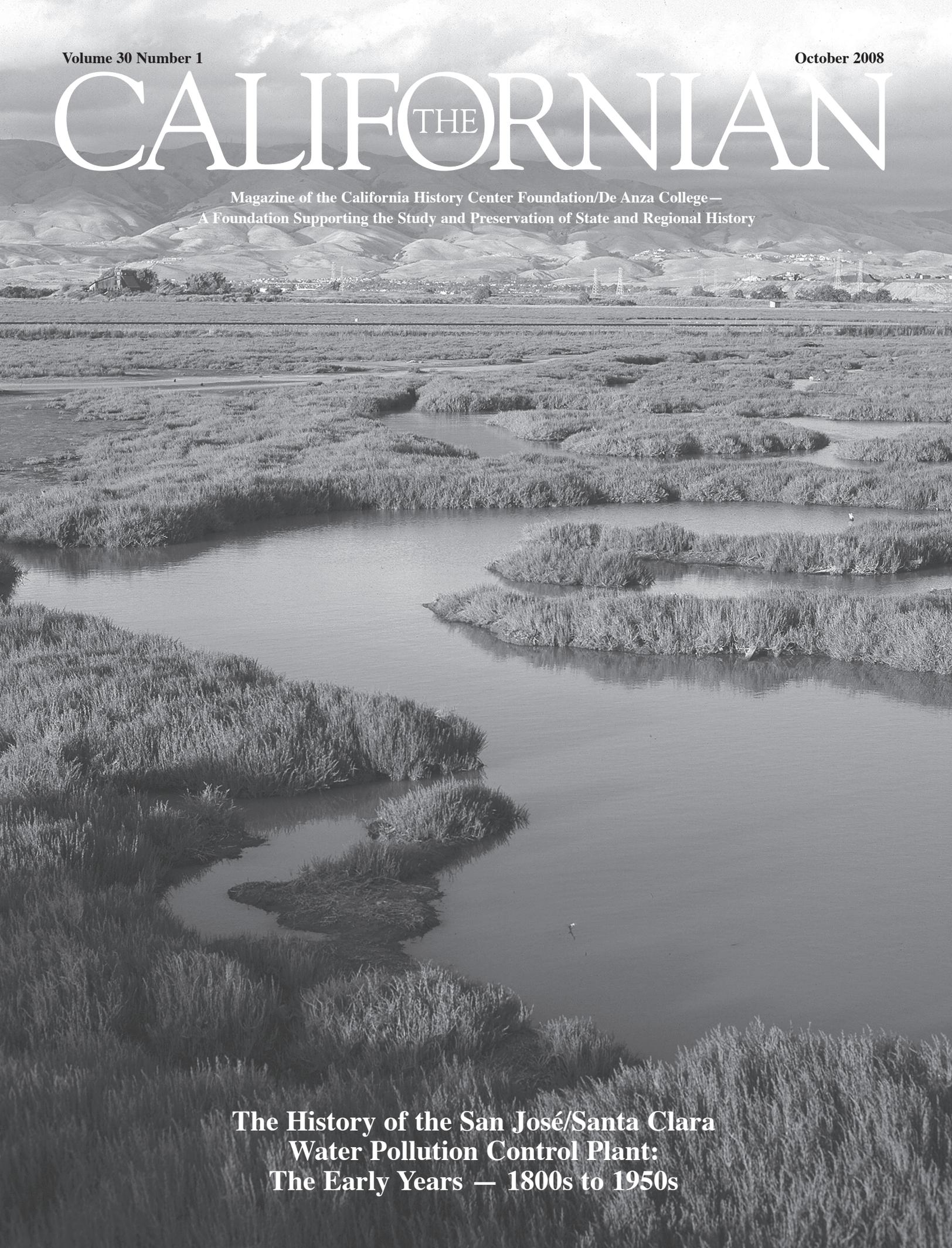


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CALIFORNIA THE ORNIAN

Magazine of the California History Center Foundation/De Anza College—
A Foundation Supporting the Study and Preservation of State and Regional History



**The History of the San José/Santa Clara
Water Pollution Control Plant:
The Early Years — 1800s to 1950s**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Historical Imagination: Fact or Fiction, Truth or Consequences?



Tom Izu

Years ago, while in college, I met some very interesting individuals. At the time I thought they were quite insane. You have to understand that this was Santa Cruz, a place and time when the purveyors of “counterculture” were escaping into the woods, away from the backlash of the late 1970s, in search of new lands that would accept them.

I met these “hippie” refugees, some the real thing, others perhaps younger “wannabees” but sincere nonetheless. They made up unusual

and kooky names for themselves, created strange rituals to undertake, and advised me to think “positive thoughts” about the cosmos, and just “imagine” a better, wonderful, world. I dismissed them as immature and foolish. You see, I thought of myself as quite serious and filled with purpose. Being an idealistic (and definitely arrogant) youth, I knew I would get to the bottom of the problems that threatened our society and had perplexed or blinded others, including the entire previous generation. In short, I would find the “truth” while my “hippie” friends would continue to dance and chant in a fantasy land that didn’t exist, oblivious to the forces of history which would surely smash their make believe world regardless of any efforts on their part at imagining things away.

Or at least I thought that was what was going to happen. Instead, it turns out that I was the one tied up in a fantasy world in need of imaginative thinking. Imagination, I had thought, was good for kids to use so they would not be “oppressed” by overwrought, conformity-obsessed, authority figures. But, beyond that, it wasn’t good for much unless you planned to become a hippie or perhaps an artist. The truth was more important and I figured that truth was something that could not exist in the realm of fantasy or imagination. It was something “real” that must be found and grasped in the real world.

I discovered that the “truth” was not out there. Fantasy was. The cold, hard, calculating world we are schooled to accept may indeed be cold and hard at times, but its calculations are off. In fact it is filled with illusions, denial, and fantasy, much of which does not compute. For example, do we really think our country can have access to unlimited natural and social resources without having to pay up eventually or is this just fantastical thinking? Don’t we live in a fantasy world when we assume that we can make up imaginary products that have no real material value, sell them as if they do have value and then think nothing unfortunate will happen (such as a financial collapse)?

We have all been taught that history has many lessons to convey. But sometimes we forget this, and think that since it is all about a past that doesn’t exist anymore, how relevant can it really be? This is where the imagination that I had spurned before becomes so important. It makes history something that can be experienced and learned from in the present, for the present, so that we can imagine a constructive future – one that has a reasonable chance of happening.

It sounds odd to have to “imagine” things as they truly are, but perhaps this is just one of those ironies of existence. The discipline of history, with its penchant for recording, documenting, and debating what really did or didn’t happen in the past, provides the grounding and facts, but our imaginations give us the ability to use these recorded facts to “see” and “experience” what has happened. It gives us a way to “imagine reality,” critically and thoughtfully.

Historical imagination allows us to place our selves in our “real” time, refocus, and not react out of fear. It allows us to understand and accept change. It gives us a needed gift of humility by forcing us to visit the insignificant and small space we fill in the scheme of history. While it makes us accept our seemingly inconsequential nature it simultaneously inspires us to do thoughtfully things of the utmost significance and consequence for those around us in our daily lives. We may not be the main characters in a fantasy drama, but we have roles to play in the real world with the people for whom we care.

While I can’t truthfully confirm what happened to the hippies of my past, I wouldn’t be surprised if some went on to become wealthy entrepreneurs after designing and successfully marketing some “new age” health products. Or perhaps some of them came to their senses and I am working with them right now and don’t recognize them because they have acquired a new identity. Perhaps some of them escaped - really escaped – and I can still find them someday if I venture back into the woods. Sometimes I fantasize about joining them. But right now I think it is better to use my imagination, aided by the study of history to be part of creating a better world to make real.

I think we can all use a little more historical imagination right about now.

It is with fondness and deep respect that CHCF reflects on the lives of Marion Grimm and Jean Miller, two special individuals who have been so important to the center and whom we have recently lost. Marion passed away in July, Jean in September.

There is no way out, better grin and bear it and yet I think I have a chance to dance!

*—Hippie friend
circa 1970s*

CHCF Loses Two Key Supporters

Marion Grimm

Longtime supporter of the center Marion Grimm passed away on July 15, 2008 at the age of 85. Marion had served on the CHCF Board of Trustees from September 1991 through June 2000 providing leadership, guidance, and support



for its many programs and activities. She was a champion in promoting local history and heritage, and was deeply committed to preserving and protecting local

historical resources for the benefit of future generations.

"Marion, and her husband, Bob Grimm, were extremely generous supporters of the center, and I remember one time in particular when she challenged our membership to match a very large gift to the CHCF and helped us complete a very successful fundraising drive," stated Tom Izu, CHC Executive Director. "When I first began to work on the staff of the CHC, Marion was a serious and key force behind our work for the center. At our meetings she presented a very business-like demeanor. But I also remember another side of her that came out at our fundraising events: she loved to sing such songs as 'I Love You, California' – our state song - and 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game' and would laugh in such a delightful way that I knew she really had deep feelings for what she was involved in. She will be greatly missed," added Izu.

Marion worked as a college instructor (Bowling Green State University in Ohio), a high school social studies teacher (San Mateo High School, California), a school psychologist (San Mateo County schools), and later engaged in a ten year career as a travel agent in Los Altos.

Marion was also an active member of her community playing a leadership role in many organizations including the Palo Alto Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, Los Altos-Mountain View A.A.U.W., League of Women Voters, the Arts Committee of the City of Los Altos, Los Altos Conservatory Theatre (now called the Bus Barn Theater), Los Altos Community Foundation, Heritage Council of Santa Clara County, the Mid-Peninsula History Consortium, Committee to Save Griffin House on the Foothill College campus, Los Altos Historical Commission, and the Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum. For the Association, Marion was instrumental in creating a new museum building, working countless hours to ensure that a new and attractive facility could be built in Los Altos to save and promote local history.

"During my years as CHCF Director, I couldn't have asked for a better board member and ally than Marion," reflects Kathleen Peregrin, former CHC Executive Director. "She was dedicated to the mission of the center, supportive of the new directions we charted, came to meetings prepared to do business and was always the first to raise her hand to get the fundraising started. The California History Center, indeed, the entire Santa Clara Valley history community, has lost a good and true friend."

Jean Miller

CHCF Board of Trustees and De Anza College faculty member, Jean Miller, passed away on September 22. Jean was a long time language arts instructor and social activist. She joined the CHCF board in June 2007 because of her deep appreciation for and interest in exploring local history and her practical understanding of its importance in education. "Unless we know where we've been, it's difficult to know if we're going in the right direction. Becoming a member of the California

History Center Board offers me an opportunity to work with others in the community and throughout the region to capture some of the hidden histories that can help us construct a compass for moving into the future," Jean wrote in a letter explaining her desire to serve as a board member of the center.



PHOTO: JUDY HUBBARD

"She was always ready to help, and she spent many hours assisting me sort out confusing and conflicting ideas I was struggling with in regards to

directing the center. She was a magnificent writer and thinker, but also so uncommonly kind and generous," stated Tom Izu. "I am saddened, and feel I have lost a great teacher."

Jean taught English at De Anza since 1989 and served as the English Readiness Coordinator, and recently was leading the First Year Experience program, a new project aimed at retaining at-risk students, after helping the college with its successful Puente program. She served on many other committees for the campus including the Equity Collaboration Team, the Strategic Planning Team, and the Women's History Month Planning Committee. "Jean was always a supporter of equity, justice, and compassion," stated De Anza College President Brian Murphy in a memo to the campus. "What many faculty remember most about Jean is how much she gave to students, to her colleagues and friends, to the department, and to the school. She served as a mentor to countless students and faculty, and she dedicated her life to helping others, never asking for anything in return (unless it was for someone else)."

Both Marion and Jean will be dearly missed, and always remembered.

EDUCATION

California History Center State and Regional History Academic Program

The following courses will be offered fall quarter 2008 through the California History Center. Please see the History Department class listings section of this Schedule of Classes for detailed information. **For additional course information, call the center at (408) 864-8712, or you may register on-line at: www.deanza.edu**

TIMOTHY PFLUEGER, ART DECO GENIUS

Betty Hirsch

HIST-54X-95 ■ 2 UNITS

Timothy Pflueger was one of San Francisco's most colorful artistic figures. Monuments to his extraordinary style are scattered throughout the Bay Area. He was famous not only for designing movie theaters: the Castro, El Rey, and Alhambra, and his crowning glory, the Oakland Paramount, but also for his Telephone Building, 450 Sutter Medical Dental Building, and the Pacific Coast Stock Exchange. His influence went far beyond his individual buildings as he sat on several boards of consulting architects including those for the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and the Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939. The class will tour some of his major buildings.

Lectures: Thursdays, Oct. 2 & Oct. 23
6:20 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., CHC
Field Trips: Saturdays, Oct. 4 & 25 (TBA)

POINT LOBOS TO SILVERADO: THE STEVENSONS IN CALIFORNIA, 1879 - 1880

Chatham Forbes

HIST- 54X-96 ■ 2 UNITS

Robert Louis Stevenson rode the rails to California in 1879 to woo and marry Fanny Osbourne. His written notes along the way became a valued published record of the society and unspoiled landscape of the San Francisco Bay Region in the late Victorian era. The class will visit Monterey and the upper Napa Valley.

Lectures: Thursdays, Oct. 9 & Oct. 16
6:20 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., CHC
Field Trips: Saturdays, Oct. 11 & 18 (TBA)

SARAH WINCHESTER: MYSTERIOUS OR MISUNDERSTOOD?

Mary Jo Ignoffo

HIST-54X-97 ■ 2 UNITS

Rarely is one individual assigned as many incarnations as the reclusive heiress to the Winchester rifle fortune. Sarah L. Pardee Winchester (1839-1922) has been described as a sedate Victorian lady, an obsessive adherent of Spiritualism, a moderately successful fruit farmer, a dabbler in the paranormal, an amateur architect, and a generous benefactor. But according to archival records unearthed by historian Mary Jo Ignoffo, the entire second half of Winchester's eighty-three years was aimed at financing the eradication of tuberculosis, the disease that stole her husband. This course profiles the enigmatic heiress and



Winchester
"Mystery"
house, circa
1900, San
José.

Courtesy
History
San José.

describes the process of evaluating primary historical sources about her.

Lectures: Wednesdays, Oct. 22, Oct 29, and Nov. 5, 2008
6:20 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., CHC
Field Trip: Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008 (TBA)

SEA OTTERS AND RUSSIANS IN HISPANIC CALIFORNIA, 1812-1841

Chatham Forbes

HIST-51X-95 ■ 2 UNITS

In 1812 the lucrative sea otter fur trade drew the Russians from Alaska to settle in Northern California. Spanish resentment put General Vallejo's troops in Sonoma, nevertheless the Russians continued operations until 1841. The class will conduct field studies in Fort Ross and Sonoma.

Lectures: Nov. 6 & Nov. 13
6:20 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., CHC
Field Trips: Saturdays, Nov. 8 & Nov. 15 (TBA)

BAY AREA MANSIONS

Betty Hirsch

HIST-53X-95 ■ 2 UNITS

The Bay Area is enhanced by a vast array of mansions which are creations and outgrowths of the personalities of such historical figures as James Duval Phelan, William Bourn and John McLaren. Students in this class will visit a variety of mansions and discuss how they serve as art form and as symbols of the Bay Area and its architecture. Some mansions visited will include: Dunsmuir House, Filoli, Villa Montalvo and Ralston Mansion.

Lectures: Thursdays, Nov. 20 & Dec. 4
6:20 p.m. -10:00 p.m., CHC
Field Trips: Saturdays, Dec. 6 and 13 (TBA)

The History of the San José/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant: The Early Years – 1880s to 1950s

By Amy Fonseca and Paul Prange

The following is an excerpt from a manuscript tracing the history of the South Bay's Water Pollution Control Plant completed under the aegis of the City of San José's Environmental Services Department. It documents an area of regional history oftentimes ignored but that is of tremendous consequence. How a region creates its infrastructure, including its system of waste disposal, helps determine its economic course and provides insights into its political history. We have included the first part of the document in this issue of The Californian. CHCF is currently working with the City of San José to publish the complete manuscript in book form as part of CHCF's Local History Series.

In January 2007, the *British Medical Journal* polled medical experts and thousands of doctors around the world on what they believed to be the greatest medical breakthrough since the journal began publication in 1840. Of the hundred nominations, sanitation won the vote: By reducing the spread of infectious diseases and improving standard living conditions, sanitation helped to increase the average human lifespan by an impressive 35 years within the twentieth century.¹

Residents in the south San Francisco Bay Area (South Bay) rarely think of sewage after the toilet is flushed, unaware that the San José/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant (Plant) has protected the health of the southern San Francisco Bay (Bay) and local residents for more than 50 years. Prior to its construction in 1956, local cities, like those throughout America, simply dumped sewage into the nearest body of water; in this case the southern Bay. Wastewater in the Santa Clara Valley (Valley) was especially problematic because canneries, the Valley's largest industry at the time, also dumped wastewater full of fruit byproducts directly into the southern Bay from late summer through the end of fall. Because of the southern Bay's relatively slow circulation, much of the waste remained untreated and continued to rot until it was finally washed out with the rains in November. The sewage was not only unsightly and odorous, but it also created unsanitary conditions and had the potential to spread infectious diseases throughout the Valley. With its construction in 1956, the Plant reversed the deplorable condition of the southern Bay thereby improving and maintaining a quality of life for area residents and marine life.

The Plant has also played a direct role in the growth of the City of San José (City), much of the South Bay, and its economy. To grow and properly function, a city's infrastructure must be able to successfully support it. City planners were well aware of this in the 1950s. With a wastewater treatment plant, they could attract business,

About the Authors

Amy Fonseca is a graduate intern with the City of San José's Environmental Services Department. She recently graduated with a MA in History from San José State University. Amy and Paul Prange, an Environmental Services Specialist with the city, have been working on a manuscript detailing the history and milestones of the San José/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant and its role in local growth and politics.

development, and land annexations to the City by offering lower sewage disposal and connection fees than other South Bay cities. To achieve their quest to transform San José from a quiet agricultural town into a large and robust city, planners encouraged residents to fund a state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant. Early on, the residents and food processing industry resisted allocating money to build the Plant, but eventually came to see that it served a necessary and important service. When the City was threatened



April 18, 1955 ground breaking ceremony with Mayor George Starbird (pictured center with shovel), City Manager "Dutch" Hamann (pictured second from the left), and other city officials. Courtesy of Environmental Services.

with a moratorium on development because the Plant reached maximum capacity in the early 1980s, businesses and developers advocated expansions. In 1981, the President of the Santa Clara Manufacturing Group called the Plant “the cornerstone on which everything else is built.”²²

Completed in 1956, the Plant had an original capacity to treat 38 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater and served a population of approximately 100,000. Since then, the Plant has expanded and grown along with the South Bay. Today it serves approximately 1.4 million residents across eight cities and can treat 167 MGD³. Many of the Plant’s expansions were dedicated to the treatment of organic wastes from the canneries; because of this, it could well handle the growth in population over the years as the local industry transitioned from one dominated by food processing to the high-tech industry that dominates today. As a southern Bay discharger, the Plant is subject to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board’s (Regional Board) stringent regulations. Due to the slow movement of water in the southern Bay, the Plant has ensured that the effluent discharged into the Bay is as clean as possible. This helped to make the Plant one of the largest and most advanced wastewater treatment facilities in the nation. City and Plant staff are dedicated to limiting the effluent discharge’s effect on the delicate ecosystem. In 2006, the Plant and its staff celebrated 50 years of continuous operation, and it is the City’s intention to continue offering quality wastewater treatment. Former Environmental Services employee JoAnna DeSa believes: “[The Plant] is the guardian of the environment. Without it, the Bay would be a cesspool that couldn’t be enjoyed by the people.”²⁴

In the Beginning

In the late 1880s, many large cities in the United States, including San José, constructed simple sewage systems that channeled untreated wastewater from residential and industrial sites directly into local rivers, creeks, or any large body of water.⁵ The upturn in the economy, especially after World War II, improved the standard of living for many. By the late 1940s, 55 percent of Americans had indoor plumbing, which generated more wastewater from showers, baths, and toilets.⁶ Technological advances increased the number of home appliances that used large quantities of water such as washing machines, dishwashers, and garbage disposals. In between the years of 1900 and 1950, the volume and content of the nation’s wastewater could only intensify as the population of the U.S. increased from 76 million to 151 million, and industrial capacity grew by an astonishing 700 percent.⁷ Wastewater from residents increased in volume and complexity to such an extent that it became inconvenient for urban residents to



Aerial view southeast of primary treatment plant ca. 1959 (center right), including plant expansion construction (center), Zanker Road, neighboring hog farm (center bottom), and orchards and the Diablo Range foothills in the distance. Courtesy of Environmental Services.

rely on decentralized septic tanks for sewage disposal.⁸ The nation’s waters suffered as a result of all of these combined intensified water uses.

Early History of Water Pollution Control

In 1946, Congress passed the Water Pollution Control Act in response to the increasing volume of industrial and residential wastewater contaminating the nation’s waters.⁹ The law aimed to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation’s water.”¹⁰ It was the first federal law to regulate water pollution, which Congress had earlier deemed a state issue. With many states either refusing to create water pollution control standards or failing to enforce them, Congress felt it necessary to intercede. The 1946 law authorized the Surgeon General to fund research on wastewater treatment in an effort to create federally

uniform standards for water quality in interstate waters.¹¹

While the federal government was busy, the State of California's (State) Assembly Committee on Water Pollution reassessed its regulation of water quality. At the time, local counties and municipalities regulated their own waters, but overlapping jurisdictions, regional industries, and interest groups made enforcement difficult. Compounded with the increase of waste being dumped in California's waters, the State recognized the growing need to consolidate disparate water pollution control standards.¹²

In 1949, the state legislature enacted the Dickey Water Pollution Act that created the State Water Quality Control Board and nine regional boards, including the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board).¹³ The Dickey Act went beyond the standards previously created by the State Health Board by curtailing water pollution that created a nuisance from odors or unsightliness.¹⁴ Failure to comply with regional or State water quality laws resulted in fines and/or criminal or civil suits for any parties involved.¹⁵ With increasing regulation, Bay Area cities realized that they would have to clean up their methods of disposing wastewater or face years of heavy fines.

History of Pollution in the Bay and the Planning of the Plant

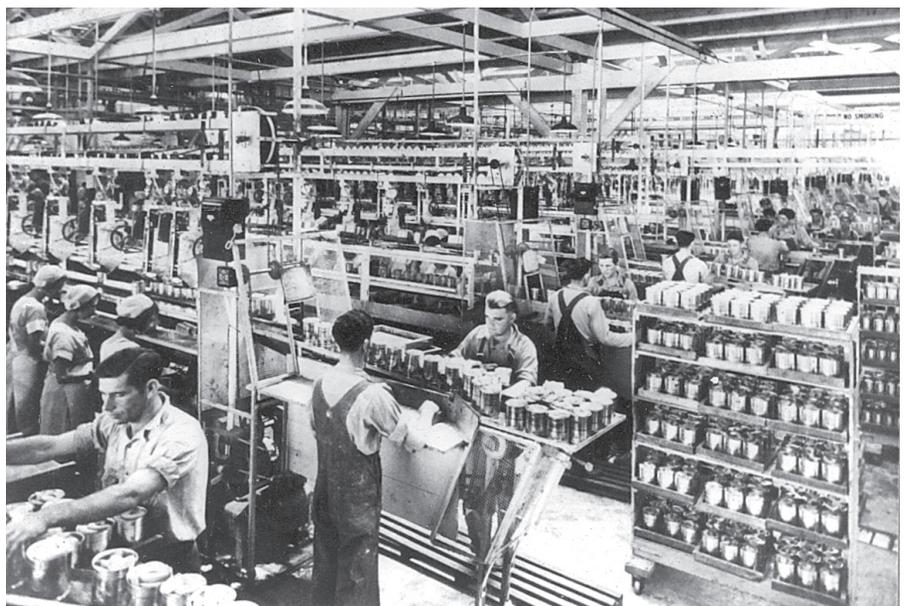
Planning for a wastewater treatment plant began in 1946 when the County of Santa Clara (County) commissioned the *Santa Clara County Sewage Disposal Survey Report Upon the Collection, Treatment and Disposal of Sewage and Industrial Wastes of Santa Clara County California*.¹⁶ Instead of each city dealing with its own sewage problems, the County wished to consolidate all sewage treatment into one treatment plant. San José's existing sewer system consisted of concrete pipes that pumped untreated sewage and storm water from downtown and north San José into the Bay.¹⁷ The pollution of the southern Bay had become so intolerable that the State Board of Public Health enacted the Resolution Against Disposal of Raw Sewage into the Waters of the State without Appropriate Sewage Treatment in 1946, which included a review of sewage disposal permits.¹⁸

During World War II, local regulations on wastewater became extremely lenient.¹⁹ Food processing, a major industry in the South Bay, was the most visible contributor to water pollution. Canning production during the war was vital. To speed up production, the canneries removed screens from their sewer connections,

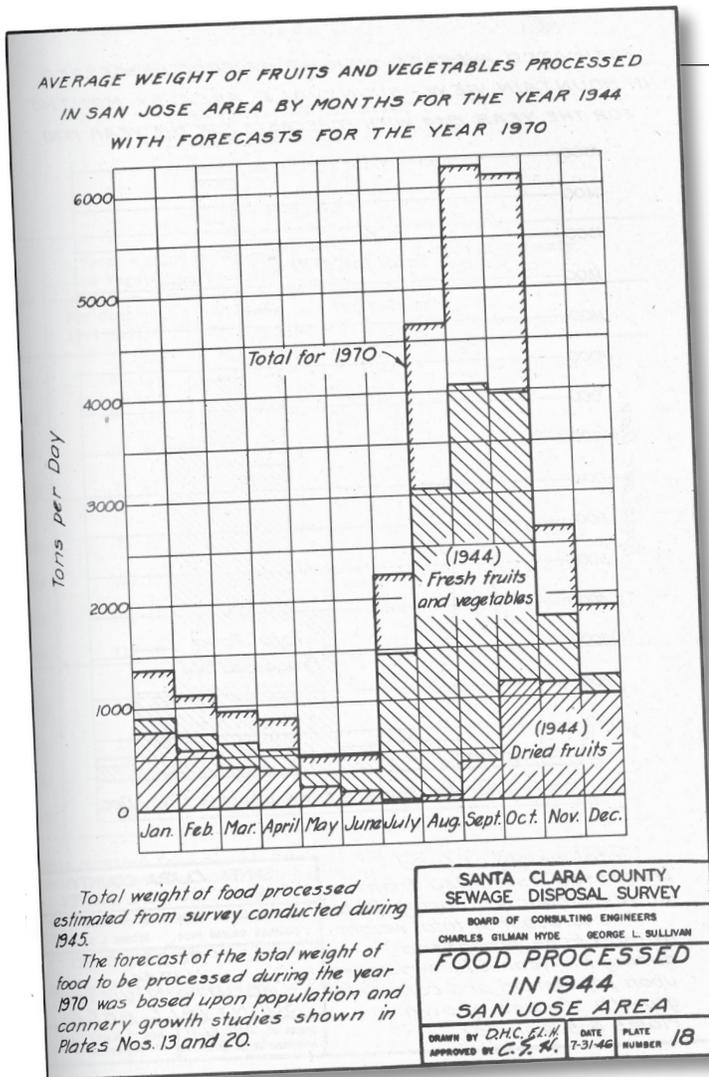
resulting in massive amounts of organic wastes being dumped into Coyote Creek, which flowed into the southern Bay. Food processing and industrial wastes, along with raw sewage became so intolerable, that as the war ended, the State began reversing its neglect of water quality in the Bay.²⁰

Adding to the concentration of pollution, many natural freshwater streams flowing into the Bay that should have aided in decomposition and dilution of wastewater were being diverted for local agriculture and to Southern California.²¹ The Bay itself had been slowly shrinking as a result of industrial land filling from construction, such as airports, highways, bridges and salt ponds that further concentrated Bay waters.²²

The war also indirectly contributed to increase in wastewater flowing into the Bay by way of population growth. War industries brought military personnel to the Bay Area who concentrated in coastal areas with harbors, many of whom decided to stay permanently.²³ The main goal for building a wastewater treatment plant in the southern Bay was to improve the quality of life in the area. The amount of organic wastes in the southern Bay attracted potentially dangerous vectors such as rats and insects that had the potential to spread infectious diseases such as cholera and typhoid. They lived in and fed off of the waste and brought raw sewage in contact with people living in the area.²⁴ Sewage bond pamphlets stressed that these contagious diseases were not confined to the residents of Alviso, but extended to the greater South Bay.²⁵ The agricultural industry also attracted seasonal workers



*Libby, McNeill & Libby cannery factory floor, Sunnyvale, 1930.
Courtesy Sunnyvale Historical Society.*



Graph of "total weight of food processed estimated from survey conducted during 1945" (by months) from Santa Clara County Sewage Disposal Survey, by Charles Gilman Hyde, George Leonard Sullivan, and Board of Consulting Engineers, 1946, plate 18. (Please note forecast for 1970.)

whose short-term dwellings did little to keep out these unwanted pests. City planners warned that the children put their lives at risk everyday when they played in or around the southern Bay. Over the years, San José's sewer system became a kind of rat "super-highway" and granted easy access into homes and businesses via storm drains and manhole covers in the streets. The County Board of Consulting Engineers suggested the County build two separate sewage systems for storm water and wastewater in order to reduce the amount of wastewater requiring treatment and to reduce the number of rodents living in the storm drains and sewers which were attracted by the sewage.²⁶

The waste in the Bay was not only dangerous, but unsightly. In March 1950, Joel Y. Rickman of the *Palo Alto Times* described the condition of the Bay: "In short, San Jose has two sides—her good side and her bad side. Her good side, of which the Municipal Rose Gardens is part, is one she presents to the outside world for flattering plaudits. Her bad side, the bubbling, stagnating filth of the Alviso outfall, is the one she keeps locked behind high iron fences."²⁷ The southern Bay was so unattractive, that the then separate cities of San José (City) and Alviso could not attract development in the areas near the Bay, which had been a popular harbor in earlier decades. The hydrogen sulfide produced by the cannery waste turned buildings with lead-based paints gray a few days after the start of canning season.²⁸ Surveyors out in the marshes often reported that silver coins in their pockets would turn brownish gray in a matter of minutes.²⁹ The City hoped that a wastewater treatment facility could turn this situation around. Ideally, the sewage could be treated well enough to allow residents to engage in leisure activities, water sports, and fishing in the southern Bay without risk to their health.³⁰

The Old Sewage System

San José's original sewer system simply dumped raw sewage into the Bay. According to author John Young, the City Council devised the existing sewer system in 1871 as part of the City's Master Plan.³¹ In the late nineteenth century, former City Surveyor and Civil Engineer Charles Pieper designed the combined storm water and wastewater sewer to serve a maximum 10,000 residents and 3,750 acres. Construction began in 1880 and was funded through bond money totaling \$250,000.³² Most of the sewer pipes were made of glazed stoneware and were relatively small in diameter to minimize costs, prevent the drying up of effluent in the summer, and because the population of the area was not expected to increase. Once completed, the main outfall sewer measured 60 inches in diameter and was made of brick and redwood. It ran from downtown through Alviso and discharged into the Mallard Slough, just one mile south of the existing Plant. As the City's sewage system ran through Alviso, then an independent city, San José had to purchase the right-of-way for the sewer from local orchard owners and grant them the right to tap into the wastewater for irrigation during the dry season.³³ In 1930, the outfall line was extended 2.5 miles further into the Bay.³⁴ Frank Belick, P.E., who assisted the County Board of Engineers and later served as Plant Manager from 1956 until 1980, remembers the outfall being noisy and clumsy looking.³⁵

As development increased, the City simply connected more pipes to the existing system. In fact, the residents of a small neighboring town called Willow Glen voted for their incorporation into

San José in 1936 because of this very sewer system. Until this time, residents of Willow Glen relied on individual septic systems that quickly proved to be inefficient by the 1930s. Annexing itself to San José was a quicker and more cost effective means of dealing with the small town's sewage dilemma.³⁶

Throughout the years, however, the sewage system and its outfall experienced numerous breakdowns. The system was not designed to accommodate the increasing population and industry, especially canning, and wore down with age. By 1923, the red-wood box sewer had rotted and was replaced with concrete pipes.³⁷ The combined wastewater and storm water system meant that the pipes proved too small to hold any large amounts of storm water during floods, which was increasing due to massive paving and development that prevented runoff from being absorbed into the ground. On the other hand, the pipes were too large to prevent

the sewage and cannery wastes from drying up in the summers.³⁸ In the late 1940s, breaks in the pipes became more frequent, adding to the push to redesign the entire system.

The years of constant use had weakened the pipes, especially those not covered by dirt, and breaks would occur during canning season. The problem was further exacerbated by land subsidence that gradually added to the instability of the pipes.³⁹ One of the largest reported breaks befell the sewer system in August of 1958, two years after the first Plant opened.⁴⁰ The main brick line, located just three feet below the surface, broke, spewing 1,000 gallons of sewage onto farmlands north of Trimble Road.⁴¹ To stop the leak, City workers buried the sewer line and once the flow had ceased, they dug it up for repairs. City Manager A.P. Hamann, one of the biggest supporters of renovating the entire sewage system, responded to the news by saying: "I told you so."⁴²



The San José/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant has evolved to become one of the largest, most advanced wastewater treatment facilities on the West Coast, serving 1.4 million residents and 16,000 businesses in an eight-city area of the South Bay. The City of San José has been operating the Plant since its construction in 1956 and has managed it as an award-winning facility. However, the Plant is now more than 50 years old with many assets at the end of their projected life cycles. In addition to aging infrastructure, factors such as population growth, stricter regulations, and the availability of safer, greener technologies are driving the need to create a fresh plan for the Plant's operations. The Plant Master Plan is a three-year process that will engage the public, decision-makers, and green technology experts in charting a course for the Plant for the next 30 years. In addition to new technologies, the Master Plan will

consider new uses on some of the Plant's 2,600-acre property that includes open grasslands and an 850-acre former salt pond.

PLANT MASTER PLAN INFORMATION & PLANT TOURS All interested residents and groups are invited to participate in the Plant Master Plan and/or take a Plant bus tour. The fall season of Saturday public tours of the Plant ends November 1, 2008, but will restart in Spring 2009. For more information on the Master Plan or Plant tours, visit: www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan

PLANT MASTER PLAN CONTACTS City of San José Environmental Services Department operates the Plant and is overseeing the Plant Master Plan. For more information, contact:

(area code for all numbers: 408)

John Stuffelbean, Director - 535-8560

Dale Ihrke, Plant Manager - 945-5198

Bhavani Yerrapotu, Technical Services Manager - 945-5321

Kirsten Struve, Project Manager - 945-5180

Matt Krupp, Planner - 945-5182

Jennifer Garnett, Media Contact - 535-8554

TO SUBSCRIBE TO PLANT MASTER PLAN E-MAIL OR GIVE INPUT:

e-mail: matt.krupp@sanjoseca.gov

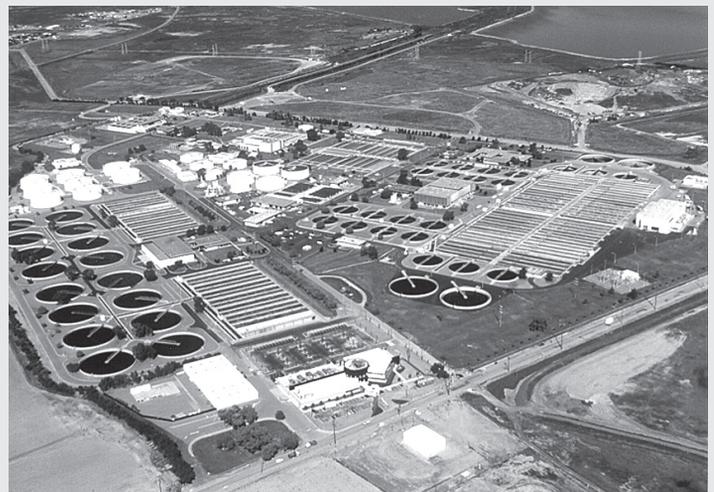
phone: 945-5182

mail: Matt Krupp

City of San José, Environmental Services

200 E. Santa Clara St., FL 10

San José, CA 95113-1905



Plans for Wastewater Treatment in the Santa Clara Valley

By 1948, the County of Santa Clara recruited Sanitary Engineers Charles Gilman Hyde of the University of California, Berkeley and George Sullivan of the University of Santa Clara to serve on the Santa Clara County Board of Consulting Engineers (Board of Engineers) and report on the status of the County's existing sewage systems.⁴³ The team also included Sanitary Engineer Frank Belick who assisted in the surveying. The Board of Engineers published the *Santa Clara County Sewage Disposal Survey Report* in 1946, recommending one large primary sewage treatment facility for most of the County.⁴⁴ The County contained five sanitary districts, of which the City of San José made up Sanitary District One. According to Belick, under the federal Water Pollution Control Act and the State Dickey Act, the County was ordered to build a sewage treatment facility, but was not given a deadline for completion and received only partial funding to design and build the plant.⁴⁵ The County paid for the sewage disposal survey with money from a "rainy day" State reserve created during the war to finance projects related to environmental protection. Due to the small budget allocated to the report, the County recruited local residents to assist in the surveying and paid them to take water samples using their own boats.⁴⁶ Belick now believes that the County made a wise move, as the cost of the report would have surged had the County delayed.⁴⁷

Belick recalls that as their first attempt to curb pollution in the Bay, the County encouraged industry to cut back on wastewater

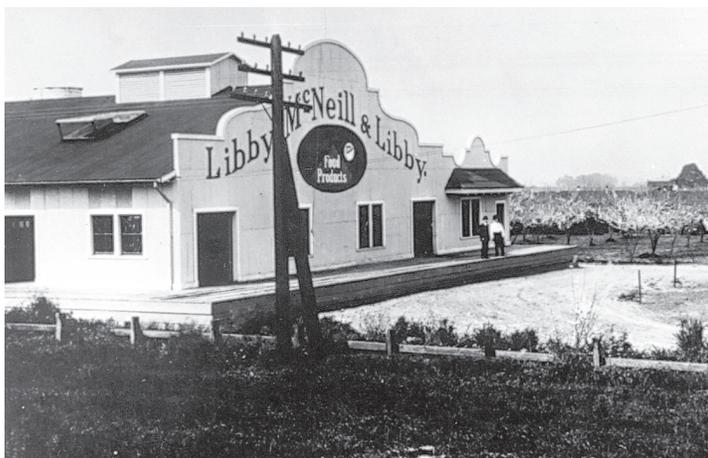
and pay for their own wastewater treatment and disposal. The canneries refused, arguing that the cost of waste disposal would be too high and would lead to smaller profits and fewer jobs.⁴⁸ Since this plan for water pollution control was not feasible, the Board of Consulting Engineers recommended building a sewage treatment plant to provide primary and secondary treatment, including oxidation ponds.⁴⁹ The County planned to start building the plant in 1948. Once the proposed construction commenced, the project would take 18 months to complete and the \$3 million in costs would be financed through revenue bonds and by cities within the County.⁵⁰ Unfortunately, Belick explains, the County's plans proved overly optimistic, as it was unable to get all of the cities to agree or commit to the project.⁵¹ It seems no one was eager to put up their own dollars to fund the badly needed plant. Since the federal and State authorities had not set any dates for counties to comply with water pollution control standards, the County and its cities simply put it off.

San José Pushes Forward with a Treatment Plant

Tired of waiting for the County to build a sewage treatment plant, San José struck out and began making plans to build its own plant. By this time, numerous other cities, such as San Francisco, Pleasanton, Irvington (now Fremont), Mountain View and Sunnyvale, were building or planning for their own treatment plants.⁵² Palo Alto was the first Bay Area city to construct a plant in 1934.⁵³ In March of 1949, the City paid the Hyde-Sullivan consulting firm \$166,000 to study sewage treatment options for the City.⁵⁴ With a limited annual budget, the City paid for most projects through bonds because it had no means of raising taxes.⁵⁵ It received federal and State grants to build a plant, but these funds only covered a small portion of the total costs.⁵⁶

The sewer bond initiative of 1949 faced many opponents. The canneries and anti-growth committees proved to be the loudest objectors. The City's 22 canneries, at the time the largest industry, employed almost half of San José's work force and had a lot of lobbying power.⁵⁷ They contended that the City did not need a sewage treatment plant or oxidation ponds. Belick well remembers the canneries' objection to the sewage bonds. He feared going anywhere, especially to City Hall, because protesters from the canneries would follow City employees and spend the day in the City parking lot shouting that they would lose jobs if the plant was built. They blamed the City and refused to acknowledge that it was just trying to follow the law.⁵⁸

In the 1949 general election, the treatment plant and sewer bonds failed to receive the two-thirds majority needed to pass.⁵⁹ By 1950, the State Department of Health denied the City a permit to dump sewage, and issued a cease and desist order to San José and



Libby, McNeill & Libby, a Chicago meat-packing company, opened its first fruit cannery in Sunnyvale in 1907, and soon after became the largest employer in the area. By 1922 this facility had also become the world's largest cannery. Courtesy Sunnyvale Historical Society.

numerous other entities in the Bay Area to stop dumping sewage into the Bay.⁶⁰

In response, A.P. “Dutch” Hamann and his pro-growth associates in the Citizen’s Committee, headed by Fred J. Fletcher, reached out to churches to help campaign for all of the City’s proposed bond issues.⁶¹ As a City Manager, Hamann was heavily invested in the growth of San José from the 1950s through the 1960s.⁶² Under his term as City Manager, Hamann pushed for the annexations of areas lying outside of the City’s limits to fund its growth, maintain dominance in the South Bay, and generate tax revenue to pay for the infrastructure needed to attract industry and developers.⁶³ According to authors Philip Trounstine and Terry Christensen, between 1950 and 1970, Hamann and his “Panzer Division” helped gain the City Council’s approval of 1,391 annexations, adding 132 square miles to the City’s limits.⁶⁴ The annexations contributed to the doubling of San José’s population between 1952 and 1957. This was all part of Hamann’s dream to make San José the “Los Angeles of the North.”⁶⁵ The new sewage treatment plant and the sewer system became a focal point for facilitating this growth by enticing residents in outlying areas to approve annexation into San José.⁶⁶

In 1950, the City put up sewer bond issues for the second time. That year there were numerous bonds to fund the City’s pro-growth infrastructure such as overhauling the sewage system, expanding the airport, and improving streets.⁶⁷ The City altered the new sewage bond issues to include the new plant location in Alviso and to separate the storm sewers from wastewater sewers. By separating the sewers, the City would reduce the amount of wastewater that needed treatment and could thus build a smaller plant.⁶⁸ City officials warned voters that if the sewage bonds did not pass, the economy and new development would be halted.⁶⁹ Delaying the passage of sewer bonds would only cost the taxpayers more in the long run as the City accrued more non-compliance fines.⁷⁰ Residents passed the sewer bond issues in May of 1950 and the canneries finally accepted the construction of the Plant as inevitable.⁷¹

Despite the passage of bonds, the City still did not have enough funds to build a modern sewage treatment plant with secondary treatment and the capacity to accommodate anticipated growth. Officials therefore chose to build a primary treatment plant large enough to satisfy water quality laws and left the secondary facilities for a later date. Hamann offered neighboring cities sewage treatment capacity if they assisted in financing. The cities refused, citing that San José’s canning industry was the main source of the region’s problematic wastewater.⁷² Despite this brief setback, Hamann was able to find other funds for the sewage disposal system while at the same time supporting his pro-growth agenda.

Trounstine and Christensen argued that San José’s sewage monopoly proved to be its “greatest weapon in the annexation wars” and served as an effective tool to entice developers.⁷³ For example, Public Works built new sewers larger than needed in anticipation of growth and annexations. Residents of unincorporated areas were enticed to join San José with subsidies for sewage connections without having to pass bonds to pay for capital improvements. The City Council further enhanced this method when in 1951 it banned outside links to San José’s sewage system.⁷⁴ City planners also designed the extension of the sewage system around developers’ interests. With each inquiry from a prospective developer, planners placed pushpins into a map. When any area on the map received enough pins, the City simply built a sewer line without being asked.⁷⁵ As an additional incentive, San José supplemented developers and businesses with lower sewer connection and disposal fees than neighboring cities.⁷⁶ Eventually, argues the late historian Leonard McKay, “the sewage disposal plant proved to be one of the major attractions for new businesses and San José became Silicon Valley.” But first, San José had to build the Plant.

¹ David Katz, M.D., “Sanitation a Top Medical Milestone: More than 150 Years of Medical Marvels: Sanitation Voted the Greatest Advance Since 1840,” *ABC News Medical Unit* [online]; available from: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/Story?id=2805299&page=1>; Internet; accessed 2 April, 2008.

² Philip Trounstine, “Treatment plant called key to Silicon Valley,” *San Jose Mercury News*, 3 January 1982, 7A.

³ The City of San José: Environmental Services Department, “Request for Proposal: Consultant Services to Develop a Master Plan for the San José/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant,” (2007), 10.

⁴ JoAnna DeSa, interview by Amy Fonseca, digital voice recording, San José, CA, 26 October, 2007.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ King College Library, “American Cultural History in the Twentieth Century: 1940-1949 [online];” available from: <http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/decade40.html>; Internet; accessed 9 April, 2008.

⁷ Paul Charles Milazzo, *Unlikely Environmentalists: Congress and Clean Water, 1945-1972*, (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2006), 1.

⁸ Stephen J. Burian, Stephan J. Nix, Robert E. Pitt, and S. Rocky Durrans, “Urban Wastewater Management in the United States: Past, Present, and Future,” *Journal of Urban Technology*, vol. 7, no. 3 (2000), 52.

⁹ Burian, Nixon, Pitt and Durrans, 52.

¹⁰ “Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.),” *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* [online]; Internet; available from: <http://epa.gov/region5/water/pdf/ecwa.pdf>; accessed 6 December, 2007.

¹¹ Burian, 53.

¹² California Environmental Protection Agency, “The History of the California Environmental Protection Agency [online];” available from: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/About/History01/swrcb.htm>; Internet; accessed 6 December, 2007.

¹³ Ibid.

- ¹⁴ "California's Water Pollution Problem," *Stanford Law Review*, Vol. 3, No. 4 (July, 1951), 652.
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 654-656.
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- ¹⁷ John Young, *The History of the Sixty Inch Brick Sewer*, (1974) San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant File Archive, 3.
- ¹⁸ Hyde and Sullivan, 1.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.*
- ²⁰ *Ibid.*
- ²¹ Doug Haydel, "Regional Control of Air and Water Pollution in the San Francisco Bay Area," *California Law Review*, Vol. 55, No. 3, (August 1967) [online]; available from: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0008-1221%28196708%2955%3A3%3C702%3ARCOAAW%3E2.0.CO%3B2-T>; Internet; accessed 7 December, 2007, 713.
- ²² *Ibid.*
- ²³ *Ibid.*, 38-40.
- ²⁴ *Ibid.*, 4-6.
- ²⁵ City of San José, "Questions and Answers for Sewage Bonds," *City of San José: Sewage Bonds*, (21 April, 1950).
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*, 2-4.
- ²⁷ Joel Y. Rickman, "San Jose's Inadequate Outfall Sewer Brings Filth, Odor, Disease," *Palo Alto Times*, 13 March, 1950, 4.
- ²⁸ Franck Belick, Interview by Amy Fonseca, digital voice recording, San José, CA, 12 December, 2007.
- ²⁹ Belick, interview, 2007.
- ³⁰ *Ibid.*
- ³¹ Young, 1.
- ³² *Ibid.*, 1-4.
- ³³ *Ibid.*, 2-5.
- ³⁴ City of San José, *San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant: Brief Historical Background*, San José/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant File Archive.
- ³⁵ Belick, interview, 2007.
- ³⁶ Willow Glen History, "Willow Glen History [online];" available from: <http://www.willow-glen.com/history/>; Internet; accessed 10 November, 2007.
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- ³⁸ *Ibid.*
- ³⁹ Belick, interview, 2007.
- ⁴⁰ "Ancient City Sewer Breaks; Not Surprised, Says Hamann," *San Jose Mercury News*, 19 August, 1958, p.18.
- ⁴¹ *Ibid.*
- ⁴² *Ibid.*
- ⁴³ American Society of Civil Engineers, "Hyde, George Gilman; ASCE Honorary Member [online];" available from: <http://cedb.asce.org/cgi/WWWdisplay.cgi?7299902>; Internet; accessed 26 December, 2007.
- ⁴⁴ Hyde and Sullivan, *Santa Clara County Sewage Disposal Survey Report*, pp. xi-6
- ⁴⁵ Belick, interview, 2007.
- ⁴⁶ *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁷ *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁸ *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁹ Hyde and Sullivan, *Santa Clara County Sewage Disposal Survey Report*, pp. xi-6.
- ⁵⁰ Editorial Page, "County's Sewage Disposal Plans Progressing," *San Jose Mercury News*, 13 June, 1948, p.30.
- ⁵¹ Belick, interview, 2007.
- ⁵² The City of San José, *Questions and Answers for Sewage Bonds*, (21 April, 1950); available from the "Clippings File" under "San Jose: sewage" in the San Jose King Library California Room.
- ⁵³ The San Francisco Estuary Institute and the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in the San Francisco Estuary, *The Pulse of the Estuary: Monitoring Water Quality in the San Francisco Estuary*, (Oakland, CA: SFEI Contribution 532, 2007), 8.
- ⁵⁴ City of San José, "Municipal Sewage Treatment Plant: Dedicatory Ceremony, 8 November, 1956," (Pamphlet, 1956), 4.
- ⁵⁵ Belick, interview, 2007.
- ⁵⁶ *Ibid.*
- ⁵⁷ Phillip J. Trounstine and Terry Christensen, "Flashback: A Short Political History of San Jose [on-line];" available from: <http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/PoliSci/faculty/christensen/flashback.htm#6>; Internet; accessed 6 September, 2007.
- ⁵⁸ *Ibid.*
- ⁵⁹ City of San Jose, "Municipal Sewage Treatment Plant," 4.
- ⁶⁰ Citizens Sewer Bond Committee, "Everyone Agrees San Jose's Sewer Bonds Must Pass Now," (San José: Cypress Press, April 1950).
- ⁶¹ City of San José, "Municipal Sewage Treatment Plant," 4; and Belick, Interview, 2007.
- ⁶² Trounstine and Christensen [on-line].
- ⁶³ *Ibid.*
- ⁶⁴ *Ibid.*
- ⁶⁵ Glenna Matthews, "The Los Angeles of the North': San Jose's Transition from Fruit Capital to High-Tech Metropolis," *Journal of Urban History*, 1999; 25; p. 459.
- ⁶⁶ Trounstine and Christensen [on-line].
- ⁶⁷ City of San José, "A Go Ahead Program for a City Going Ahead," (pamphlet: 1950).
- ⁶⁸ *Ibid.*
- ⁶⁹ City of San José, "Questions and Answers for Sewage Bonds," 7-10.
- ⁷⁰ Citizens Sewer Bond Committee, "Everyone Agrees San Jose's Sewer Bonds Must Pass Now."
- ⁷¹ Belick, interview, 2007.
- ⁷² Leonard McKay, "Dutch Hamann," SJI: San Jose Inside [on-line]; available from: http://sanjoseinside.com/sji/blog/entries/dutch_hamann1/; Internet; accessed 6 November, 2007.
- ⁷³ Trounstine and Christensen [on-line].
- ⁷⁴ *Ibid.*
- ⁷⁵ *Ibid.*
- ⁷⁶ Matthews, "The Los Angeles of the North," 466.
- ⁷⁷ McKay, "Dutch Hamann [on-line]."

Spring Saratoga Community Garden Exhibit

For spring 2009, CHCF plans to create an exhibit on the Saratoga Community Garden. From the 1970s to the 1980s, Saratoga Community Garden flourished as an educational demonstration garden for children and local community members to provide a chance for all to connect with gardening and sustainable farming, and to glean insights into nature. Designed by the late Alan Chadwick of the University of California, Santa Cruz, this special garden utilized “bio-dynamic/French intensive gardening,” at the time an innovative method not widely utilized in the US. The garden inspired many individuals to go on and create other gardens and programs throughout the Bay Area. CHCF is fortunate to be acquainted with one of the founders of this special garden, Betty Peck (wife of CHCF Board of Trustees member Willys Peck). With her assistance we hope to complete oral histories and an exhibit on the garden. Individuals interested in helping with this project are welcome to call Tom Izu at (408) 864-8986.

The following article is reprinted from the February 1976 issue of *Sunset Magazine* and provides background on the history of Saratoga Community Garden.

COMMUNITY ACTION

This Garden Becomes a Place to Learn

Possibly no classroom could show you more about nature – and your place in it than this unique facility. It’s a citizen-inspired teaching garden in Saratoga, California that’s doing much to expose children to their agricultural heritage in this Bicentennial year.

Here, school groups encounter the sources of things they’re so used to finding in the supermarket: egg-producing chickens, plants that make soap, wool-bearing sheep, and above all, fresh herbs and produce that they grow themselves. It’s more than just a garden or farm. Children spin, weave, make pots from clay dug at the garden, cook foods they’ve grown, and play music in a natural amphitheater on the 10-acre site. This is hands-in-the-dirt learning, with students making compost heaps, tending crops, and harvesting them under expert guidance. (The garden got its first guidance from Alan Chadwick, master gardener and former director of the University of California – Santa Cruz garden project; the Saratoga garden adheres strictly to his organic, French intensive methods). And the facility is not for children alone. The whole community is welcome at a variety of workshops, and a number of full-time apprentices train there before setting out to start teaching gardens of their own.

How did all this come about? Like so many good ideas, from the grassroots level: first from a kindergarten teacher in search of a garden classroom, then promoted by an ad hoc Citizens’ Garden Committee. In late 1972 the city council approved the Saratoga Community Garden as a nonprofit teaching facility with a board of directors drawn from the community.

As you might expect, a full-scale teaching farm didn’t come cheap. But individual donors and service clubs saw enough merit in the project to support it.

Land was the biggest bargain. The garden is on a former farm site behind the Odd Fellows retirement home, right in town, with basic utilities nearby. The city leases the site for \$1 a year. (You might be surprised at the kinds of available land in your own town; for ideas, see page 88 of the November 1975 *Sunset*.) Startup costs, paid for by donations, included seed (\$200), tools (\$300), green



PHOTO: DWIGHT CASWELL

house and potting shed (\$500 each), and pipe and hoses (\$500 per cultivated acre). Old structures on the site were rehabilitated for use as a cookhouse, herb-drying room, craft space, and storage. Annual operation costs about \$4,000.

The city pays two big continuing costs: salary for a full-time garden manager and instructor (\$6,000 per year) and water (\$1,000 per year). The city also provides clippings for compost and use of heavy equipment.

Some services are bartered. The garden’s five full-time apprentices (who dine on garden produce) do chores at a local dairy in return for shipments of manure. Schoolchildren help care for the garden’s animals.

The garden receives modest additional income from a small fee for public gardening classes and from plant sales.

In all, more than 3,000 people used the garden last year; some intently during all four seasons, some occasionally. The organizers have set up satellite gardens on local school and church grounds and plan others for neighborhoods. There will be increased emphasis on traditional handcrafts during the Bicentennial.

As it enters its fourth year, the Saratoga garden seems to be living up to Alan Chadwick’s vision as “an endeavor to provide a place where one can find his soul, and the soul of creation.”

FOUNDATION NOTES

Membership (November 2007 – September 2008)

Special Gifts

Hugh Stuart Center Charitable Trust
William H. Cilker Family Foundation
Burrel Leonard Estate
Stella B. Gross Charitable Trust

Memberships

Colleague Level – Robert Bettencourt

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Family – Russell Bartlett, Philip & Frances Bush, Jean & Arthur Carmichael, James Feng, Robert & Janet London, William & Sharon Luciw, John & Clysta McLemore, William & Lorrene Palmer, Eugene Ravizza, Julie Stephenson, Jon Veteska, Weusi-Puryear Family.

Individual – Aubrey Abramson, George Aihara, Dorothy Ames, May Blaisdell, Frances Bennion, Susan Bull, Beverly Cochrane David, Roslyn Davis, Philip A. Diether, Maurice Dunbar, Roslyn Frolich, Ellen Garboske, Linda Grodt, Marsha Kelly, David W. Hoyt, June Ladd, Robert Levy, Margaret Liberatos, Elsie Matt, Don McDonald, Ron Olmstead, Letizia

Picchetti, Joseph Rosenbaum, Karen Skahill, Maryann Skitarelic, Margaret Smith, Marie Smith, Rosemary Stevens, Edward Swift, Paul Trimble, Bev Walz, Beth Wyman, Don Yeager.

Foothill-De Anza Community College District Employee Payroll Deduction

The following employees of the college district have generously given through the college's payroll deduction plan:

Diana E. Argabrite, Gregory Anderson, Thomas Beggs, Mary Browning, Susan Bruch, Cindy Castillo, Karen Chow, Tracy Chung-Tabangcura, Judy C. Coleman, Gregory Druehl, Linda Elvin, Joyce Feldman, Denis Gates, Richard Hansen, Jeanine Hawk, David Howard-Pitney, Judy Miner, Judith Mowrey, Hieu Nguyen, Francisco Nunez, Robert Pierce, George Robles, Paul Setziol, Tomas Strand, John Swensson, Renato Tuazon, Pauline E. Waathiq, Rhoda Wang, Pauline Yeckley.

Cottage Update

If you wander into the center, you may wonder what the piles of boxes filled with archival materials and various exhibit equipment are doing lying about in our exhibit hall. We have moved items formerly stored in the cottage building next door to our center to make room for the architects to conduct some preliminary testing on the cottage before actual rehabilitation work begins in late spring 2009.

Yes, it is actually happening! For many years, members of our community and campus have worried about the future of the historic cottages. Although one of the original two cottages was demolished two summers ago, the East Cottage will

be rehabilitated and converted into a classroom, research, and resource laboratory for the Social Sciences and Humanities Division, and into offices for The Institute for Civic and Community Engagement through funding provided by Measure C. CHC will help with the division's research and resource laboratory in the cottage when it is completed, assisting with an oral history area and providing various archival materials and resources, some from the CHCF's library/archives, for the laboratory.

"The East Cottage renovation process has moved along so well, and I am convinced that the Social Sciences and Humanities Resource and Research Lab-

oratory will be an absolutely fantastic facility for expanding learning opportunities for De Anza students and our community. Working with the college's Vice President, Jeanine Hawk, in the planning process for the cottage, has been a very positive experience, since the California History Center and our Social Sciences and Humanities Division have consistently been included as very active participants whose thoughts and ideas are well received and utilized," states Social Sciences and Humanities Division dean, Carolyn Wilkins-Greene.

Actual construction is scheduled to begin in June 2009.

FOUNDATION NOTES

California Studies Association's 2009 Conference to be held at De Anza College

The California Studies Association will hold its 29th annual conference at De Anza College with CHC acting as a sponsoring organization. The focus of the conference, tentatively set for April 24th, 2009, will be Silicon Valley, arguably one of the most significant regions in our state (yet also in many ways one of the least understood). Currently in the planning stages, the event will feature guest speakers and panel presentations on important areas of concern for the valley, including economic, environmental, cultural, race, and gender issues. The California Studies Association (CSA) picked De Anza College as a site because it offers a unique opportunity to connect with community college students, and for its location in Silicon Valley. "We are very excited about having the conference here on our campus, and to have CHC be an active host for this unique gathering," states Tom Izu who is a newly elected member of the CSA Steering Committee. This will be CSA's 29th conference since it was formed in 1990 to help lead statewide efforts to promote the development of California Studies. Members of the association represent a broad cross section of individuals active in the state including academics, students, policy makers, labor organizers, business people, local historians, writers, and artists.

CSA Steering Committee member and



The history of Silicon Valley was wrought by the bulldozer. Here is a 1954 conversion of a field into the Stanford Shopping Center. Photo: Chronicle/KenMcLaughlin, 1954

former De Anza history instructor Aaron Wilcher believes the conference's focus on Silicon Valley, "is long overdue, and will inaugurate the work of re-envisioning the historical and political landscape of the Valley for scholars and practitioners in our communities." He plans to use the conference to spark interest in forming an ongoing study group to pursue needed investigation of the region. Wilcher is a graduate student in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of California at Berkeley. CSA has its offices

in the Geography Department also at UC Berkeley.

For more about the CSA, please see their website at <http://californiastudies-association.berkeley.edu/> or its accompanying blog site: <http://californiastudiesblog.wordpress.com/news/>

New Recording Equipment Purchased for the Center

CHC recently received some new digital recorders, microphones, and related computer equipment purchased through funding provided by a De Anza College Strategic Planning grant. Included in the equipment is a device that can convert audiocassette taped oral history into digital format. "We are looking into ways to make past and future oral history recordings available in digital format," explains Lisa Christiansen, CHC librarian/archivist.

Oral History Handbook for Classroom and Community Service Projects Completed

Anne Hickling, De Anza College history instructor, has completed a handbook for instructors to use for classroom and community service related projects. The handbook provides an outline for completing oral history projects, including "top ten steps in an oral history project," research guidelines, suggested questions, and oral history release forms, among many other items. If funding permits, the handbook may serve as the basis for a publication for the center. For more information about the handbook, please call Tom Izu at (408) 864-8986.

New Scholarship in Memory of Marion Grimm offered to De Anza students

In memory of Marion Grimm, CHCF Board of Trustees has established a new scholarship for De Anza College students. "Marion Grimm was a long time CHCF board member and a loyal supporter of the California History Center. Her dedication to preserving local and regional history will be permanently honored by the establishment of the Marion Grimm History Scholarship in the amount of \$500 to be awarded each year to a deserving De Anza Student," stated CHCF Board President Thelma Epstein.

The scholarship will be open to student applicants through the college's Financial Aid program. Currently, CHCF offers one other scholarship, the California History Center Foundation Directors' Scholarship, honoring the center's four past executive directors.

Donations may be made to CHCF to help fund this scholarship. Please contact Tom Izu for more information about the scholarship at (408) 864-8986.



California History Center & Foundation

A Center for the Study of State and Regional History
De Anza College

21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014 (408) 864-8712
Fax: (408) 864-5486 Web: www.calhistory.org

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Regular Hours: Tuesday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m.,
or call for an appointment.

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On the Cover: Northeast view of the New Chicago Marsh, located in the southern San Francisco Bay near the San José/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant. Courtesy of Environmental Services Department, City of San José.

CALENDAR

| | | | |
|----------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Oct. 2 | Timothy Pflueger class, 6:20 p.m., CHC | Nov. 6 | Sea Otters and Russians class 6:20 p.m., CHC |
| Oct. 4 | Timothy Pflueger field trip | Nov. 8 | Sea Otters and Russians field trip |
| Oct. 9 | Point Lobos to Silverado class, 6:20 p.m., CHC | Nov. 10 | Veteran's Day Holiday observed, campus closed |
| Oct. 11 | Point Lobos to Silverado field trip | Nov. 13 | Sea Otters and Russians class, 6:20 p.m., CHC |
| Oct. 16 | Point Lobos to Silverado class, 6:20 p.m., CHC | Nov. 15 | Sea Otters and Russians field trip |
| Oct. 18 | Point Lobos to Silverado field trip | Nov. 20 | Bay Area Mansions class, 6:20 p.m., CHC |
| Oct. 22 | Sarah Winchester class, 6:20 p.m., CHC | Nov. 20–30 | Thanksgiving Holiday observed, campus closed |
| Oct. 23 | Timothy Pflueger class, 6:20 p.m., CHC | Dec. 4 | Bay Area Mansions class, 6:20 p.m., CHC |
| Oct. 25 | Sarah Winchester & Timothy Pflueger field trips | Dec. 6 | Bay Area Mansions field trip |
| Oct. 29 | Sarah Winchester class 6:20 p.m., CHC | Dec. 13 | Bay Area Mansions field trip |
| Nov. 5 | Sarah Winchester class 6:20 p.m., CHC | Dec. 22 | CHC closed for winter break |
| | | Jan. 5 | First day of winter quarter classes, CHC re-opens |

CALIFORNIAN

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