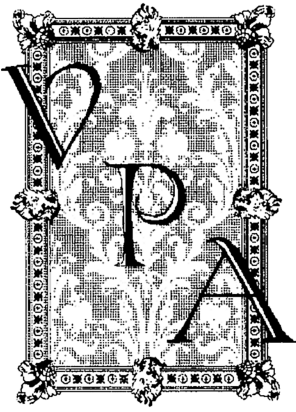


VICTORIAN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY



THE
OLD HOME FOLKS

VOL. 50 ... FEBRUARY 2024 ... No. 2

**TOUR OF THE HISTORIC TROLLEY BARN AND TROLLEY
RIDE AT HISTORY SAN JOSE**

by Ron Hagen

Date: February 17th, Saturday at 12 noon.

Address: 635 Phelan Ave

Parking: Just to the left of the Main Entrance Gate are a few Handicap spaces and 20 or so regular spaces (probably occupied by noon). Additional Free Parking is available at the foot of Phelan Ave, just down the hill from the Main Gate.

Please join fellow VPA members for a tour of the historic Trolley Barn and shop conducted by long-time Volunteer Bob Trail. Weekends are often busy so private tours aren't offered. We need to be the first 'public' group at the door when they open at Noon. If our group is too large, we can split in half to make it easier for the Volunteers. While the first group is on tour, the 2nd group can ride the trolley, visit O'Briens Ice Cream shop in the Hotel, tour the Fruit Barn or Print Shop. When the first group has finished their tour, they are free to enjoy the Park, while the second group has the tour.

Trolley service in San Jose began in 1868 with a horse-drawn railroad running along the Alameda between San Jose and Santa Clara. Electric trolleys started in 1880 and horse-drawn trolleys were fully discontinued by 1901. Electric trolleys continued, however, with lines running in all directions from downtown San Jose. As happened in many cities, the arrival of the automobile ended the age of the trolley. Service ended in San Jose in 1938.

The Trolley Barn in History Park was built in 1984 to house restoration of vintage streetcars as well as to provide display space for these historic vehicles.

Come by and meet with us and get an expert tour of this unique building (and get a trolley ride as well.)



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Marcus Salomon

Thanks to everyone who attended the annual business meeting this past month. We had a great 2023 and I am looking forward to 2024. This year we have a lot to look forward to. Besides our monthly programs we have an anniversary to celebrate. VPA has been in existence now for 50 years! This is a wonderful achievement for this club, and I look forward to a celebration and getting together with past presidents and members. We certainly have a lot to celebrate and a lot of planning to do.

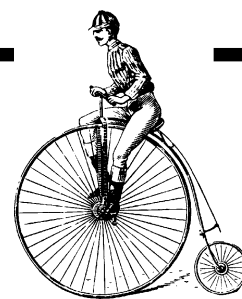
Which brings me to a most important request. The VPA Board currently has openings for "At Large" members and we need your help. We are looking for 2 or 3 folks who would like to help with planning the celebration and with working on the programs for 2024 with the rest of the Board. This is not a demanding position but one that needs ideas and follow through. The Board meets once a month, usually for between an hour or two on a weekday evening. We have a little wine and snacks and plan out the year's events. Yes, there is some socializing, but we do accomplish a good deal in that short time.

I would like to ask all who have a little extra time and want to be involved with something historic and special to please come forward and contact me at 408-930-9133 or email at marcussc21@gmail.com. I can give you all the information you will need to be involved and help our club.

And lastly, since we are discussing volunteering, if you would like to host a monthly program I would really like to talk with you. One of the great things about VPA is seeing member's homes and learning more about vintage homes and the history of the valley. Please contact me and I will give you all the information for hosting a program.

Thank you, looking forward to seeing you in 2024.

**Have You
Heard
the Latest?**



Our usual Vintage Cocktail reporter is taking a well-deserved sabbatical this month. In her stead, I'll take up the reins and discuss a miscellany about drinks.

My favorite mixed drink: To begin with, I really didn't start experimenting with cocktails until Lockdown, so what do I know? (I'd like to think that my degrees in Chemistry help a bit.) I call my favorite cocktail the "Gin-Gin", consisting of Gin (I prefer Bombay for this) and Ginger Beer (Trader Joes' Triple Brewed) Vary ratio of the ingredients according to your mood. If you need more booze, then I would also add ginger liquor. I've named this variation the "Gin-Gin-Gin".

"...a Christmas bowl of smoking bishop, Bob!" Smoking bishop, as anyone who is familiar with Dickens' A Christmas Carol will know, is a hot punch with red wine and port. But did you know that there is an entire ecclesiastical range of punches: Smoking archbishop (claret), beadle (ginger wine), cardinal (champagne) and pope (burgundy). Lots of room to experiment here over the next few Christmases. I can also ponder some fuming hot drinks based on the miasmatic spectres who visit Scrooge.

*Contributing to this Issue:
Mike Tierney, Ron Hagen & Marcus Salomon*

**NEXT NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:
MARCH 2**

NEIGHBORHOOD TROLLEYS

by Mike Tierney

While putting together this month's newsletter, I vaguely remembered reading about a horse-drawn trolley line that once ran somewhere near my house on North Sixth St. Flipping through Clyde Arbuckle's *History of San Jose*, I found it. The North Side Horse Railroad was incorporated in 1875. Its route started at First and St. John Streets near where the main Post Office now stands. The route then ran to Fifth St, and turned northward on Fifth to Washington St. The tracks then zigged over to Sixth St. and ran north to Empire and continued zig-zagging generally northeastwardly to a rail terminus at 17th and Berryessa.

Which brings up another question: Why would one of San Jose's first trolley lines zig-zag through residential blocks out to the North Side which was mainly agricultural at that time. To answer that question it is important to know that one of the directors of the North Side Horse Railroad was one William B. Dougherty, one of San Jose's movers and shakers. His opulent home stood at the corner of Sixth St. and Washington St, so the trolley downtown was literally right on his doorstep. He also owned and was in the process of subdividing the block south of his lot, the block where my 1880 vintage home now sits.

I can see how having a convenient trolley line might be a selling point for buyers looking for a lot to build a brand new home on. I wonder if Dougherty steered the route of the rails to his advantage.

William Dougherty had his fingers in many other concerns in the growing city of San Jose. He was the major owner of the Santa Clara Valley Mill and Lumber Company which harvested lumber in the Santa Cruz mountains, and one of whose lumber yards was located next door to my house in early days). Dougherty was also involved in one of the early gas and electric companies in San Jose, as well as a brick company. He was also a director of the Hotel Vendome, San Jose's finest hotel.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you didn't renew your dues at the Holiday Party, it's time to remind everyone that dues are due. For 2024, VPA dues are \$30 per household. To see if you owe dues for 2024, look at your newsletter address label. If it says 2024 in the upper right corner, you owe dues for this year. If you get the electronic version of the newsletter (and don't have an address label), just email me at MikeT19278@yahoo.com.

Please fill out the renewal form below and return it with dues payable to VPA. You can also pay dues through Paypal at the VPA website at <https://www.vpa.org/join-the-vpa/> (button at the bottom of the page). or give it to any board member at a meeting.

2024 VPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email_(important!) _____

Paper copy of newsletter? (Y/N)

Electronic copy of newsletter? (Y/N)

Do you want to be added to the VPA Google Group? (Y/N)

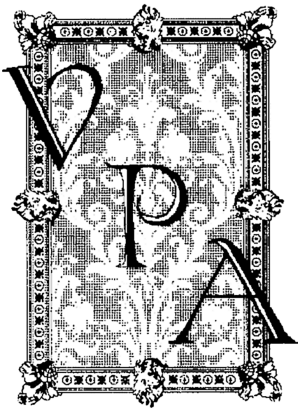
Special Interests, Expertise, Description of House

Suggestions/ideas for monthly meeting topics

Recommendations for VPA Source Lst:

VPA Address:

Victorian Preservation Association
PO Box 586
San Jose, CA 95106-0586



VICTORIAN
PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION
of Santa Clara Valley

P.O. Box 586
San Jose, CA 95106-0586

UPCOMING HISTORICAL EVENTS

February 17 VPA February event, see p. 1 for more details.

ABOUT THE VPA

Members of the Victorian Preservation Association of Santa Clara Valley, a nonprofit organization, share an interest in the older buildings of our community, especially turn-of-the-century homes. Membership is open to anyone interested in learning about building and conservation techniques, architecture, decoration, and historic preservation. Meetings are usually held in members' historic homes, but being an owner of one of these homes is not required for membership. Membership is \$30 per year per household. To join the club, go to www.vpa.org and click on the "Join the VPA" button.

Officers

President	Marcus Salomon
Vice-President	Sara Bruce
Secretary	Mike Tierney
Treasurer	Larry Ames
Past-President	Keith Shukait

At Large Board

Hullene Salomon	Dave Hedges
Pam Shukait	Diana Tone Adams
Ron Hagen	

Committee Contacts

Newsletter	Mike Tierney
Membership	Hullene Salomon
Social Media	Miranda von Stockhausen
Historian	Manuel Lima
Name Badges	Hullene Salomon

