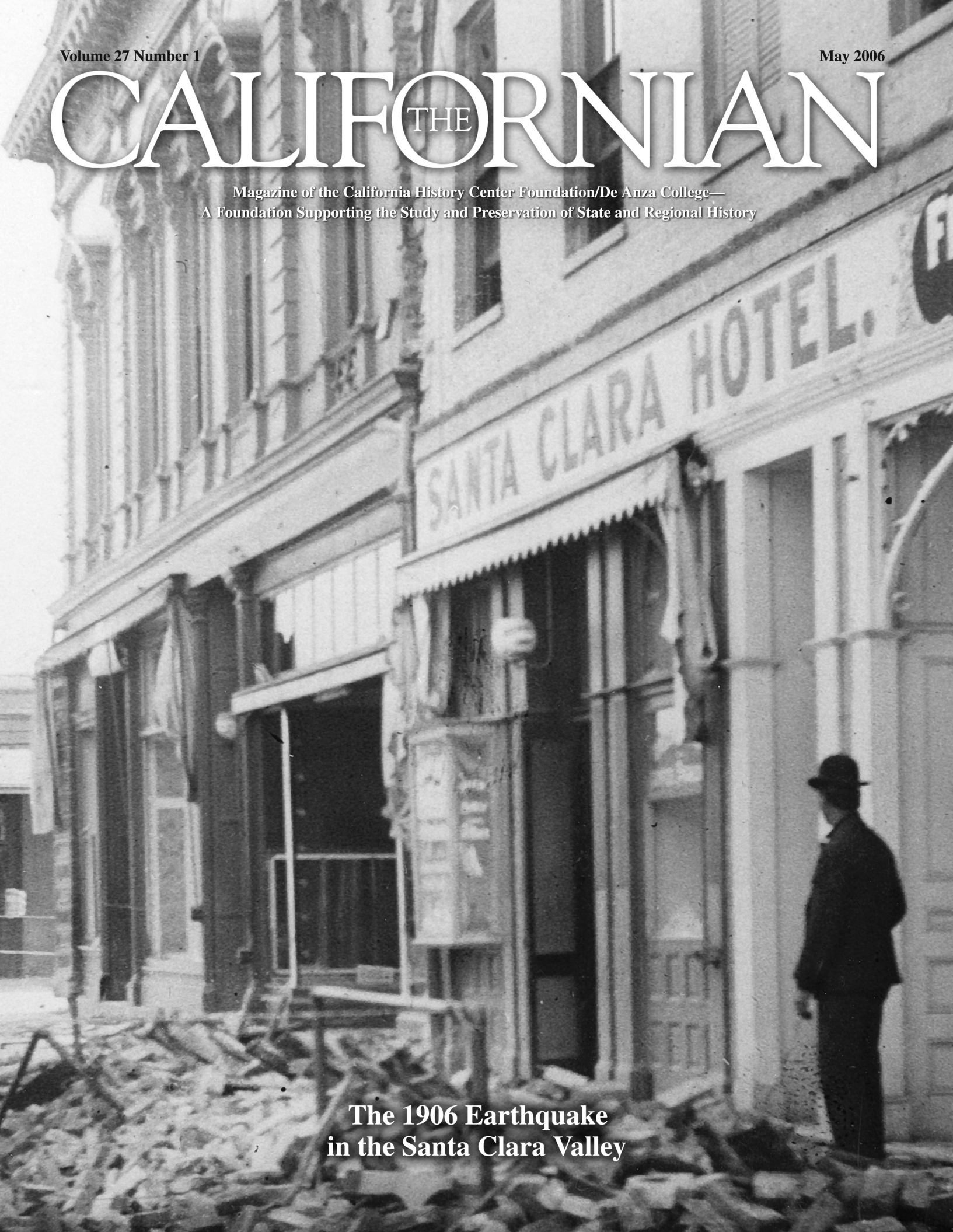


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CALIFORNIA THE FORNIAN

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A Foundation Supporting the Study and Preservation of State and Regional History



The 1906 Earthquake
in the Santa Clara Valley

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Finding “Awe” in the Collision of Natural and Social History



Tom Izu

Perhaps by the time you receive this issue of *The Californian* spring will be in full evidence and memories of the cold, unusual weather we have faced here in the valley will be long gone. But, I doubt I will forget the snow I saw sprinkled in the mountain ranges ringing our valley or the cold rain and mud I slogged through on the trails and roads of both the Diablo and Santa Cruz mountain ranges. I was fortunate to actually hike in some of it with my sons on several scout outings. The older I get, the more I appreciate these activities, even if the most immediate memory is one of being cold, tired, and hoping my feet and legs don't give out during the course of these 10 to 20 mile excursions. For whatever physical discomfort these journeys cause, I retain a most vivid sense of awe of nature and the perspective it provides. I remember seeing our small party of hikers, dwarfed by tremendous expanses of mountains and hills topped with snow and covered by the slow moving shadows of passing clouds of fantastic proportions. While we moved ahead, we became infinitesimally small against a backdrop of spectacular heights and distances. The otherworldliness of these images seemed illusory and fleeting, but their immediacy and depth struck a chord of fear and bewilderment – of knowing that against this scene, silhouetted by these solid elements so much older, larger, grander than anything we can claim, we are the ones that become illusory and fleeting. But this fear and bewilderment is not the type I feel in my day-to-day existence of driving, working, and worrying about what will happen next; it is the kind of fear that “awe” comes from – the kind that gives to me the gift of wonder and the ability to appreciate that wonder and all that it provides.

Back in the “real” world – “Silicon Valley” – where I have lived for many years, the “awe” of nature is easily forgotten, caught in a rush and hurry world of distraction and constant consumption. I barely pay attention to the mountains or hills as I race down the freeway and wouldn't be able to tell anyone where I really was beyond identifying the next freeway off-ramp. When this happens, how can I, or anyone else in this situation, hope to understand what is happening around us if we can't see ourselves as a part of this landscape and its history? If my children and their peers grow-up in a culture that promotes special effects and virtual realities over natural effects and actual realities will they ever be able truly to wonder about anything?

Believe it or not, I think places such as our own California

History Center can provide a cure – one guaranteed to bring back the “awe” in you. I am talking about a recipe sure to wake one's inner awe up: take two big things (in this case both natural and social history) and collide them together and look at all of the stories that fall out. Take the 1906 earthquake for example – this year we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the most devastating natural disaster to hit our region in modern times. It provides us with a chance to put our lives into perspective and to give respect to the forces of nature and to a history distant but quite present and visible around us here in the Santa Clara Valley. The forces of the earth moving beneath us don't care how we feel, how “competitive” we are in our busy world, nor what we own. But these forces change our history and our lives forever and continue to do so without any computer-aided special effects! If anything other than hiking twenty miles in the mountains makes me take a break and wonder

The forces of the earth moving beneath us don't care how we feel, how “competitive” we are in our busy world, nor what we own.

now and then about life and its meaning, this sure does!

Our exhibit, the *1906 Earthquake and the Santa Clara Valley* is an effort to remind us of this. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Mary Jo Ignoffo for her excellent work as curator of this beautifully done exhibit. I hope you can view it as well as attend some of our upcoming events in commemoration of the 100th year anniversary of the San Francisco Earthquake. Please note that we will have some Saturday open hours and an evening event to make it a bit easier for those of you who can't get here during regular work hours.

The center has now passed through some difficult times. I write this report to you with a deep sense of gratitude and respect to all of our members and the many individuals who have, without hesitation, shown their support for our center. With your help, we have survived the worst and I believe things are once again looking up. My position with the college will be funded full-time this next school year and, with the restoration of one of our historic cottage buildings next door becoming more and more of a tangible reality, I do have hope, and the awe and wonder I feel is for the future – not imagined as in a corporate slogan, but as in really being in the here and now, and appreciating all of your good thoughts and acts that make for a real future.

—Tom Izu, Director

COVER: *Santa Clara Hotel, Santa Clara, California after the earthquake, April 1906. Courtesy Stockmeir Library and Archives. See Feature beginning on page 6.*

CALENDAR

April 10	First day of Spring Quarter	May 20	Saturday exhibit viewing of “The 1906 Earthquake in the Santa Clara Valley” 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at CHC
April 22	Saturday exhibit viewing of “The 1906 Earthquake in the Santa Clara Valley” 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at CHC		Field Trips: Wagon Wheels West (see page 4)
	Field Trips: Wagon Wheels West (see page 4)	May 21	Field Trips: Haunted Houses and Wandering Spirits (see page 4)
May 6	Field Trips: The San Francisco Bay (see page 4)	May 22	“Asian and Latino Intersection: Coalition Building” 11:30 to 1:00 p.m., CHC (see page 15)
May 9	“Mother Tongue and Loss of Language,” 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., CHC Classroom (see page 15)	May 24	Madison Nguyen at CHC. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., CHC classroom (see page 15)
	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month reception at CHC, 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. No charge to public and students (see page 15)	May 25	Teatro Presentation: “Simply Maria” 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. CHC classroom (see page 15)
May 10	Dolores Huerta – lecture and reception, 1:30 to 2:30 speech, 2:30 to 3:00 reception, Campus Center, Conference Rooms A & B. No charge to the public and students (see page 15)	June 3	Field Trips: Haunted Houses and Wandering Spirits (see page 4)
	James Dallesandro – lecture on 1906 earthquake and fire, 7:00 p.m. at CHC (see page 14)	June 10	Field Trips: Sailing the Sea Lanes to California (see page 4)
May 11	Field Trips: The San Francisco Bay (see page 4)	June 17	Field Trips: Sailing the Sea Lanes to California (see page 4)

Center Publishes Second Edition of *Water in the Santa Clara Valley*

In 1981, The California History Center Foundation published volume 27 of its Local History Series entitled, *Water in the Santa Clara Valley: A History*. The book, for many years, was one of the few efforts to document the history of water usage, politics, technology, and the many other issues connecting us to this most vital resource.

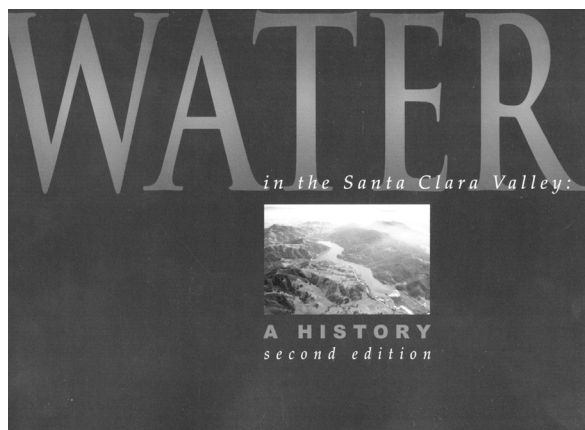
The second edition, published by the center in conjunction with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, is now complete and includes the original chapters from the first edition with seven more chapters, including many new and wonderful photographs and charts – making it a valuable resource for anyone interested in

understanding the history of water usage in our valley.

James Williams, CHCF Board member and past Executive Director of the center wrote in his review of the second edition, “Water has played a crucial role in the Santa Clara Valley’s

150-year evolution from one of the richest agricultural regions of California to a high-tech mecca of the world. The writers of this book have made an important contribution to our understanding of this evolution, and have succeeded in richly illuminating the history of water management in this influential region.”

CHCF members at the \$50 level and above will receive a complimentary copy this spring as part of their membership premium.



EDUCATION

California History Center State and Regional History Academic Program

The following courses will be offered Spring Quarter 2006 through the California History Center. Please see the History Department class listings section of the Schedule of Classes for additional information, or call the center at (408) 864-8712.



Artist's depiction of the Oakland Bay Bridge and Golden Gate Bridge.

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY

Betty Hirsch

HIST-053X-95 ■ 2 Units

With its shimmering vistas of fog, light, and cityscape, San Francisco Bay is famous worldwide. The Bay, together with its inland delta is one of the largest estuaries in the Americas. It is a critical bird habitat, a vital fishery, a major shipping center, a source of precious water, a playground for its cities, and a natural treasure. We'll study its varied past, its complicated present, and its promising future. The class will visit various sites and locations on the Bay.

Lectures: Thursdays, April 27 and May 11, 2006
6:20 to 10:00 p.m., CHC Classroom

Field Trips: Saturdays, May 6 and May 13, 2006

HAUNTED HOUSES AND WANDERING SPIRITS

Betty Hirsch

HIST-053X-96 ■ 2 Units

Ancient writings from many cultures describe apparitions and a variety of spirit manifestations that include tolling bells, chimes, moaning, and whispered messages. Legends and ancient books include descriptions of ghosts, dwelling places of spirits, and periods of intense spiritual activities related to seasons or community events such as festivals or crop harvests. This course will delve into the realm of the psychic and spiritual and will include trips to sites of reported psychic activity.

Lectures: Thursdays, May 18 and June 1, 2006
6:20 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., CHC Classroom

Field Trips: Saturdays, May 21 and June 3, 2006

WAGON WHEELS WEST: LAND TRAVEL TO GOLD RUSH CALIFORNIA

Chatham Forbes

HIST-052X-95 ■ 2 Units

The movement of American settlers into California accelerated greatly with the discovery of gold – 35,000 arrived in wagon trains in 1849 alone. This epic migration through the Western wilderness will be studied in the classroom and the field.

Lectures: Thursdays, April 20 and May 4, 2006
6:20 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., CHC Classroom

Field Trips: Saturdays, April 22 and May 20, 2006

SAILING THE SEA LANES TO CALIFORNIA

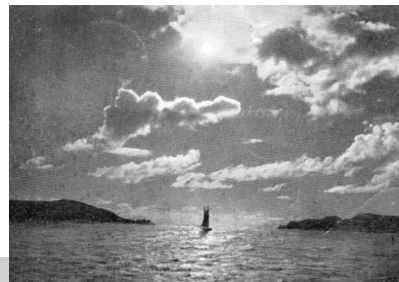
Chatham Forbes

HIST-051X-96 ■ 2 Units

For early visitors, the hardships of land travel made ocean transportation the best means of reaching California. With the American Conquest and Gold Rush, thousands of ships began arriving from seaports around the world. The story of seafaring to California will be studied in the classroom and field.

Lectures: Thursdays, May 25 and June 15, 2006
6:20 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., CHC Classroom

Field Trip: Saturdays, June 10 and 17, 2006



Left: a boat arrives through the Golden Gate.



Below: Fisherman's Wharf in 1906.

HERITAGE

Demolition of West Cottage Approved – But Commitment Made to Save the East Cottage

Two historic structures rest on the north side of the CHC building. Both, known as “the Cottages,” date back to the original Baldwin estate of the late 1800s and were designed by Willis Polk in the “Mission Revival” style architecture he championed. Both have been in need of repair and restoration work for many years.

The Foothill-De Anza Community College District (FDACCD) Board of Trustees approved plans at their March 6th meeting to demolish and remove the West Cottage, #2, to make way for a perimeter road project to accommodate increased vehicle traffic. The vote came after a process of review as dictated by state environmental impact guidelines. The CHCF board responded to the plans in a letter recorded and responded to in the FDACCD’s Final Environmental Draft Report (February 2006). The CHCF board stated,

“CHCF is a private, nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation founded in 1969 with the dual missions of promoting local, regional, and state history and supporting the preservation of local historic structures and resources. For this reason, we as an organization cannot condone the demolition of a historic structure as proposed in the DEIR. Cottage #2 (West Cottage, close to the Flint Center parking structure) is a significant and important historical structure on the De Anza College campus. As one of the few remaining examples of architect Willis Polk’s “Mission Revival” style architecture and as an important component of the historic district of buildings and structures on the campus, it is precious and deserves preservation. We are saddened to hear of its potential demolition and removal and would hope there would be a way to save this important structure.

“However, we recognize that the college and district may have priorities they



The Cottages were designed in the late 1800s by Willis Polk in the “Mission Revival” style.

feel are of greater importance to the fulfillment of the goals of the educational institution including the extension of the loop road in order to accommodate vehicle traffic. We also recognize the district’s right as property owner to enter in to the EIR process and execute the demolition if approved by the district board after following correct procedure.”

The CHCF board had some specific recommendations regarding proposed mitigation procedures the FDACCD outlined in their Draft Environmental Impact Report which were subsequently adopted by the FDACCD Board at the same meeting. The mitigation program includes:

1. Photographic documentation of the West Cottage according to Historic American Building Survey (HABS) guidelines along with a written report, 2. Archaeological investigation during the removal of ground covering and grading to ensure that any archaeologically significant materials uncovered — including those connected to the history of the remaining historic structures — are excavated and reviewed, 3. Salvaging of any materials and features of

the West Cottage that are of special significance and could possibly be used in restoration efforts of the remaining East Cottage, 4. Structural engineering review and monitoring to ensure that the remaining East Cottage is protected during the demolition of the West Cottage, and 5. The mounting of an exhibit on the historic significance of the main building (le Petit Trianon) and the cottages and other historic structures on the campus.

One of the most significant responses, however, is the statement by the college district board to support efforts to restore the East Cottage. The college district has in fact identified this structure along with the Sunken Garden area for restoration work in the bond measure approved for the next local election in June 2006.

“We look forward to working closely with the college to ensure that the mitigation plan is followed and to the eventual restoration of the remaining cottage,” states Tom Izu, CHC Director.



New roof protects East Cottage on a rainy day.

East Cottage Gets New Roof

The CHCF recently funded the installation of a new roof for Cottage #1. The roof will help ensure that the cottage is kept safe and dry until a complete restoration and repair program can be funded and executed.

Earthquake Horror!

RUINS AND HAVOC IN COAST CITIES.

San Jose, the Prettiest Place in the State, Wrecked by Quake— State Insane Asylum Collapsed and Buried Many Patients Beneath the Crumbled Walls — Enormous Damage at Santa Rosa.

CHAPTER XIV.

OUTSIDE of San Francisco the earthquake did immense damage for fifty miles north and south of the Golden Gate City. San Jose, the prettiest city in California, sustained the severest shock, which killed a score of people and left the business section a pile of ruins. The loss in this one city alone amounted to \$5,000,000.

The State Insane Asylum at Agnews near San Jose collapsed and buried upwards of 100 patients beneath its walls.

Among the buildings wrecked in San Jose are St. Patrick's church, the First Presbyterian church, the Centella Methodist Episcopal church, the Central Christian and South Methodist churches.

Every building on the west side of First street from St. James park to San Fernando street either went down, toppling or was badly cracked. The Auzerias building, Elks club, Unique theater and many other buildings on Santa Clara street went down to the ground.

On Second street the six-story Dougherty building and several

adjoining blocks were destroyed by fire. A new high school in Normal Park was a complete wreck.

The Nevada & Porter building on Second street, the Rucker building on Third and Santa Clara streets were also ruined.

The annex to the Vendome Hotel was completely wrecked, and one man was killed therein.

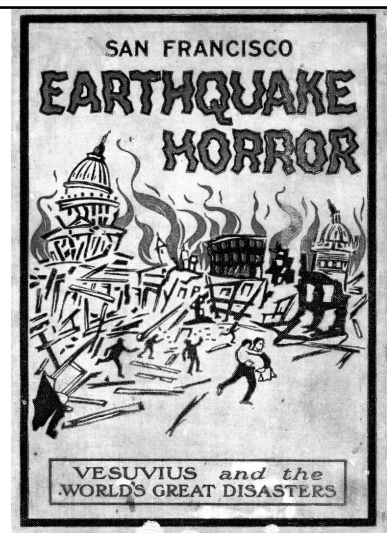
Sheriff William White, of Los Angeles, who was in San Jose at the time attending a convention, thus describes the scenes following the quake:

"San Jose, which was the prettiest city in California, is the worst-looking wreck I ever saw. When I left there nineteen dead bodies had been recovered and there was a possibility that others would be found. I reached Agnew Asylum a few hours later in an automobile and was one of the first on the spot. There I helped to carry out sixty corpses. At noon, when I arrived at San Jose, it was believed that fully 100 bodies were still in the ruins.

"The shock came to San Jose exactly at 5:12:45, according to the clock in the St. James Hotel, which was stopped. Supreme

Editor's Note: In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, the California History Center joins with many other Bay Area historical organizations in observing this historic event by presenting an original exhibit, "The 1906 Earthquake in the Santa Clara Valley: Recall and Prepare," through June 22. Please read about other related CHC events in this issue.

Keeping in the spirit of this commemoration, we have reprinted two chapters, partially transcribed by Carolyn Feroben, — one in its entirety and one excerpt — that focus on the South Bay and Central Coast areas, and Northern California, from the book by Richard Linthicum, The Complete Story of the San Francisco Horror. The book was probably published in Chicago in 1906 and is from the center's collection. While we have tried to avoid transcription errors, we have kept the text and format true to the original. This means that the style, spelling, use of words, and focus are the author's and remain characteristic of the period from which they sprang. This tabloid-style report was published quickly to take advantage of the immediate interest in the disaster and was written with much emphasis on sensationalistic description and morale boosting rather than on historical documentation. For more about the 1906 earthquake and centennial please see page 16.



Court Clerk Jordan, my young nephew; Walter Jordan and myself occupied apartments on the fourth floor of the St. James Hotel. The shock awoke the three of us, but only seemed to disturb my nephew, who commenced calling out.

“There was not a brick or stone building of two stories or over in San Jose that was not leveled to the ground or so badly damaged it will have to be torn down. Some fires started after the quake, but the fire department soon had them under control.

“I secured an automobile at 7 o’clock and left for Agnew, where the insane asylum was located, with two or three of the visiting sheriffs. The sight there was awful. The walls were standing, but the floors had all fallen in.

“Scores of insane persons were running about in the grounds, unwatched and uncared for. I helped to take out the body of Dr. Kelly, the assistant superintendent of the asylum, who had been instantly killed. A nurse who was also taken out of the ruins by me died a little later.

“After getting away from San Jose I saw evidences of the earthquake at Niles and even as far as Livermore in the shape of fallen chimneys and broken glass.”

The main building of the State Hospital collapsed, pinning many of the patients under fallen walls and debris. The padded cells had to be broken open and more dangerous patients were tied to trees out on the lawn in lieu of a safer place. The doctors and nurses stuck heroically to their posts and 100 students from Santa Clara College went over in a body and assisted in succoring the wounded.

State Senator Cornelius Pendleton, who escaped the earthquake shock at San Jose, thus narrated his experiences:

“We were all at the Vendome Hotel. The shock of the earthquake was so severe the floors and walls of the building collapsed at once and those of us who escaped made our way as best we could out of the ruins. On the side of the hotel where my room was there was a large tree. The side wall of my room fell against this tree, which also sustained that portion of the roof, preventing it from falling in on us.

“My room was on the second floor, but when I picked myself up I was in the basement of the building. I crawled up and out over the debris and escaped through a window on a level with the ground. After getting out I found this was one of the third story windows. Those of us who were uninjured at once set about assisting the less fortunate. I saw one dead woman in the hotel. We carried her out. The remainder of the dead were in various parts of the town. The residence district was not badly damaged. Martial law had been declared in the city when we left.

“Among the large buildings that were totally demolished were the Hall of Justice, the First Presbyterian Church, the Catholic Cathedral, the Hale Block, and the Vendome Hotel. Fire broke out following the earthquake in several quarters, but fortunately the water mains were uninjured and the spread of the flames was checked.”

At Salinas the immense plant of the Spreckles Sugar refinery was completely destroyed, and the loss of property aggregated \$2,000,000.

The estimated loss of life and damage in California cities outside of San Francisco is as follows:

Oakland, \$500,000, 5 lives; Alameda, \$400,000; San Jose, \$5,000,000, 19 lives; Agnew (state hospital for insane), \$400,000, 170 lives; Palo Alto (Stanford University), \$3,000,000, 2 lives; Napa, \$250,000; Salinas, \$2,000,000; Hollister, \$100,000, 1 life; Vallejo, \$40,000; Sacramento, \$25,000; Redwood City, \$30,000; Suisun, \$50,000; Santa Rosa, \$800,000, 40 lives; Watsonville, \$70,000; Monterey, \$25,000, 8 lives; Loma Prieta, 10 lives; Stockton, \$40,000; Brawley, \$100,000; Santa Cruz, \$200,000; Gilroy, \$500,000; Healdsburg, \$25,000; Cloverdale, \$15,000; Geyserville, \$12,000; Hopland, \$10,000; Ukiah, \$50,000; Alviso, \$20,000; Niles, \$10,000; Hinckley Creek, \$10,000, 9 lives; Deer Creek Mill, \$10,000, 2 lives; Santa Clara, \$500,000; Pacific Grove, \$50,000; Wrights, \$75,000; Delmonte, \$25,000, 2 lives.

The beautiful city of Santa Rosa was a terrible sufferer from the quake, both in loss of life and property:

The entire business section was left in ruins and practically every residence in the town was more or less damaged, fifteen or twenty being badly wrecked. The damage to residences was caused principally by the sinking of the foundations, which let many structures down on to the ground.

The brick and stone business blocks, together with the public buildings, were all thrown flat. The courthouse, Hall of Records, the Occidental and Santa Rosa hotels, the Athenaeum theater, the new Masonic Temple, Odd Fellows’ block, all the banks—everything—went, and in all the city not one brick or stone building was left standing except the California Northwestern depot.

It was almost impossible for an outsider to realize the situation as it actually existed there. No such complete destruction of a city’s business interests ever before resulted from an earthquake in America. The very completeness of the devastation was really the redeeming feature, though, for it put all upon exactly the same basis, commercially speaking. Bankers and millionaires went about with only the few dollars they happened to have in their pockets when the crash came, and were little better off than the laborers who were digging through the debris. Money had practically no value, for there was no place to spend it, and this phase of the situation presented its own remedy. Almost every one slept out of doors, being afraid to enter their homes except for a short while at a time until repairs were made.

There were plenty of provisions. Some were supplied by other towns and much was brought in from the surrounding country. Two entire blocks of buildings escaped being swept by the flames, which immediately broke out in a dozen places at once as soon as the

shock was over and from the tangled ruins of those buildings complete stocks of groceries and clothing were dug out and added to the common store. Then before the fire gained headway several grocery stores were emptied of their contents in anticipation of what might follow.

The city was put under martial law, company C of Petaluma having been called to assist the local company in preserving order. Many deputy sheriffs and special police were also sworn in, but no trouble of any kind occurred.

The relief committee was active and well managed and all in need of assistance received it promptly. The work that required the principal attention of the authorities was removal of the wreckage in order to search for the bodies of those missing and known to have perished.

Forty marines under command of Captain Holcombe arrived from Mare Island and did splendid work in assisting in the search. Forty-two bodies were buried in one day and the total dead and missing numbered upward of 100.

Santa Rosa, in proportion to its size, suffered worse than San Francisco. Mr. Griggs, who was in the employ of a large firm at Santa Rosa, tells a story which sufficiently proves the earthquake's fury, so great as to practically reduce the town to ruin. In addition to the death roll a large number of persons were missing and a still greater number were wounded.

As in the case of San Francisco, an admirable organization had the situation well in hand. Forty sailors from Mare Island, fully equipped with apparatus, were at work, while volunteer aid was unstinted.

Santa Rosa suffered the greatest disaster in her history, but the indomitable spirit of her people was shown all along the line. Even so early as Friday an announcement was made that the public schools and the college would open as usual on Monday morning, the buildings having been inspected and found to be safe.

At Agnews the cupola over the administration department went down and all the wards in that part of the building collapsed. Twelve attendants were killed and Dr. Kelly, second assistant physician, was crushed to death. There were 1,100 patients in the hospital. C. L. Seardee, secretary of the state commission in lunacy, who was in Agnews and attending to official business, declared that it was a marvel that many more were not killed. Dr. T. W. Hatch, superintendent of the state hospitals for insane, was in charge of the work of relief.

Friday morning 100 patients were transferred to the Stockton asylum. Forty or fifty patients escaped.

Dr. Clark, superintendent of the San Francisco County Hospital, was one of the first to give relief to the injured at Agnews. He went there in an automobile, taking four nurses with him, and materially assisted the remaining members of the staff to organize relief measures.

Tents were set up in the grounds of the institution, and the injured as well as the uninjured cared for. A temporary building was erected to house the patients.

The St. Rose and Grand hotels at Santa Rosa collapsed and buried all the occupants. Thirty-eight bodies were taken from the ruins. There were 10,000 homeless men, women and children huddled together about Santa Rosa. As the last great seismic tremor spent its force in the earth, the whole business portion tumbled into ruins. The main street was piled many feet deep with the fallen buildings.

The destruction included all of the county buildings. The four story courthouse, with its dome, is a pile of broken masonry. What was not destroyed by the earthquake was swept by fire. The citizens deserted their homes. Not even their household goods were taken. They made for the fields and hills to watch the destruction of one of the most beautiful cities of the west.

C. A. Duffy of Owensboro, Ky., who was in Santa Rosa, was the only one out of several score to escape from the floor in which he was quartered in the St. Rose hotel at Santa Rosa. He went to Oakland on his motor cycle after he was released and told a thrilling story of his rescue and the condition of affairs in general at Santa Rosa.

Mr. Duffy said when the shock came he rushed for the stairway, but the building was swaying and shaking so that he could make no headway, and he turned back. He threw himself in front of the dresser in his room, trusting to that object to protect him from the falling timbers. This move saved his life. The dresser held up the beams which tumbled over him, and these in turn protected him from the falling mass of debris.

"I was imprisoned five hours," said Mr. Duffy, "before being rescued. Three times I tried to call and the rescuers heard me, but could not locate my position from the sound of my voice, and I could hear them going away after getting close to me.

"Finally I got hold of a lath from the ruins around me, poked it through a hole left by the falling of a steam pipe, and by using it and yelling at the same time finally managed to show the people where I was.

"There were about 300 people killed in the destruction of the three hotels.

"The business section of the place collapsed to the ground almost inside of five minutes. Then the fire started and burned Fourth street from one end to the other, starting at each end and meeting in the middle, thus sweeping over the ruins and burning the imprisoned people.

"I saw two arms protruding from one part of the debris and waving frantically. There was so much noise, however, that the screams could not be heard. Just then, as I looked, the flames swept over them and cruelly finished the work begun by the earthquake. The sight sickened me and I turned away."



Notice posted in San José warning looters in the days following the earthquake. Courtesy Stockmeir Library and Archives.



San Jose High School in April 1906. Courtesy Stockmeir Library and Archives.



Vendome Hotel Annex collapse following the earthquake. Courtesy Stockmeir Library and Archives.



Agnew's Asylum, or the State Hospital for the Insane at Agnew, California. Photograph taken April 18, 1906. Courtesy California Room, San José Public Library, Silicon Valley Online History.

Fort Bragg, one of the principal lumbering towns of Mendocino county, was almost totally destroyed as a result of a fire following the earthquake of April 18.

The bank and other brick buildings were leveled as a result of the tremors and within a few hours fire completed the work of devastation. But one person of the 5,000 inhabitants was killed, although scores were injured.

Eureka, another large town in the same county, fifty miles from Fort Bragg, was practically undamaged, although the quake was distinctly felt there.

Relief expeditions were sent to Fort Bragg from surrounding towns and villages and the people of the ruined area were well cared for.

The town of Tomales was converted into a pile of ruins. All of the large stores were thrown flat. The Catholic church, a new stone structure, was also ruined. Many ranch houses and barns went down. Two children, Anita and Peter Couzza, were killed in a falling house about a mile from town.

The towns of Healdsburg, Geyserville, Cloverdale, Hopland, and Ukiah were almost totally destroyed. The section in which they were located is the country as far north as Mendocino and Lake counties and as far west as the Pacific ocean. These are frontier counties, and have not as large towns as farther south. In every case the loss of life and property was shocking.

At Los Banos heavy damage was done. Several brick buildings were wrecked. The loss was \$75,000.

Brawley, a small town on the Southern Pacific, 120 miles south of Los Angeles, was practically wiped out by the earthquake. This was the only town in southern California known to have suffered from the shock.

Buildings were damaged at Vallejo, Sacramento, and Suisun. At the latter place a mile and a half of railroad track is sunk from three to six feet. A loaded passenger train was almost engulfed.

R. H. Tucker, in charge of the Lick observatory, near San Jose, said: "No damage was done to the instruments or the buildings of the observatory by the earthquake."

At Santa Cruz the courthouse and twelve buildings were destroyed. Contrary to reports, there must have been a tidal wave of some size, for three buildings were carried away on Santa Cruz beach.

The Moreland academy, a Catholic institution at Watsonville, was badly damaged, but no lives lost.

In a Delmonte hotel a bridal couple from Benson, Ari.—Mr. and Mrs. Rouser—were killed in bed by chimneys falling.

At 12:33 o'clock on the afternoon following the San Francisco quake Los Angeles experienced a distinct earthquake shock of short duration. Absolutely no damage was done, but thousands of people were badly frightened.

Men and women occupants of office buildings, especially the

tall structures, ran out into the streets, some of them hatless. Many stores were deserted in like manner by customers and clerks. The shock, however, passed off in a few minutes, and most of those who had fled streetwards returned presently.

The San Francisco horror has strung the populace here to a high tension, and a spell of sultry weather serves to increase the general nervousness.

CHAPTER XV.

DESTRUCTION OF GREAT STANFORD UNIVERSITY.

California's Magnificent Educational Institution,
the Pride of the State, Wrecked by Quake—
Founded by the Late Senator Leland Stanford
as A Memorial to His Son and Namesake –
Loss \$3,000,000.

ONE of the most deplorable features of the great California calamity was the destruction of the Leland Stanford, Jr., University, situated at Palo Alto.

The magnificent buildings, including a beautiful memorial hall erected by Mrs. Stanford to the memory of her husband and son, were practically wrecked...

...The idea that made the Spanish mission the model for the Stanford buildings was translated into plans by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge. If ever there was an inspiration, says the visitor, this was one. Ever so many millions put into ever so ornate structures of the type prevalent elsewhere could not give these halls their appealing beauty. The main group of buildings formed two quadrangles. The 12 one-story members of the inner quadrangle were ready in 1891, and with the shops of the engineering departments, were for several years "the university." The 12 structures of the inner quad were increased to 13, for the church, provided for in the original scheme, but not begun until 1899, was added. Those inclosed—to quote statistics from the register—a court 586 feet long by 246 feet wide—3 1/4 acres—relieved from barrenness by big circular plots in which flourished palms, bamboos and a medley of other tropical translations. Penetrate 10 feet into one of these plots, which are always damp from much watering, and it takes little imagining to fancy yourself in an equatorial jungle. Surrounding this quadrangle was another—the "outer quad," of 14 buildings that were bigger and higher and considerably more impressive than the pioneers. The extreme length of the second quadrangle was 894 feet. All the way around it stretched the same colonnades, with their open-arched facades, that flanked the inner court. And in addition the outer and

Photo: W.C. Mendenhall, USGS



Memorial Arch, the original entry to Stanford University, was not rebuilt after the 1906 earthquake.

Stanford's library, photographed in April 1906 by Charles Fuller. Courtesy Stockmeir Library and Archives.

Photo: Charles Fuller

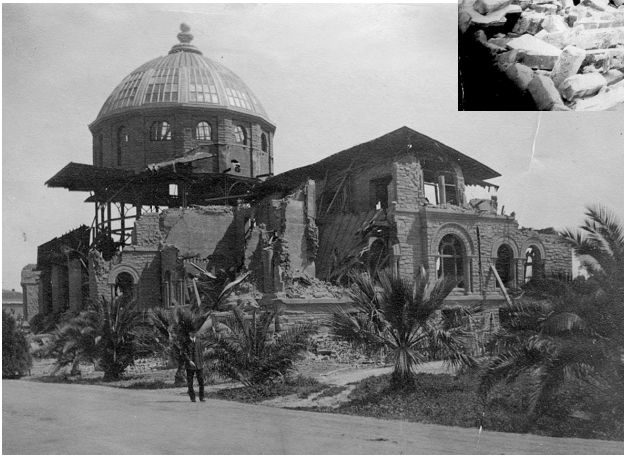


Photo: Charles Fuller



The Ames Building, Castro Street, Mountain View. Daniel Ames, the owner of the building is pictured on the bottom left. Courtesy Mountain View Historical Association.



Santa Clara Water Works. Courtesy Stockmeir Library and Archives.

inner quadrangles were connected here and there with these same arched pathways, which subdivide the space between the two into little reproductions in miniature of the main plaza within. The colonnades, the tiled roofs and peculiar yellow sandstone of which all the quadrangles were constructed formed a combination which is not easily nor willingly forgotten.

Outside this central group, of which the great church and the memorial arch were badly wrecked by the quake, were enough other buildings used for the university proper to bring the number up to fifty or so. They include chemistry building, museum, library, gymnasium, engineering and two dormitories—one, Roble hall, for women; the other, Encina hall, for men.

The ruins wrought among those magnificent buildings by the frightful upheaval of the earth which wrenched some of them apart and threw down huge sections of walls aggregated in money value about \$3,000,000.

The gymnasium and the library were wholly destroyed, nothing but skeletons of twisted steel remaining. The loss was half a million dollars on each. The Memorial church was left merely a frame, the mosaic work being torn down. The top of the 80-foot high memorial arch was crashed to the ground a heap of ruins. The original quadrangle was but little damaged. Many rare specimens from Egypt were lost in the museum, which was only partly destroyed. The fraternity lodge and Chi Psi Hall were a total loss. The engineering buildings were partly demolished. Encina Hall, where 200 boys stayed, was much shaken, and a large stone chimney crashed through the four floors, burying student Hanna, of Bradford, Pa. He was the only student killed. About twelve others were slightly hurt.

Roble Hall, women's dormitory, escaped without a scratch.

The damage at Palo Alto City amounts to \$200,000. The damage in the neighboring towns was also heavy. San Mateo suffered more than Palo Alto. The Redwood city jail was torn down and all the prisoners escaped.

There was severe damage at Menlo Park. Burlingame suffered a loss of fully \$100,000. Many houses were torn down there. The only other death in that vicinity was that of Fireman Otto Gordes, who was buried under the chimney of the power house at Palo Alto.

All the towns mentioned were left without light or power.

President David Starr Jordan of Stanford University announced that the university authorities would begin at once to repair the quadrangle, laboratories and dormitories. The Memorial church was sheltered to prevent further injury and work in all classes was resumed on April 23.

President Jordan said that it was unlikely any attempt would be made to restore the Memorial church, the memorial arch, the new library, the gymnasium or the museum of the university.

The great rival of the Leland Stanford, Jr., University is the University of California at Berkeley, a suburb of San Francisco. The

effect of the earthquake there is tersely told by Professor Alpheus B. Streedain of the zoological department. There were eight severe shocks in succession.

"It all lasted about twenty-five seconds," said Professor Streedain, "and talk about being frightened, to be more expressive I thought hell was coming to earth. I rushed down to the street in my pajamas, and people were almost crazy. Chimneys were down all over. I was safe and trusted to God for any coming shocks. It was a mighty serious proposition, and one I shall never forget."

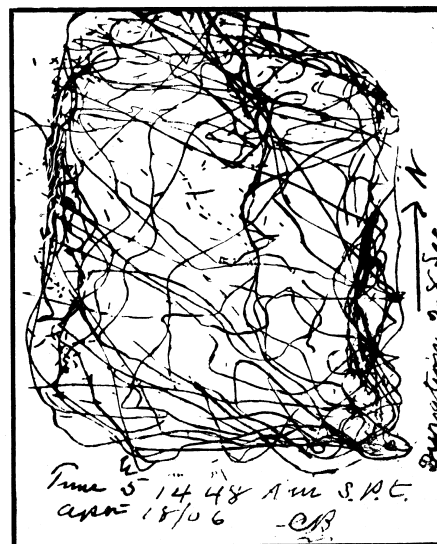
By a seeming miracle the big California University buildings that stand on the campus elevations escaped harm in the earthquake shock.

Recorder James Sutton of the University said; "I made a personal examination of the buildings on the campus and received reports from deans of the colleges and it appears that not one of the buildings was harmed in the slightest degree.

"Professor O'Neill of the chemistry department reported that the damage done to the instruments in the building did not aggregate more than \$50. California Hall had not a mark on it to indicate that an earthquake occurred that morning. The other buildings were in the same condition. The Greek theater had not a scratch on its walls."

The town of Berkeley was not so fortunate as the university in the matter of damage sustained. No lives were lost, nor were there any notable disasters to buildings, but the aggregate damage in the shape of twisted structures, broken chimneys and falling walls was many thousands of dollars.

The destruction of so many magnificent buildings at the Leland Stanford, Jr., University was one of the worst calamities that has ever befallen an American educational institution.



Record of the 1906 earthquake made on the seismograph at the Chabot Observatory at Oakland. Professor C. Burckhalter, who was in charge of the observatory at that time, said of this record "It shows that the main motion was gyrotory, but the wave like and the up and down motions were present also. The dashes and dots represent the up and down motion." From A History of the Earthquake and Fire in San Francisco by Frank W. Aitken and Edward Hilton, 1906.

Look for these items on the 1906 earthquake in the Stockmeir Library and Archives:

Books and folios

Geology, geologic history

Assembling California by John McPhee. New York, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1993. QE89 .M37 1993.

Geologic Atlas of the United States: Santa Cruz Folio, California. Washington, D.C., United States Geological Survey, 1909.

Geologic Guidebook of the San Francisco Bay Counties prepared by the Division of Mines of the State of California under the direction of Olaf P. Jenkins. San Francisco, 1951. QE89 .C6 no.154.

A Brief History of the U.S. Geological Survey by Mary C. Rabbitt. United States Geological Survey, 1980. QE76 .R32 1980.

Earthquake Country by Robert Iacopi. Menlo Park, CA, Lane Book Co., 1964. QE535 .I2

Studies of the San Andreas Fault Zone in Northern California by Robert Streitz and Roger Sherburne. Special Report 140. Sacramento, California Division of Mines and Geology, 1980. QE606.5 .U6 S7 1980.

1906 earthquake reportage

Complete Story of the San Francisco Horror by Richard Linthicum and Trumbull White. Chicago?, Hubert D. Russell, 1906. F869 .S3 L63 1906.

A History of the Earthquake and Fire in San Francisco by Frank W. Aitken and Edward Hilton. San Francisco, The Edward Hilton Co., 1906. F869 .S3 A3.

Palo Alto 1906 by Linda Dick. Cupertino, California History Center, 1972. F861 .L6 v.10.

San Francisco and Vicinity Before and After its Destruction... Portland, ME, L.H. Nelson Company, 1906. F869 .S3 L12 1906.

The San Francisco Calamity by Earthquake and Fire edited by Charles Morris, LL.D. W.E. Scull, 1906.

San Francisco's Great Disaster by Sidney Tyler. Philadelphia, P.W. Ziegler, 1906. F869 .S3 T9.

Please visit this website for more information, events, and links:

<http://1906centennial.org/>
1906 EARTHQUAKE CENTENNIAL ALLIANCE

Official documents and informed critiques following the event

Excerpts from San Francisco Municipal Reports for the Fiscal Year 1905-6, Ending June 30, 1906 and Fiscal Year 1906-7, Ending June 30, 1907. San Francisco, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, 1908.

Report of California...No.3...National Association of Stationary Engineers on the San Francisco Calamity April 18-19-20, 1906. F869 .S3 N2.

The San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of April 18, 1906 and Their Effects on Structures and Structural Materials by United States Geological Survey. Washington, DC, Government Printing Office, 1907.

"The System" as Uncovered by The San Francisco Graft Prosecution by Franklin Hichborn. San Francisco, Press of James H. Barry Company, 1915.

More recent appraisals

Denial of Disaster by Gladys Hansen and Emmet Condon. San Francisco, CA, Cameron and Company, 1989. F869 .S3 H36 1989.

The Earth Shook, the Sky Burned by William Bronson. Garden City, NY, Doubleday & Company, 1959. F869 .S3 B76.

Five Fires: Race, Catastrophe, and the Shaping of California by David Wyatt. Reading, Massachusetts, Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1997. F870 .A1 W93 1997.

The San Francisco Earthquake by Gordon Thomas and Max Morgan Witts. New York, Stein and Day, 1971. F869 .S3 T44.

Beyond books

The California History Center collection dealing with the 1906 San Francisco quake, fire, and their aftermath also contains complete newspapers and clipping files representing the San Jose *Mercury News*, Palo Alto *Times/Peninsula Times Tribune*, and other local newspapers, *Sunset* Magazine issues of the time period, conference proceedings from the United States Geological Survey on earthquake prediction and seismic hazards, photo collections, postcards, and student research papers. Materials have been collected on the 1989 Loma Prieta quake and other California earthquakes.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Needed Paint and Repair Completed for “le Petit Trianon”

The CHC building known as “le Petit Trianon,” is getting some tender love and care. Needed repairs and a thorough exterior paint job is in progress and should be completed by the time of the publication of this magazine. The college, using funds from the “Measure E” bond, hired an architectural firm and contractors to complete the project. Over the years, the building has deteriorated and the balustrade surrounding parts of the building and the sunken garden has fallen into disrepair. Sections were also destroyed or damaged over the past few years – one by the falling of an oak tree in front of the building and another by an errant maintenance cart believed to have been commandeered by people out for a joy ride. We are glad to report that the



Scaffolding covers the facade of le Petit Trianon as repairs get underway.

balustrade will be repaired and the mold designed to make new columns will be kept for future replacement work.

“I feel strongly that whenever possible our college community be committed to the preservation and ongoing care of

historic facilities,” states Jeanine Hawk, Vice President of College Finances and Services. She adds, “These facilities are integrated into our instructional programs and serve as valuable learning resources for our students and community. It has been a pleasure to work collaboratively with the California History Center Board, Staff, and Architectural Resources Group on the California History Center Preservation Project including significant balustrade repair and replacement. While expansion has impacted our ability to preserve all historic structures this project proves that there can and should be strong collaboration in planning, design and construction with projects that may impact historic corridors or buildings on campus.”

Author of *1906*: A Novel to speak

James Dalessandro, author of *1906: A Novel*, will speak at the center on Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. about the 1906 earthquake and his work. Dalessandro is a successful novelist and screenwriter. He is the founder of the Santa Cruz Poetry Festival and teaches screenwriting. *1906: A Novel*, is historically based and focuses on the conflict and intrigue played out between reform activists and corrupt city leaders before, during, and after the earthquake and fire of San Francisco. Dalessandro will also show a brief “special effects” digital short produced to promote the development of *1906* into a feature length film. Dalessandro is writing the script for this film.



Author James Dalessandro

CHC Holds Annual Day of Remembrance

On February 16th, over 400 individuals gathered on the De Anza College campus to observe a “Day of Remembrance” to commemorate the beginning of the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. This year’s event was the fourth annual Day of Remembrance held on campus. The center used this date and the wartime experience of Japanese Americans as a way to promote the relevance of learning history – a history that has a direct impact on the local community and the entire nation.

The commemoration featured Dr. Francisco Balderrama, Professor of Chicano Studies and History at California State University, Los Angeles. He is co-author, with Raymond Rodriguez, of *Decade of Betrayal: Mexican Repatriation in the 1930s*. Dr. Balderrama discussed repatriation cases during the Great Depression involving the forced removal of over one million residents of Mexican ancestry from the US to Mexico.

Dr. Alice Yang Murray, Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Cruz and author and editor of several books on the Japanese American internment, spoke on how Japanese Americans have taken their wartime experience and used it to inspire action in defense of the Constitution and in protection of others unfairly scapegoated during times of war.

CHC Director Tom Izu interviewed Art Shibayama, one of over 2,200 Japanese Latin Americans imprisoned during World War II in special prison camps in the US for use in a “hostage exchange” program with Japan. Mr. Shibayama recounted his family’s forced deportation from Peru to Texas and how he was refused re-entry to his native Peru and refused US citizenship when he later served in the US armed forces in the Korean conflict.

The De Anza College Broadcast Media Services recorded the entire event and produced a DVD containing all of the presentations. Copies are available in the CHC Library/Archives for viewing or for check out. In addition, copies of an educational handout are also available. Please contact Lisa Christiansen at (408) 864-8987.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Latino and Asian Pacific American Heritage Months at CHC

De Anza College will observe both Latino and Asian Pacific American Heritage Months during May. A number of events organized by the Latino Month Committee and the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Committee will be held at CHC or co-sponsored by CHC. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Tom Izu at (408) 864-8986.

THE MOTHER TONGUE AND LOSS OF LANGUAGE

Tues., May 9, 11:30a.m.-1:00p.m., CHC

Jointly sponsored by both heritage month committees, and hosted by CHC, this event features Judy Minor, Vice President of Instruction and Language Arts and Women's Studies Instructor Marc Coronado, who will discuss having a non-English native language and how it connects with one's development of an identity in the US.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH RECEPTION

Tues., May 9, 3:00p.m.-4:00p.m., CHC

The Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Committee and the Asian Pacific American Staff Association hosts, with CHC, a reception to mark the beginning of

events and activities for the campus's observation of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

DOLORES HUERTA

Wed., May 10, lecture 1:30p.m.-2:30p.m. and reception 2:30p.m.-3:00p.m. Hinson Campus Center, Conference Rooms A & B.

This legendary labor leader and inspirational figure from the Latino and Mexican American community will speak about her experiences as a leader of the United Farm Workers Union, her efforts to protect civil and human rights, and her current advocacy work for education rights. This event is funded by the De Anza Student Body and Visiting Speakers Series, and sponsored by the Latino Heritage Month Committee. CHC will sponsor a reception with light refreshments after Huerta's talk.

ASIAN-LATINO INTERSECTION

Mon., May 22, 11:30a.m.-1:00p.m., CHC

This is a moderated discussion on coalition building between Asians and Latinos in the US.

MADISON NGUYEN AT CHC

Wed., May 24, 11:30a.m.-12:30 p.m., CHC

Madison Nguyen, the first Vietnamese American Councilperson for the City of San Jose will speak about her experiences in local politics and her identity as a Vietnamese American.

TEATRO: "SIMPLY MARIA"

Thurs., May 25, 11:30a.m.-1:00p.m., CHC

Students from De Anza Instructor Marc Coronado's Women's Studies class will present a play entitled "Simply Maria."

MEMBERSHIPS

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De Anza College Employee Payroll Deduction

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

Susan Bruch, Judy C. Coleman, David Howard-Pitney, Kathleen Kyne, Judy Miner, Pauline E. Waathiq.

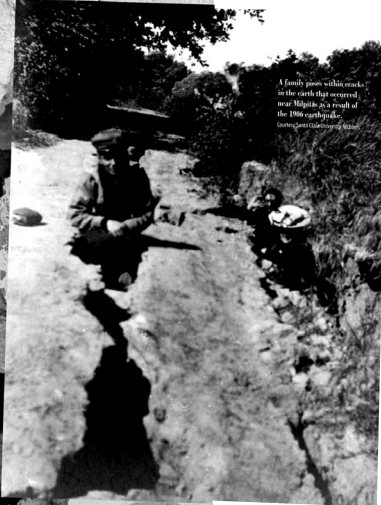
The 1906 Earthquake in the Santa Clara Valley

Recall and Prepare

On April 18, 1906, an 8.3⁺ magnitude earthquake tore open almost 300 miles of the San Andreas fault, from San Juan Bautista to the Mendocino Coast. The impact on San Francisco has been widely reported—more than 3,000 dead, and property damage in excess of \$500,000,000 (in 1906 dollars). Images of the fire that followed have been imprinted on history.

The quake's force in the Santa Clara Valley is not so well-known. Almost two hundred people died, and hundreds of buildings were destroyed. Many fires erupted, and thousands camped outdoors, afraid to re-enter damaged homes. At night, South Bay residents could see a glow in the sky to the north as San Francisco burned.

This recollection documents the catastrophe in this valley that April morning exactly one hundred years ago, and urges us to prepare for the next "big one."



"The 8.5 magnitude for the 1906 earthquake was based on research by Charles Richter in 1958. Current research indicates that the magnitude ranged between 7.7 and 7.9."

CHC Opens 1906 Earthquake Exhibit

On February 28, CHC hosted a reception to officially open its newest exhibit "The 1906 Earthquake in the Santa Clara Valley: Recall and Prepare." The reception began with a panel discussion featuring retired De Anza and Foothill geology instructor Sandy Hay, retired De Anza history instructor and CHCF board member James Williams, and the curator of the exhibit, historian Mary Jo Ignoffo. Mr. Hay used his expert knowledge of the San Andreas Fault to describe and explain the dynamics of the 290-mile rupture of April 18, 1906 and concluded with concerns geologists have regarding the possibility of a major earthquake on one of the other faults in the Bay Area in the future. Williams discussed the history of earthquake engineering and how the 1906 quake spurred new approaches and advancements for the state. Ignoffo shared her thoughts on the importance of capturing the stories of people and local history in documenting momentous events such as the 1906 earthquake.

The California History Center Foundation is commemorating the centennial of the 1906 earthquake with this exhibit which focuses on the impact of the earthquake on the Santa Clara Valley, and highlights photographs of damage at San José, Agnews, and Stanford. The exhibit also relies on scientific data supplied by some local experts, including Mr. Hay. Field studies on the San Andreas Fault that Hay and others initiated twenty years ago resulted in contemporary maps of the 1906 fault ruptures. Hay's maps are on display in the exhibit, along with data from the USGS.

The exhibit will be open through June 22, 2006. The Center's regular hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The center will also open two Saturdays – April 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and May 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call (408) 864-8986 for more information.



California History Center & Foundation

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

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Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The value of goods received as a benefit of membership must be deducted from the amount of all contributions claimed as a deduction. CHCF members receive issues of *The Californian* magazine and members who contribute at the \$50 level and above also receive a yearly Local History Studies publication.

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