



the
Exchange
THE NEWSLETTER OF HISTORY SAN JOSÉ

Voices from the Cannery

New online exhibit captures oral histories of former plant workers

For over 100 years, the San José canning plant located at Auzerais Avenue and Sunol Street provided employment for thousands of local men and women. When final plant owner Del Monte closed the site and moved operations to Modesto in December 1999, it was the end of an era. Now only the iconic water tower and some equipment remain.

The plant, and the lives of the families it touched, are celebrated in *Cannery Life: Del Monte in the Santa Clara Valley*, History San José's new online exhibit sponsored by KB Homes. Debuting on June 21st at the Valley of Heart's Delight fundraising dinner, the exhibit will feature videos of 15 oral histories recorded by Community Heritage Partners. These stories, provided by former plant workers, bring history to life as nothing else can. One woman who worked at the

plant during World War II tells of writing her phone number inside can labels headed out for soldiers, hoping one would call her. Others describe processing spinach, which was packed so hot that it caused workers' fingernails to fall off.

The plant began as the San José Fruit Packing Company in 1893, and after many incarnations under different firms and names became Del Monte Plant #3. It processed locally grown fruits and vegetables and was likely the first of the fruit canning plants to be built in the Valley. The plant processed different produce depending on the season, beginning with spinach in March or April, then apricots, pears and peaches as the year wore on. After the fruit was canned, remnants such as peach pits were sold to be used in women's make-up or in chicken feed.

Voices, continued on page 6

MUSEUM INFORMATION

History Park

Kelley Park, 1650 Senter Road
San José, CA 95112
408.287.2290, Fax 408.287.2291

Peralta Adobe-Fallon House Historic Site

175 W. St. John Street
San José, CA 95110
408.993.8300, Fax 408.993.8088

Administrative Offices

Pacific Hotel, History Park
1650 Senter Road
San José, CA 95112
408.287.2290, Fax 408.287.2291

www.historysanjose.org

ADMISSION

Free public admission to History Park.

HOURS

History Park & Gallery, Museum Store, and
O'Brien's Café
Tuesday – Sunday, 12 pm – 5 pm

Peralta Adobe-Fallon House Historic Site

To schedule a custom tour, call 408.918.1055.

Research Library

By appointment. Call 408.918.1054.

Administrative Office

Monday – Friday, 8 am – 5 pm
Call 408.287.2290

GROUP TOURS

To schedule a custom tour for groups of
10 or more, please call 408.918.1055.

PROGRAMS

Public Programs History Makers, Family Days,
Portraits of the Past

School Programs All school programs must
be reserved. Please call 408.918.1040.

RENTALS AND EVENTS

Call 408.918.1055 for information.

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Steve Cox, Vice Chair; David Satterfield, Secretary;
Tom Scott, Treasurer

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Portuguese Heritage Society of California
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SJSU College of Education Alumni Association
Victorian Preservation Association

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Eva Guralnick, Editor; e.g. communications, Layout

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Mud Wrestling at History Park?

by Alida Bray, Acting President & CEO

I am always working on ways to raise funds for the Museum, so when Pam Watson, our Director of Events & Retail, came into my office recently and said, “a group will pay \$10,000 to hold a motorcycle show at the Park,” I was thrilled! Unfortunately, as events unfolded it turned out the group wanted to include mud wrestling and a wet t-shirt contest. When I took this job, I hadn't expected to negotiate this type of decision. I cast my mind through the various constituents who make up History Park, and came to the rapid conclusion that none of them would like to see mud wrestling in the Park.

I hope all of you who just breathed a sigh of relief at that news will consider that since the fundraising needs of History San José aren't going to be met that way, we'll have to consider another plan. One of our more traditional methods is through the annual Valley of Heart's Delight fundraising dinner. This year we will honor two outstanding community individuals, Jack Douglas and Jerry Rosenthal, and showcase our new online exhibit *Cannery Life: Del Monte in the Santa Clara Valley*.

We will honor Jack for keeping local history alive through his numerous contributions to the community, including the research, writing and publication of *Historical Footnotes of Santa Clara Valley*, *Historic San Jose: Tales of Naglee Park*, and *Historical Highlights of Santa Clara Valley*. And, we honor him for authoring one intriguing article after another for this Museum's newsletter. When I asked Jack what he was writing about for this issue, he replied, “My swan song.” I would not accept that he would never write for the *Exchange* again, but I could understand that after twenty years of doing it, Jack finally may be a bit tired of it! Jack will become a guest writer rather than a regular contributor, and I am challenged with the difficult task of finding a replacement.

At the same time, we will honor Jerry for his contributions to History Park in coordinating, with Leonard McKay, the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County's renovation and programming of the Paulson House. We also honor Jerry for expanding the definition of the term “pioneer” to include more recent “pioneers” like Vietnamese Boat People. As Jerry put it, “the Boat People had the same pioneer spirit to pick up and seek a better life as any pioneer coming across the Plains.” We also want to thank him for his tireless promotion of the Silicon Valley Digital Clubhouse, encouraging youth and elders to share their stories.

So, if you want to help me raise money and keep the mud wrestlers at bay, please consider buying a ticket or a table to the annual Valley of Heart's Delight dinner and auction! To learn more about the event, see page 6. This is a “win win” as they say—you'll honor two great men and have a wonderful time doing it.

SPONSORS



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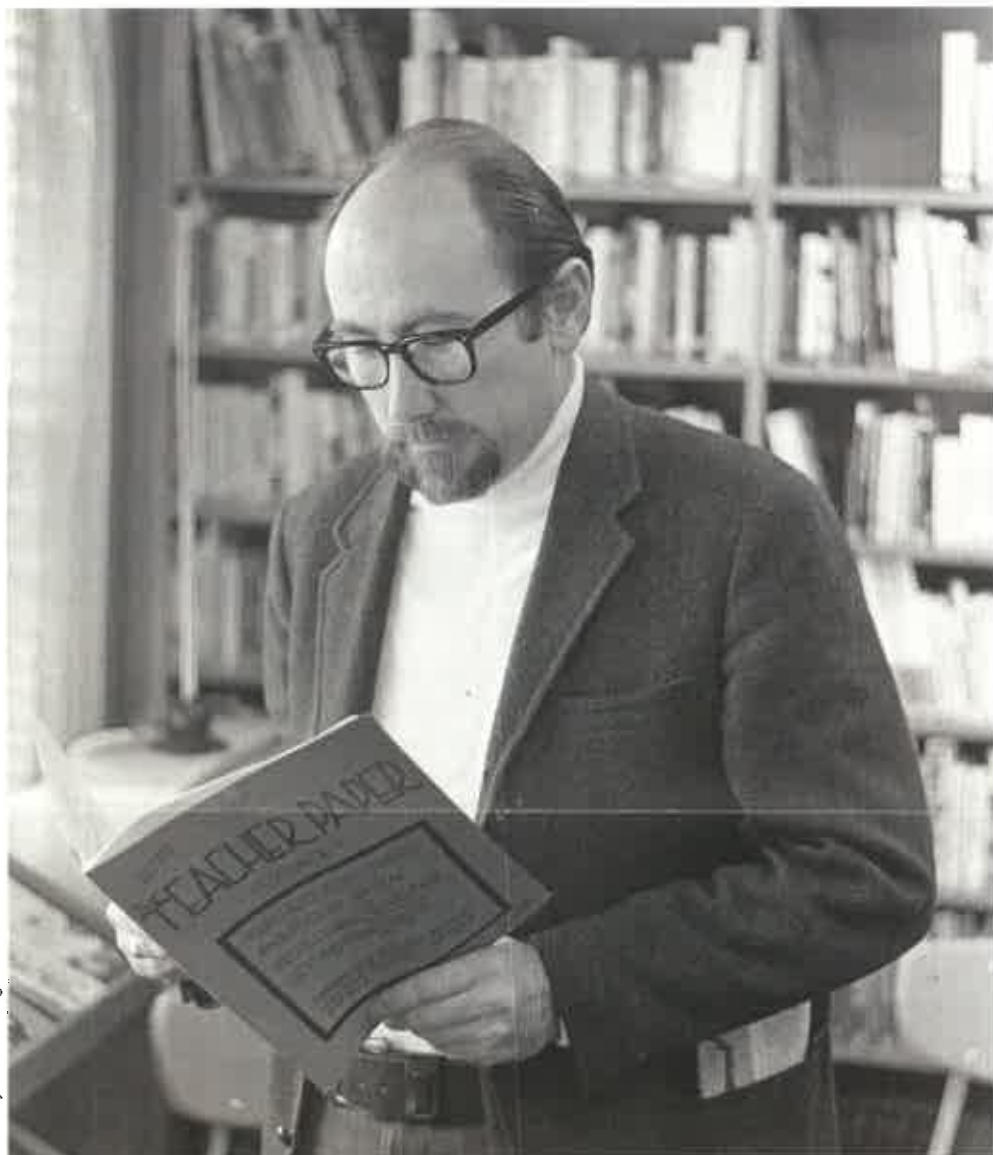
Cannery Life Online Exhibit
KB Homes

San José Rocks!
Hugh Stuart Center Charitable
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Valley of Heart's Delight Dinner
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I Bid You Adieu

by Jack Douglas



Courtesy of Jack Douglas

Jack Douglas at San Jose State University, 1970.

Yes, after a quarter of a century of meeting deadlines for the San Jose Museum Association news, and later, the History San José Exchange (never missed one deadline during those years), I have decided to slow down and do some other writing. I've been putting off some other projects, including the memoirs of General Henry Naglee.

My heartfelt thanks to the many people who have helped me along the way: Kathy Muller who got me started in 1983, and Bonnie Bamburg, Beth Wyman, Bill Wulf, Pat Loomis, April Halberstadt, Charlene Duval, Franklin Maggi, Francis Fox, and the late Glory Ann Laffey, Theron Fox, Clyde Arbuckle and Leonard McKay. Special thanks to Alida Bray, for her unlimited patience with me and my computer.

People who write pieces like mine don't often get to hear from their readers. I have been grateful to those of you who have purchased copies of my two volumes of collected stories. Especial thanks to those of you who pre-paid for volume two, thereby expediting its publication. Copies of both volumes are still available at History San José and the Willow Glen Book Store.

I hope to see you all on my numerous trips to History San José.

JACK DOUGLAS: TELLING OUR STORY

Over the years, Jack Douglas has made many invaluable contributions to our community, most notably for his three books on local history. The first of these, *Historical Footnotes of Santa Clara Valley* (1993), includes essays on people, places, neighborhoods and events that shaped the city, from 19th century ornithologist Andrew Jackson Grayson to the governmental reforms of Ernest Renzel, elected San José's Mayor in 1944.



In 1998, Jack published *Historic San Jose: Tales of Naglee Park*. Henry M. Naglee first came to California during the Mexican War, served as a Union general in the Civil War, and retired to his country estate in San José. Jack reviews the history of the Naglee Park area, including prominent residents, buildings and architects, and events that helped shape the neighborhood.



In 2005, History San José published *Historical Highlights of Santa Clara Valley*, in which Jack continued exploring the places, events, and people that shaped our history. This richly detailed volume includes twenty-six chapters on the architects whose work can be found in the Valley. From nationally prominent figures such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Julia Morgan to such local notables as William Binder and Ralph Wyckoff, *Historical Highlights* is an essential reference for anyone interested in our architectural heritage.



Great Days for the Whole Family

DIA DE PORTUGAL
SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2007
10 AM – 7:30 PM
HISTORY PARK

Each year, the Portuguese Heritage Society of California proudly hosts the Dia de Portugal Festival at History Park, the home of the Portuguese Historical Museum. This fabulous event draws over 6,000 people for Portuguese food, dance, music, costumes, and history. Starting at noon, children can take part in “Grandma’s Quilt,” a fun search through History Park for clues to a quilt which tells the story of a Portuguese family’s history in the Santa Clara Valley. A Children’s Carnival from 10 am to 5 pm offers games, prizes, arts and crafts, storytelling, a jump house and more. Volunteer interpreters will provide free tours of 10 historic buildings. Enjoy the artist’s tent, Book Faire, a parade of Portuguese organizations, cooking demonstrations, and raffle. Admission is free; city parking is \$6. For information, visit www.diadeportugal.com.



Parade through History Park at the Dia de Portugal Festival.

FOUNDERS DAY
SUNDAY, JULY 22, 2007
NOON – 5 PM
PERALTA ADOBE-FALLON HOUSE
 The 1777 founding of the pueblo of San José by members of the Anza Party will be celebrated on Sunday, July 22, at the Peralta Adobe, located

in downtown San José. See and hear authentic songs and dances from early California performed, involve children in period appropriate activities, see historical displays, enjoy food and fun! Admission is free. For more information, go to www.historysanjose.org.

ESCAPE TO ANOTHER WORLD IN SAN JOSÉ

Set out on a family adventure this summer as History San José and Happy Hollow Park & Zoo partner to offer low-cost access to three of San Jose’s most significant attractions—all inside Kelley Park.

On Tuesday, June 12, July 10 and August 14, from 10 am to 5 pm, admission to Happy Hollow Park & Zoo is only \$1 per person. Your escape to another world can continue through the Japanese Friendship Garden and into History Park, all in one day.



Visit Sophia the jaguar at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo.

At Happy Hollow, children will enjoy the puppet shows and rides, as well as over 150 animals in the zoo, including the horse herd, a lemur, a jaguar and a parma wallaby. Continue your day with a stroll through the Japanese Friendship Garden, a replica of a garden in Okayama, Japan, complete with koi pond, waterfalls, ducks and more.

At History Park, you can visit the Trolley Barn and ride a trolley through the park. Enjoy educational docent-led tours of historical buildings and go inside the 1871 one-room School House. O’Brien’s Café serves ice cream and has a new lunch menu. The Gift Shop will be open all day.



Auto race at Del Monte Race Track, Monterey c.1908. History San José collection. Gift of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

Road Trip: The Birth of California Car Culture

On Sunday July 1, 2007, History San José will open the fifth new exhibit in The Leonard and David McKay Gallery at the Pasetta House. In partnership with the SJSU Sourisseau Academy, HSJ will reunite three rare photographic albums to create *Road Trip: The Birth of California Car Culture*.

Two of the albums were donated to History San José over 17 years ago, and recently the Sourisseau Academy purchased a third album. The images contained within document excursions throughout the Bay Area between the years of 1906 and 1909. The albums are originally from the Polhemus family and, when combined, contain over 400 striking photographs. George Polhemus, a Winton Auto Dealer, was the President of the Santa Clara County Automobile Club and heavily promoted their road trips and races in local newspapers.

This exhibit surveys the burgeoning car culture and its impact upon everything from improving roads and setting standards for right-of-way to a shift in our concept of travel. Some of the club's scenic excursions were to the 17-Mile Drive, Point Lobos, a Clam Bake in Alviso, and a trip to Santa Cruz via the Palisades. The albums also chronicle trips of a more topical nature such as a train wreck in Edenvale; the arrival of Roosevelt's White Fleet in the Santa Cruz harbor; and San Francisco in ruins after the 1906 earthquake.

The actual albums with original photography will be on display complimented by enlarged photo murals. The exhibit will be enhanced by artifacts from History San José's collection and from private individuals. Related programs include Antique Autos Day at History Park, a public event scheduled for Sunday, September 9, 2007, and Historic Transportation School Tours throughout the school year, which will serve thousands of local school children and their teachers.

To learn more about these early car clubs in San José, join Historian Charlene Duval and Curator Sarah Puckitt on July 29 at 1 p.m.



"Winty" Polhemus at the wheel of his XIV Winton Touring Car. The Polhemus family home on Stockton Ave. can be seen in the distance. 1907. Gift of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.



When Beer Was King in San José

This Wieland's Beer sign, a recent gift to History San José from Leslie and Audré West, highlights San José's brewing history. Wieland Brewery was the successor to the Fredericksburg Brewery, which began operations in 1869 at the corner of The Alameda and Cinnabar Street in San José. In 1872, noted San José architect Theodore Lenzen designed a castle-like brewery and malt house that were built on the same site. Fredericksburg Brewery was the city's largest brewery in the 1880s, producing 53,000 barrels of beer in 1888. Fredericksburg ceased production in September of 1918, shortly after San José passed a "pre-Prohibition" ordinance allowing the sale of beer and wine in restaurants only. After Prohibition was repealed, San Francisco brewer Jonny Wieland purchased the "castle" brewery. In the 1950s, Falstaff Brewing Corporation bought the building, but later moved production to their San Francisco plant. The building was torn down in 1980. The sign, which once hung in the Elks Lodge in Redwood City, remains a memento of the glory days of San José beer. Learn more about San José history at www.historysanjose.org/neighborhoods.

Sign, c. 1940. Wood/Metal/Porcelain. Height 23" x width 17". Gift of Leslie and Audré West.

Join Us to Honor Two Great Men of the Valley

Join us on June 21, 2007, when History San José again will share some wonderful stories and memories at the Valley of Heart's Delight fundraising dinner. This year we honor two great men, Jerry Rosenthal and Jack Douglas, for their contributions to the Valley, and showcase our new online exhibit dedicated to the San José Del Monte plant and featured on page 1.

The event will be held outdoors in History Park, and will feature wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, a silent auction, and a live auction with Frank Sunseri. Renowned chef Emile Mooser will personally prepare one of his signature entrees for us, and we'll enjoy live music by Side Saddle and dinner by Crunch Catering. Leigh Weimars will emcee the awards presentation.

As President of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County (CPSCC) Jerry Rosenthal orchestrated the restoration of the Paulson House to be used as the new home of the CPSCC. Jack Douglas, author and historian, has written for the newsletter of History San José for more than 25 years and has authored numerous books of local history.



(left) Gen. Robert Knapp, Sgt. G.M. Rosenthal, 12/10/1944, "for meritorious achievement while engaged in aerial combat." (right) Jack Douglas, Professor, 1970.



Courtesy Jack Douglas

The Valley of Heart's Delight fundraiser is always fun. You can count on visiting with long-time friends. The food and entertainment are always the best and the silent and live auctions offer

wonderful gifts and opportunities. It's not too soon to begin putting together your tables. Check your mailbox for an invitation. Not a member? Please call Dorrie Romero at 408.918.1046.

ANNUAL VALLEY OF HEART'S DELIGHT FUNDRAISING DINNER

Join us on June 21 to honor our friends Jerry and Jack and to celebrate our new online exhibit. Tickets are \$100 per person, a table for 10 is \$1,000, and table sponsorships with name recognition for your company or group on the table are \$1,500. For reservations, please call 408.918.1046.

Voices, continued from cover

The staffing patterns in the cannery were highly gender differentiated for most of its history. Men worked in the warehouse with the heavier equipment where there were more stable, year-round jobs considered appropriate for men, who were seen as the primary breadwinners. Women did the work seen as appropriate for their gender, which meant cutting and

canning produce on a highly pressured, seasonal schedule that was anything but family friendly. Women workers could not afford to miss even a day of work during harvest time, which was when they earned nearly all of their income for the year. In their oral histories, some women describe hiding their pregnancies so they wouldn't be fired. It was not unheard of for mothers to leave their children sleeping in cars in the parking lot when they worked the night shift, because they could not find child care during the harvests when the cannery ran shifts around the clock.

Yet in other ways, the cannery provided a unique opportunity for women to work while raising families. Mothers of young children often worked night shifts, switching to daytime work as their children got older, and eventually moving to year-round positions as those became available. These women tell stories of how they came back every year for harvest season and worked alongside the women who became their closest friends, and who even introduced them to the men they would one day marry, creating a close-knit community. The cannery is gone, but their stories remain.



End of season party, Del Monte cafeteria, 1973.

HISTORY SAN JOSÉ CALENDAR

JUNE

Samoan Heritage Festival

Saturday, June 2, 10 am – 5 pm

Come experience traditional Samoan culture with music and dance, a Little Miss Pageant, a flag raising ceremony, great food and culturally specific sports demonstrations.

History Park. Open to the public. Free

Dia de Portugal

Saturday, June 9, 10 am – 7:30 pm

Don't miss this annual festival with a parade, philharmonic bands, folklore, art exhibit, children's activities including a History M?stery, fantastic food and cooking demonstrations.

History Park. Open to the public. Free

Gift of Edith Walker, HSJ collection



Postcard of Capelinhos erupting in Portugal's Azores, c. 1957.

New Exhibit!

Capelinhos 50-Year Anniversary

Open June 9, 2007, through September 28, 2008

Documents the fifty years since the devastation of the Capelinhos Volcano, which caused the great wave of immigration of Azoreans to California.

History Park, Portuguese Heritage Museum. Open to the public Saturday – Sunday, 12 – 5 pm. Free

Valley of Heart's Delight Annual Fundraising Dinner

Thursday, June 21, 5:30 – 9:30 pm

Enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres featuring renowned Chef Emile Mooser, live music by Side Saddle, dinner by Crunch Catering, live and silent auction items, and a presentation emceed by Leigh Weimers honoring Jack Douglas and Jerry Rosenthal.

History Park. Admission by ticket only. Tickets \$100 per person



FOURTH OF JULY

Tuesday, July 3

Gate opens at 5.30 p.m.

Members, watch your mailboxes for a special postcard invitation to our annual Fourth of July member event! As always, we supply History Park, picnic tables, barbecue pits and children's activities. You bring the food for grilling and lawn chairs for watching the fireworks that follow the San José Giants ballgame.

History Park. Members and guests only. Free, but donations welcome. Parking on grounds.

Official program cover, Fourth of July, San José 1907. History San José collection.

JULY

New Exhibit!

Road Trip:

The Birth of California Car Culture

July 1, 2007, through January 27, 2008

Ride along with the Polhemus family, friends and pets on a road trip touring the Bay Area in the early 1900s. This exhibit is for anyone who loves cars or stunning photography.

History Park, The Leonard & David McKay Gallery at the Pasetta House. Open to the public Saturday – Sunday, 12 – 5 pm. Free

Exhibit Opening

Sunday, July 1, 2007, through January 27, 2008, noon – 5 pm

Free

Walk Through the Exhibit

Sunday, July 29, 1:30 – 3 pm

Guides Charlene Duval and Sarah Puckitt.

Free

The Hill House Grand Opening!

Sunday, July 1, noon – 5 pm

Help the Victorian Preservation Association celebrate The Hill House grand opening. Music, antique cars, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, hot dogs and soda for the first 100 visitors, guest speakers, environmental awareness area, and children's activities.

History Park. Open to the public. Free



Interior, Andrew Hill's studio in San José, c.1888.

History San José collection

Celebrate Founder's Day 1777!

Sunday, July 22, noon – 5 pm

See and hear authentic songs and dances from early California performed, involve children in period appropriate activities, see historical displays, enjoy food and fun!

Peralta Adobe-Fallon House Historic Site. Open to the public. Free

ONGOING

Speed City:

From Civil Rights to Black Power Through November 30, 2007

Tuesday – Sunday, noon – 5 pm

Learn about San José State College student athletes who became globally recognized figures of the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements. History Park, Pacific Hotel Galleries. Open to the public. Free





history|san José
silicon valley from a to z

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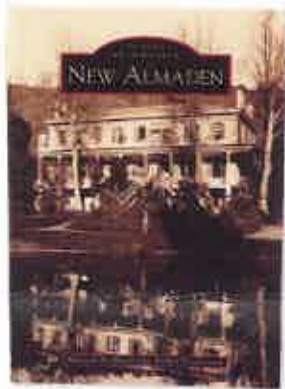
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WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU?

NEW ALMADEN

Coauthors Michael Boulland, a lifelong teacher and author of local history books, and Arthur Boudreault, writer and archivist at the New Almaden Mining Museum, are both active in the community and are directors of the New Almaden Quick-silver County Park Association. Unearthing the best images from the mining museum's archives, they highlight the long vein of history that runs through the town, once vital to the economy of the state. Signed copies are available in the Museum Store.



BUCK'S WORLD

Buck's World, a newly launched local pet treats business, was previewed at the History San José Holiday Shopping Event. Inspired by Buck, a five-year-old Airedale with uncharacteristic floppy ears, a loveable personality and a discerning palate, these treats are Buck-tested to ensure they measure up to high quality and outstanding taste standards. Buck's treats are 100% natural, right-out-of-the-oven fresh with no preservatives or additives. After dining with Buck's World, your "best friend" can enjoy fun and exercise with Planet Dog Tuff Tugs and Squeaker Bones, and a walk with a zip lead that is light, strong and fits in the palm of your hand.



MAGNETIC PERSONALITY

Your creative personality comes alive with themed magnets. Whether you are suffering from writer's block or your imagination is wild with artistic, bountiful and poetic words, you can create masterpieces with Magnetic Poetry Kits specific to your artistic needs.



THE PORTUGUESE SHORE WHALERS OF CALIFORNIA, 1854-1904

In the latter half of the nineteenth century, the whaling industry flourished along California's coast, particularly in the areas between San Simeon and Bolinas. Unlike the lengthy whaling expeditions such as the one described in *Moby Dick*, much of California's enterprise was referred to as "shore whaling." Smaller boats embarked from local harbors on short expeditions to harvest migrating whales swimming near the shore. In this lavishly illustrated book, David E. Bertao explores the important role that Portuguese immigrants played in this industry.



Photos by Sarah Puckitt