Sheriff’s Office Collection Donated to Archives

Sergeant Rick Sprain has given the Archives a large collection of artifacts, research materials, and original records documenting the history of the Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff. Included in the collection are materials ranging from police uniforms to training manuals to a 1920s mug book to collections of newspaper clippings about the office. “This collection greatly expands the range of Sheriff’s Office materials we have,” according to the County Archivist, “and it will be of great value to researchers.” Sergeant Sprain, who is writing a history of the Sheriff’s Office, assembled these materials during his research. The collection is being processed by Archives

(Continued on page 2)

Archives Receives Grant Extension

The Archives has received an extension of its grant from the NHPRC (National Historical Publications and Records Commission) for an additional year. While the Archives has achieved all of the grant goals in the initial two-year grant period, it has not expended all the grant funds. “This extension will allow the Archives to continue the grant goals of taking in, organizing,

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New Clerk-Recorder Records at Archives

Among recent additions to the Archives, a number of County Clerk-Recorder records deserve mention. They include one of the oldest records at the Archives, some striking maps, and some new resources of use to genealogists.

A copy of Mexican records made in the 1850s, the cattle brands registry contains documents dated as early as 1840, among the earliest in the Archives. Intended as a means by which cattle owners could officially record their brands, the registry includes not only written descriptions but also drawings of the brands and of cattle heads.

Also noteworthy are the early volumes of the patent series, which contain maps of Mexican ranchos. The
Past and Present

Sheriff’s Office Collection (continued)

intern Lisa Zakharova, and a description will be posted on the Online Archive of California in the near future.

Clerk-Recorder Records (continued)

patents volumes document the transfer of title from the U. S. to private owners, and they include hand-drawn color copies of official U.S. surveys of ranchos in the county, often with considerable detail.

Genealogists will benefit from three books related to Oak Hill Cemetery, a record of burials from 1905 to 1914, a list of plot purchases from 1865 to 1937, and an index to the cemetery map from 1860 to 1937. Also of interest may be records listing men in the militia or eligible for military service for 1873-1874 and for 1901-1903

Grant Extension (continued)

and making available historical records of County government,” according to County Archivist Michael Griffith. “It is particularly welcome in a very difficult period for County finances, as it will permit the Archives to continue operations without additional County funding in FY 2010.”

New Look for Online Archive of California

The Online Archive of California (OAC) has unveiled a new design to enhance its usefulness for researchers. The OAC is the site at which archives and special collections libraries throughout the state post descriptions of their collections. The new design includes a map allowing viewers to find repositories throughout the state, a new presentation of collection descriptions, and a new search feature for pictorial images. The address of the OAC is: 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.
Facilities and Fleet is responsible for the design, construction, maintenance, purchase/sale, and lease of County buildings and property and for providing vehicles for County agencies. The images below illustrate fleet facilities in the 1930s and 1960s. They are drawn from insurance records prepared for the Board of Supervisors.

The County Garage, 1930s. The garage was located on North Market Street.

Map of the Mountain View Corporation Yard, 1937. The right side of the yard was reserved for water wagons.

The Mountain View Corporation Yard gas pump and offices. These are on the Oak Street side of the yard in the map above.
Map of the Santa Clara Corporation Yard, at Main and Poplar streets, 1937.

The oil house at the Santa Clara Corporation Yard.

Map of the East Corporation Yard, 400 S. Jackson Street, San Jose, in 1962.

The maintenance and repair shop at the West Corporation Yard, 11030 Doyle Road, San Jose, in 1962.