

SAN JOAQUIN HISTORIAN

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"YOUR MUSEUM"

Your museum is growing and if you don't believe it come out when it is open on Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and you will see that there is action and an ever increasing awareness. The registration to date shows good public response with no designation as to age group. Here are young and old all participating in an experience of cultural enrichment and recreation.

COMING EVENTS

The SECOND ANNUAL BENEFIT BARBECUE - Wednesday evening July 19th, is a must. Do put the date on your calendar now. Last year's affair was great, and this year promises to be even better. Good lively music, a generous barbecue under the trees, wine tasting and special exhibits and demonstrations going on at all times is the program for the evening. It is a benefit with proceeds going to the San Joaquin County Historical Museum Development Fund. We again promise an informal friendly atmosphere with plenty of action. Save the date, details will follow.

Our second Agriculture in Action event is scheduled for Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. June 10. June is National Dairy Month and a special exhibit is being prepared. Demonstrations of butter making, by old fashioned methods will be performed. Turner-Ray 4-H Club will be giving demonstrations, and showing how to groom and show a dairy animal. They will also show how to hand milk a cow. If you long for a chance to show your grandchildren the early chores or long to recall your past, do come out and bring friends. Anyone having items that may be added to the dairy collection please give the office a call. We collect churns, butter workers, implements of butter and cheese making and dairying. Any pictures of the home or commercial dairy are also needed.

EVENTS JUST PAST

In March we were hosts to the Board of Directors of the Conference of California Historical Societies and the California History Institute at a coffee. Thanks are due to Mrs. Gertrude Kettleman and Mrs. Glee Mason as well as all of those who assisted. Mrs. Norma Gates and the Lodi History Hunters, with their smiling faces, were on hand to greet the guests. Our President, Dr. Howard Letcher, and members of the Board were also on hand to welcome our friends in history.

The museum made the evening viewing of news on April 5th when our Agriculture In Action show was featured. Sheep shearing, blocking,

docking of tails and demonstrations "From Tip to Toe, Ready to Show were given by the Henderson-Lafayette 4-H Club. Thanks to these fine young people for a great show and to their general chairman Caryl McNeilly and their leader Mrs. Frank F. Woods

April also saw other activities. We were honored by the California Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee meeting which was held in the Memorial Building. The Conference Publications Committee held their meeting here also. Both groups were given a special tour of the museum.

BOTANIC GARDEN

The Morada Art and Garden Club toured the garden and museum in April. They made a contribution to the Museum Development Fund for the purchase of materials to be used for plant name markers.

The Lodi Garden Club held an Arbor Day Meeting at which time a Big Leaf Maple, *Acer macrophyllum*, was planted with all due ceremony by Girl Scout Troop 499.

French Camp and Henderson-Lafayette 4-H Club girls spent several Saturday mornings weeding. The poppies continue to put on a good show with the plant in full flower, this month being the lovely white *Carpenteria californica*.

The ecological theme of the museum is MAN'S DEPENDENCY UPON THE SOIL. The changes wrought by the various periods of our historic growth are being told, each dependent and still depending upon the soil. Today, as yesterday, the greatest county wealth is derived from the soil and the allied industries related to the development of plant production, harvest, marketing and consumption. San Joaquin County is one of the few areas in the nation that is interpreting the advancement of soil dependency, both in the main museum, agricultural buildings and botanical garden. The botanic garden is an extension of the museum. The entire complex is being planted to California Native Flora. As the trees and shrubs mature the supporting lower growth of annuals and perennials will be added.

PLANT COMMUNITIES

The Valley Grassland, Chaparral, Foothill Woodland and Yellow Pine Forests are the first of several plant communities. The areas around the buildings are being landscaped with natives, thus showing the student, gardener and botanist the adaptability and beauty of California flora for the use in landscape design. The first building of the Man and Soil section has been landscaped by one trained in the field. To date 13 species of pine and 12 of oak have been incorporated into the design. They will grow to be invaluable for comparative purpose as well as beauty.

GARDEN FOR THE BLIND

The incorporation of a Garden for the Blind was approved by the County Board of Supervisors. Funds to start the project have been received

from the Soroptimist Club of Lodi who have chosen this as their continuing project. A professional landscape designer is preparing the plan as a contribution to community service. Botanic specialists from San Joaquin County and the California Department of Parks and Recreation are assisting.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT FUND

The contributions to the fund are tax deductible and may be used for procurement, restoration, development of buildings and grounds, and programs and programs dealing with schools and the handicapped. All are contributing to cultural enrichment. Many families contribute in memory of family or in lieu of flowers. The Manteca Federated Women's Club, Lodi Garden Club, and other individuals, estates, Art, Garden, Women's Clubs, Service Clubs and business houses contribute both monies, services and materials. So we say thank you one and all.

THE FAR WEST REGIONAL WORKSHOP was attended in February by Celia Myers, Katherine Mettler and the Director. It was held in Sacramento and sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History, with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, hosted by the Sacramento Historic Landmarks Commission. The Conference of California Historical Societies Workshop, on Museum Techniques, was attended by Katherine Mettler in October.

COLLECTIONS

It is impossible herein to list all of the items given and collections received and to give the credit due the many people who have so generously supported the museum and are continuing to do so at an ever increasing rate. We shall list a few of the collections and individual items to show the scope of the collection and to also give you an idea of what is desirable.

A collection of light bulbs was received from Mary Ellen Beckman and family in memory of Tom Killelea. The collection ranges from a replica of the first successful electric light globe through the odd forms manufacturers used, to try and perfect the most taken-for-granted item of modern civilization. The collection runs from 1879 to 1946. It is now time to bring it up to date. Can you help?

A number of costumes were received from the St. John's Episcopal Church Guild. An agricultural collection of shipping labels was received from John Calosso. Labels of all county agricultural produce are being collected. They may be old or current.

HAND TOOLS

A coopersmith's collection is now being processed. It is one of the largest in the west. It was used by one of the last old time coopers in the state and his father. The father came to California, via sailing vessel, from Yugoslavia where he and his forefathers were actively engaged in viticulture and the wine industry. More about this extensive collection later.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs and collections have been received from many. Mrs. Ruth Smart

donated those covering early Clements. Mrs Marguerite Rinfret gave the Del Rinfret collection which covered early Lodi. A photographic album of Samson Iron Works of Stockton was given by the Historical Society. It contains 123 pictures of the Samson Sieve-Grip Tractor. The R.J. Stepick collection of Delta agriculture features the G.T. Shima holdings and activities. We are now preparing an exhibit of the Delta Potato using some of these photos. Anyone having information and photographs please contact the museum office.

HAND TOOLS

They come in all sizes and shapes, each having played its role in fashioning the products of the day, whether they be wheels, ships or houses. Among the items received were a ship fitters adz from Otis S. Olson, Wheelwrights tools from William G. Clemings and wooden straw forks from Mrs. Wilma Frydendahl.

ROLLING STOCK

We have some beauties awaiting a cosmetic job to bring them up to exhibit condition. Among them are a three seated canopy top undercut surrey with maroon leather, roll up curtains and lamps. A Victoria with black leather upholstery and top, done in black with a purple velvet drivers seat, is a rare piece in excellent condition. Its white rubber tires are dated 1896. The pieces were given in memory of Emily M. and Remi Chabot.

Another building is needed where the carriages and rolling stock can be housed away from the elements and when restored and cleaned can be exhibited in their proper settings. We are looking forward to the restoration of the Peddler's Wagon. A cart with rear entrance was given by Arthur J. Isaacson. It was formerly used on the Silas Richards Ranch East of Farmington.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

A 1928 Cat. 30 and a John Deere Model L are the latest additions to the tractor line. A 2 1/2 H.P. Samson Pump was given by Orrin D. Kettleman, Sr. and a stationary steam engine was moved in from Glen Weagant's place. A diesel Engine, 15 H.P. Fairbanks-Morse Pat. 1918 and the Operator's Instruction Book were given by Albon Reimche. A Sterling Engine, 12 H.P. built by the Sterling Iron Works, of Stockton, came in to join the other pieces that await a display area where they can be heard once more.

HOUSEHOLD

Besides costumes and household items a few may be mentioned such as the washing machine of cradle type, hand operated, made in Florin, California in 1892 by D. Finch, it was given by Miss Grace Nelson along with a barrel churn pat. 1879-1889. Household items also included an 1875 fluting iron set from Miles R. Hale and quilting frames from Irene Wrench. Quilts, coverlets and other examples of home crafts are being received.

Mrs. Medora Johnson
Museum Director

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