Archives Offers New Online Indexes

Through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, the Archives now offers three new indexes online at its website (http://archives.sccgov.org). The indexes are to the County Survey Collection, the Coroner Inquests Collection, and the Naturalization Index. Each of them is keyword searchable. The Survey Collection indexes approximately 1,700 property surveys, primarily in Santa Clara County, made between 1890 and the 1960s by Henry B. Fisher and by his son, Raymond K. Fisher. The Coroner Inquests index provides information about 9,300 inquests made into deaths in Santa Clara County from 1891 to 1932. The Naturalization Index contains the names of 8,000 persons naturalized in Santa Clara County from 1850 to 1934. The Archives does not hold the naturalization records, which are in the custody of the Santa Clara County Superior Court at 191 N. First Street, San Jose. Some of the naturalization records also have been microfilmed, and the microfilm should be available at Family History Centers.

None of these indexes would have been possible without the many hours contributed by Archives volunteers. For several years, Bob Johnson has indexed the Fisher surveys, a project that he is continuing. A dedicated group of volunteers have

(Continued on page 2)

Surveyor Map Digitization Project Begins

The County Surveyor’s Office and the Archives have begun a joint map digitization project for the County’s most historic maps. Archives staff will scan maps and then will index the maps in a database. Ultimately, the maps will be transferred to the Archives.

Scheduled for scanning are the Herrmann and the McMillan maps, which range in date from the 1850s until nearly 1950. There are approximately 8,000 Herrmann maps, taking up about 50 map drawers. There are about 40 map drawers of McMillan maps.

The indexing project for the maps will include identifying the GIS (Geographical Information System) location for each map. Researchers using contemporary location information thus will be able to easily locate

(Continued on page 2)
Past and Present

New Indexes (continued)

met every Thursday morning for several years, and their efforts created the Coroner Inquest Index and the Naturalization Index, as well as the earlier indices of probate cases and wills. “The Archives truly is a group effort,” Michael Griffith, the County Archivist, noted. “Without the many, many hours of work by our volunteers, none of these indices would exist, and our records would remain far less available to the public. Their efforts are essential to the Archives’ progress and to the accomplishment of its mission.”

Surveyor Map Project (continued)

Part of Herrmann map Pueblo Tract V.

Sheriff’s Office Exhibit Opens

The Archives has opened a new exhibit, featuring material from the Sergeant Rick Sprain Sheriff’s Office Collection. Curated by intern Lisa Yakharova, the exhibit features photographs and artifacts from the collection, as well as documents. The exhibit is housed in the Archives’ display cases and may be viewed whenever the Archives is open. An expanded description of the Sergeant Rick Sprain collection, written by Ms. Yakharova, recently has been posted on the Online Archive of California (http://www.oac.cdlib.org).

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.
The County Clerk-Recorder’s Office performs the duties of the County Recorder and of the County Clerk. The County Recorder maintains a true and reliable record of real property and other official records and of births, deaths, and marriages. The County Clerk issues marriage licenses, performs marriages, and performs services related to the filing of Fictitious Business Name statements, professional registrations, and similar services. The pictures below document the County Recorder’s Office from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Recorder’s Office, probably in the late 1950s. The East Wing of County Government Center now occupies this location.

Preparing to move the Recorder’s Office, 1967.


Part of floor plan for Recorder’s Office, 1952.

Drawing of some of approved furniture for the Recorder’s Office, 1952.

Ceremony marking the recording of the ten millionth document, 1989.