



Past and Present

Photographers' Collection Opens— Index Online

The County Photographers' Collection, consisting of nearly 57,000 images, is now open for research, and the collection database may be searched online at the Archives web page (<http://archives.sccgov.org>). The collection contains images chronicling County activities from the 1950s until the early 1990s.

Subjects in the collection include aerial photographs of urban and rural areas, construction of County buildings, award cere-

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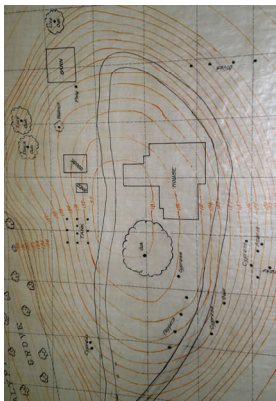
Recent Acquisitions

Recent acquisitions by the Archives include records related to the famous *Miller v. Thomas* lawsuit in Gilroy and historical standards from the Division of Weights and Measures .

Litigated during the 1880s, the lawsuit of *Henry Miller et al. v. Massey Thomas et al.* involved title to land in Gilroy and in surrounding areas. Approximately two cubic feet of documents related to the case have been transferred to the Archives by

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Collections in Process



Contour map of Alum Rock Sanitorium, 1925, from County Surveyor's Collection.

Three large collections of materials are among the processing projects currently being undertaken by the Archives.

As reported previously, processing has begun on a very large collection of surveys transferred by County Surveyor Gwen Gee. Currently, nearly 400 sets of documents have been indexed by volunteer Bob Johnson after being cleaned and flattened by intern Michael Merolla.

A second large collection being processed is election materials transferred by the Registrar of Voters. This collection contains sample ballots, voter pamphlets, and other materials from elections in the county. Due to the efforts of interns Shoshana Francis, Jennifer Fanslow, and Michael Merolla, much of this collection has been processed and is available. A description has been posted on the Online Archive of California (<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/>).

The third substantial collection being organized by Archives staff

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Issue 3: Fall 2007



**Boating at Vasona Park.
From the Photographers'
Collection.**

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.

Past and Present

Photographers' Collection (continued)

monies, and portraits. Facilities depicted include airports, schools, courts, County parks, and the County Government Center at 70 West Hedding Street.

Online searches of the collection database will indicate pictures available on specific subjects, along with information on format, size, and number of images. The photographs themselves are available for viewing at the Archives.

Recent Acquisitions (continued)

County Surveyor Gwen Gee. Currently being catalogued, this material includes maps of blocks in Gilroy, with property owners noted, surveying records, and financial records. Most of the material appears to have been generated by efforts to survey the lands in question in the lawsuit.

The standards transferred by Deputy Sealer Stan Toy reflect the County's historic role as a leader in consumer protection. Home to a nationally certified laboratory for weights and measures standards, the County was one of only three authorized in the state to test and certify standards used by others. The transferred standards were employed in this work and were so precise that they were lifted only with special tools so that their weight would not be altered by human contact.

Collections in Process (continued)

consists of architectural records for building projects undertaken by the County since the 1950s. This collection, which was transferred by Phyllis Perez, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, is being flattened and catalogued. It includes records of a wide variety of County projects, and when completed should be a significant resource for documenting changes in the county.

Contacting the Archives

Our address: 1875 Senter Road, San Jose 95112

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

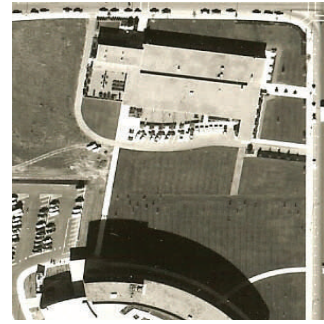
Our phone: 408-792-1895

E-mail: Archives@rec.sccgov.org

Hours: We are open on an appointment-only basis. Appointments are normally available Monday and Wednesday 10-5, Tuesday and Thursday, 9-3, and Friday 9-12.

Subscribing

To subscribe (or unsubscribe) to this Newsletter, please send an e-mail to: Michael.Griffith@rec.sccgov.org.



Aerial view of County Government Center, 1959, from County Photographer's Collection.



Construction of terminal, Reid-Hillview Airport, 1970, from County Photographers Collection.

COUNTY HIGHLIGHT

VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER

In this new section, *Past and Present* features historical photographs and documents related to a specific County agency. Each issue will highlight a different department. The section will illustrate some of the many resources available at the County Archives.

The photographs below show the Valley Medical Center, then known as the County Hospital, as it was in 1937. They are taken from an analysis of County fire protection insurance prepared for the Board of Supervisors. This analysis, and a second one prepared in the 1960s, contain numerous pictures and diagrams of County buildings.



Main Building. This part of the hospital was insured for \$70,000. Its contents were insured for \$18,000.



Nurses' Cottage. This residence was insured for \$31,000 for the building and \$2000 for the contents.



Kitchen and Dining Room



This building was known as the Preventorium.

The horse barn illustrates the County Hospital's rural setting in the late 1930s.



This building was the Hospital's boiler room.

The Hospital's laundry building.

