCF Endowment Fund and three anonymous donors:

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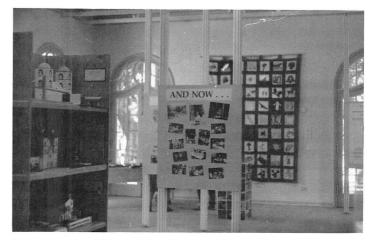
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Spring quarter's exhibit "Exploring the California Dream: A Children's Exhibit" was a hit with kids and adults alike. Three hundred people attended the opening for the children and their parents and close to 700 people came through either on a scheduled tour, Saturday hours or drop-in. The schools are very enthusiastic about doing it again, as are we! The exhibit included quilts, models, tile pedestals, student-made Indian artifacts and wonderful artwork on the walls. The exhibit was rounded out with contemporary photos and historic photos and toys. Photo by Jim Williams.



KCBS radio wine and food personality Narsai David was not only honorary host of the CHCF's wine tasting fund raiser on February 24, but he broadcast his Saturday morning program "Narsai's Kitchen" live from the event. Twenty wineries were represented at the tasting, held at the Syntex Gallery in Palo Alto. The weather was warm and balmy for February and all who attended declared the event a winner! Proceeds from the event were approximately \$6,000. Photo by Jim Cochrane.



The silent auction portion of the February 24 fund raiser was the big moneymaker for the day. Participants viewed, perused and bid on over 200 items for sale, including some quite rare bottles of wine. There was a last minute flurry as the bidding was declared closed and people were trying to get their final bids written down. Photo by Jim Cochrane.

Fund Raiser Thank You

Thanks to the following businesses and individuals for their contributions to this year's fund raising event

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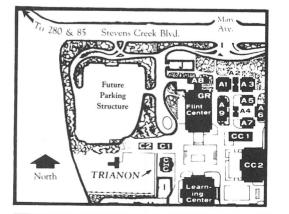
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21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, Calif. 95014 (408) 864-8712 Trianon Bldg. Hours: **Exhibit Hours:** Monday-Friday: Monday-Friday: 8:00 am-noon, 1:00-4:30 pm 9:00 am-noon, 1:00-4:00 pm

Closed July and August

Docent Tours may be scheduled by calling 864-8712. Call for Saturday hours.



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Contributing Writers: The Californian: Joel Franks

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CHERN

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