Archives Exhibits at County Government Center

Exhibits from the Archives’ collections are now featured in display cubes at County Government Center, 70 W. Hedding Street. Located at the entrance to the East Wing of the Center, the two cubes currently show images of the County Almshouse, an institution that cared for the elderly poor until closed in the 1950s. The Almshouse was located at the current site of the Elmwood Correctional Facility.

Exhibits will change on a quarterly basis. Future exhibits will incorporate artifacts as well as photographs. The displays are created by the County Office of Public Affairs with material provided by the Archives.

Foothill College Students Volunteer at Archives

For the second semester in a row, student volunteers from Foothill College have helped prepare a detailed index of historic County map books. While a listing by tract or subdivision name exists, the students are creating a more detailed guide which will include street names and other

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New Collections at Archives

The Archives has recently posted descriptions of several smaller collections on the Online Archive of California (www.oac.cdlib.org.). While individually not large, these collections contain valuable information for understanding the history of County government and its programs. They include the County Office of Planning collection, which contains nearly thirty brochures and other planning documents dating from the 1940s to the 1980s. The Valley Medical Center collection houses a variety of reports and studies of health and health care issues in Santa Clara County from the 1950s to the 1990s, such as Tuberculosis in Santa Clara County 1956-1958 and Children and Youth in Santa Clara County (1967). The Howard Campen collection documents Mr. Campen’s career as county executive from 1957 to 1976 and includes, among other items, many

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Past and Present

New Collections (continued)

photographs, speech notes, and speeches. Also recently posted are small collections from the Division of Agriculture, the Department of Environmental Health, and the Historical Heritage Commission.

Foothill College (continued)

information. When the index is completed, it will be possible to easily locate any recorded map which contains a specified street.

Initiated by Professor Bill Ziegenhorn, the volunteer program offers students in his United States history class the opportunity to volunteer at a local historical organization and to write a paper about their experiences. “We have received valuable help through this program,” commented the County Archivist. “It offers students an opportunity to learn more about a historical repository while helping make important resources available to the community. We look forward to continuing to work with Foothill College in the future.”

Archives Joins WorldCat

The Archives will be listing its collections in WorldCat, the online catalog of libraries from around the globe. Operated by OCLC (Online Computer Library Center), WorldCat is a major research tool which lists the collections of leading research universities, among other repositories. “The purpose of joining WorldCat,” according to the County Archivist, “is to increase awareness of the Archives’ collections among researchers, both locally and nationally.”

New Publications Feature Archives Images

Two recent publications on county history feature images from the Archives, among other repositories. Mexicans in San Jose by Nannette Regua and Arturo Villarreal includes pictures of businesses and people from the County Office of Planning Photograph, Slide, and Film collection. Sam Shueh’s Silicon Valley not only includes several pictures from the Archives but also uses an Archives’ image for its cover.

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 Monday, 10-4 and Wednesday, 9-1. Appointments are normally available the remainder of the week, Monday through Friday.

Subscribing

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

Roads and Airports

The Roads and Airports Department preserves, operates, and enhances the County’s expressways, unincorporated roads, and three airports. The images below document County roads and airports primarily in the 1960s, a period of significant change. The pictures are drawn from the County Photographer’s Collection.

Lawrence Station Road, 1961. This picture was taken to show traffic congestion on County roads.

County Trafficways Plan, 1961. This map shows the plan for improved County roads.

Reid-Hillview Airport, 1961. The area to the south of the airport is now Eastridge Mall.
Construction of a new terminal at Reid-Hillview Airport, 1970.

County roads, 1950s. This picture shows Almaden Road in 1958.

Advertisement in favor of a bond measure funding County roads improvements, 1961.