

Contact: Jill Arnone
Communications, History San José
Office: 408 298 8905 Cell: 408 315 5121
jilla@thearnonegroup.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

History San José Wants to Save the ‘Queen of the Pacific’ Historic Vehicle
“Save the Queen!” Spring Cleaning and Open House
Weekend of July 12 and 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

San José, California – June 19, 2008

History San José (HSJ) is on a quest to save the Queen---Queen of the Pacific, that is. The turn-of-the-century vehicle is what one might call a ‘shuttle bus’ in its day. The Queen of the Pacific was a ‘marguerite,’ or carry-all that was used in San Francisco pulled by six horses, and used like a carriage to haul tourists to the beach. It was salvaged and added to the HSJ Collection by ‘Trader’ Lew Bohnett, of Willow Glen.

But because it is trapped inside a warehouse--- literally trapped in a corner--- in the former Westinghouse warehouse on Stockton Avenue, HSJ is holding the first, and only, “*Save the Queen*” Spring Cleaning and Open House. The ‘open house’ is the final step of ‘deaccession’, which will first allow other museums the opportunity to acquire objects that might be more relevant to their collections than HSJ. Not all items in the warehouse are leaving. Most artifacts will remain in the collection, along with the Queen of the Pacific.

“History museums in particular must use deaccessioning in order to responsibly care for their collections,” said Jennifer McCann, Collections Registrar for HSJ. “We must make sure that the artifacts we invest in are relevant to our mission and in good condition, so we can use them to tell the stories of San José and Santa Clara County.”

History San José will hold a “*Save the Queen*” Spring Cleaning and Open House at the Stockton Warehouse, the corner of Julian and Stockton, in what was once the Westinghouse building, on Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days. At that time, several of the items that have been in storage will go on sale to the general public.

Deaccession (dee’ ak shesh’ an) is the method by which artifacts are permanently removed from a museum’s collection. It is a necessary practice among museums and eliminates items from a collection that are in poor condition, already exist in great number, have no provenance (history and relevance) or are hazardous. By removing such items which will never be exhibited or used, deaccession ensures that a museum’s resources are used to professionally care for and properly store relevant collections. This responsible management is key to preserving items held in the public trust. The funds derived from the sale may only be used to purchase and support collections, and by law, may not be used for general operations.

In San José the formal process requires approval from the HSJ Collections staff, its Board of Directors, the Landmarks Commission and the City Manager’s Office. Some artifacts have already been deaccessioned to other history museums, as is dictated by the public trust and falls under nationwide guidelines.

Inside the Stockton Warehouse, and eligible for deaccession, are architectural elements, vehicles, sewing machines, stoves and ovens, furniture, pianos, sleighs and church pews. The items that have not already been acquired by other appropriate museums, will be available to purchase by collectors or by the general public.

The Association of American Museums recently announced that History San José received the elite status of accreditation, along with only two other museums in Santa Clara County, the de Saisset and the San Jose Museum of Art.

The Collection Center of History San José currently inventories more than 90,000 items. It includes photographs, artifacts and objects pertinent to the history of Santa Clara Valley. The HSJ Research Library continues to maintain and enhance its extensive collections of appropriate books, newspapers, periodicals, government documents and reports, manuscripts, and other archival records as defined by HSJ's collections management policy. Both the Collection Center and Research Library are available by appointment.

For more information check out

http://www.historysanjose.org/exhibits_collections/collections/deaccession.html

or call 408 287 2290

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About History San José:

History San José is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the continuing history of the Santa Clara Valley. HSJ manages one of the largest and most comprehensive regional history collections in the State of California, from 1784 Spanish governmental records to twenty-first century Silicon Valley technology.

History San José aspires to provide innovative national leadership in preserving and sharing regional history by engaging diverse audiences in exploring the varieties of human experience that contributes to the continuing history of San José and the Santa Clara Valley.

History Park at Kelley Park, located at 1650 Senter Road, is a 14-acre park featuring a town atmosphere, with free rides on historic trolleys, exhibit galleries and 27 historic buildings, including the Museum Store and Café at O'Brien's Candy Factory with an ice cream parlor and candy store. History Park is open Tuesday through Sunday, 12 noon – 5:00 p.m. Admission is free.

History San José 1650 Senter Road San José, CA 95112 408 287 2290
www.historysanjose.org

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