



Past and Present

Issue 17: Spring 2012

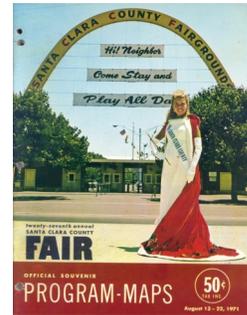
Transition for the Archives

County Archivist Trista Raezer has accepted the position of Archivist at North Dakota State University. Her last day at the Archives will be May 25th.

Below is an announcement from Emily Harrison, the Deputy County Executive, explaining the future transition for the Archives.

“I am pleased to announce that Office of the Clerk-Recorder will assume responsibility for the County archives effective July 1, 2012. The archives were established in 2006 in order to consolidate and preserve the County’s historic documents and records. Start-up efforts were led by a task force co-chaired by the Clerk-Recorder and the Clerk of the Board. Since that time, the daily operations of the Archives have been overseen the Office of the County Ex-

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1971 County Fair Program. See County Highlight, page 4.

Mission

The mission of the Santa Clara County Archives is to collect, preserve, and make available the historical records of Santa Clara County government. The Archives’ goals are to be a center for research and information about Santa Clara County and to foster an appreciation and understanding of the county’s history and development.

County Supervisors Archives’ Website

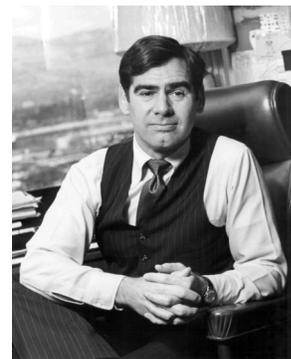
An exciting new addition has been made to the Archives’ website. Last year Supervisor Dave Cortese, District 3, established the Archives Taskforce in order to create a website of oral interviews and documents from former county supervisors. This website is now available at <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/ceo/County%20Archives/County-Supervisors-Archives/Pages/default.aspx>

Interviews were taped with sixteen former supervisors, through the help of [CreaTV San Jose](#). Each video is accompanied by a brief biography of the supervisor, and links to documents that highlight that supervisor’s career.

The interviewed supervisors served the county from 1963 to 2008, so a wide range of county history and development can be learned from these fascinating oral histories.

The former supervisors interviewed are: Don Gage (served

(Continued on page 2)



Supervisor Rod Diridon.



Supervisors Gonzales, McKenna, Wilson, Lofgren and Diridon.



BOARD AND METRO CANADA OFFICIALS APPLAUD CLERK FOR APPROVING LIGHT RAIL CONTRACT
1983

Past and Present

Transition for the Archives (continued)

ecutive. The archives have grown to encompass 43 collections which total over one-million separate documents, housed in a facility designed to ensure preservation and public access. Now that the archives are an established part of County operations, it is time to incorporate it into the County organizational structure. While formal reporting realignment will become effective July 1, 2012, day-to-day supervision of the archives will transition to Clerk-Recorder responsibility on May 26, 2012 due to the departure of the current contract archivist.

The Office of the Clerk-Recorder is the logical choice in light of their leadership in driving the creation of the archives, as well as in acknowledgement that the majority of documents in the archives belong to the Clerk-Recorder. Needless to say, the archives will continue to be a County-wide resource for the preservation of historic records. Current operational hours, budget, volunteer programs, and location will remain unchanged. An additional benefit will be that the staff resources of the Clerk-Recorder's office will be available in support of archives operations.

I want to thank current contract archivist Trista Raezer for her dedicated service, and wish her well as she moves on to a full-time position as Archivist for North Dakota State University; and recognize Gina Alcomendras for her new responsibilities.”

Emily Harrison

Deputy County Executive

Santa Clara County

(408) 299-5116

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County Supervisors Archives' Website (continued)

from 1997-2012), Blanca Alvarado (1994-2008), Pete McHugh (1997-2008), Jim Beall (1994-2006), Joe Simitian (1997-2000), Ron Gonzales (1998-1996), Dianna McKenna (1984-1996), Mike Honda (1991-1996), Zoe Lofgren (1981-1994), Rod Diridon (1975-1994), Susie Wilson (1979-1990), Becky Morgan (1981-1984), Dan McCorquodale (1973-1982), Gerry Steinberg (1974-1980), Dom Cortese (1969-1980), and Sig Sanchez (1963-1978).

If you would like more information about the project, contact Steven Blomquist at 408-299-5030.



Transit and park charter campaigners.



Supervisor Susie Wilson with President Jimmy Carter in 1980.

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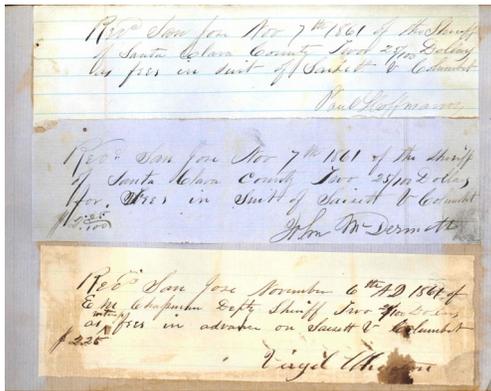
New Collection and Additions to Collections

The newest collection at the Archives is the Dominic L. Cortese Collection. Dom Cortese served as county supervisor from 1969 to 1980. This collection consists of photographs, newspaper clippings, speeches and correspondence. More information about this collection can be found here: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8cc0z3n/>

Additional materials have been added to the Controller-Treasurer Collection, such as receipts from the 19th century. More information can be found here: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt28703526/>

The Board of Supervisors Collection has also received additions, including all Board of Supervisors meeting minutes from 1930 to 1992. More information can be found here: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt7290279k/>

X new online databases have also been added: <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/ceo/County%20Archives/Online%20Databases/Pages/Online-Databases.aspx>



Receipts pasted into a book, from the Controller-Treasurer Collection, 1861.



Supervisor Dom Cortese and his family in 1969. Current supervisor Dave Cortese is the oldest boy in the picture. From the Dominic L. Cortese Collection.

Contacting the Archives

Our address: 1875 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112

Directions: Please see our website at <http://archives.sccgov.org>.

New phone: 408-755-7895

Email: Archives@ceo.sccgov.org

Hours: We are open Mondays and Wednesdays, 9am to 1pm, and by appointment on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 9am to 1pm.

Subscribing

To subscribe (or unsubscribe) to this newsletter, please send an e-mail to:

Archives@ceo.sccgov.org.

COUNTY HIGHLIGHT

County Fairgrounds

The Santa Clara Valley Fair Association was created in 1937 and the County Fairgrounds was purchased by the county in 1940 for the price of \$35,000. The land had belonged to H. Kirk Macomber and was known as the Mira Monte ranch. The first fair was held in October, 1941, but was not held again until 1946 due to the U.S. entering World War II. An annual fair has been held since then. The Fairgrounds' main attraction was a one mile racetrack and grandstands, where both horse races and car races were held. The Fairgrounds was originally 97 acres, but expanded to 189 acres by 1951. In 1950 a replica of the first state capitol building was built at the Fairgrounds, and over the next decade an exposition hall, Pavilion, animal barns, and administration buildings were added. The famous arch at the entrance of the fairgrounds was constructed in 1956. During the height of the popularity of the fair, the 1960s, more than 300,000 visitors would enjoy the fair. While the fair and fairgrounds have shrunk over the last few decades, the fair will be held this year in August. <http://thefair.org/home.cfm>



Left: Sign for the 1951 or 1956 fair.

Lower left: Key-chain created for the 2000 fair.

Lower right: Sign for the 1950 fair.





Above: Boy with a rabbit, 1950.

Below: Women with a cardboard cutout of the fair's mascot, 1950.

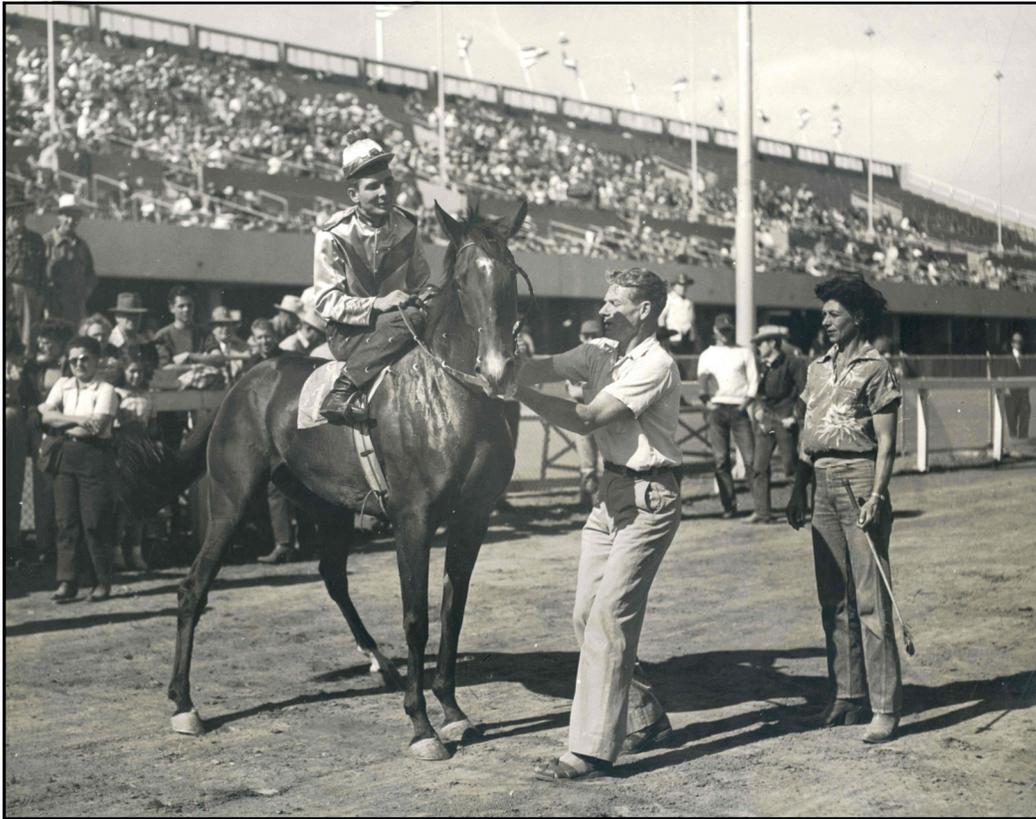


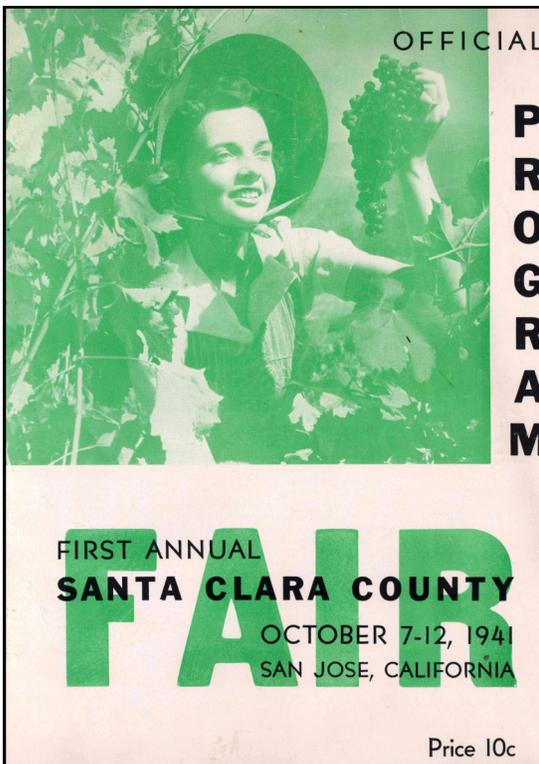


Displays from the Northern and Southern Japanese Associations at the first fair in October, 1941, two months before the U.S. entered World War II.



The race track was used for both horse and car races. The photographs below are from 1950 and 1949, respectively.





Above: Place mat promoting the 1950 fair.

Left: 1941 program.

Below, 1955 program.

The motto of the fair during the 1950s was “Hi, Neighbor!” The mascot was the “Cheery Farmer,” a bearded farmer with a corn cob pipe.

