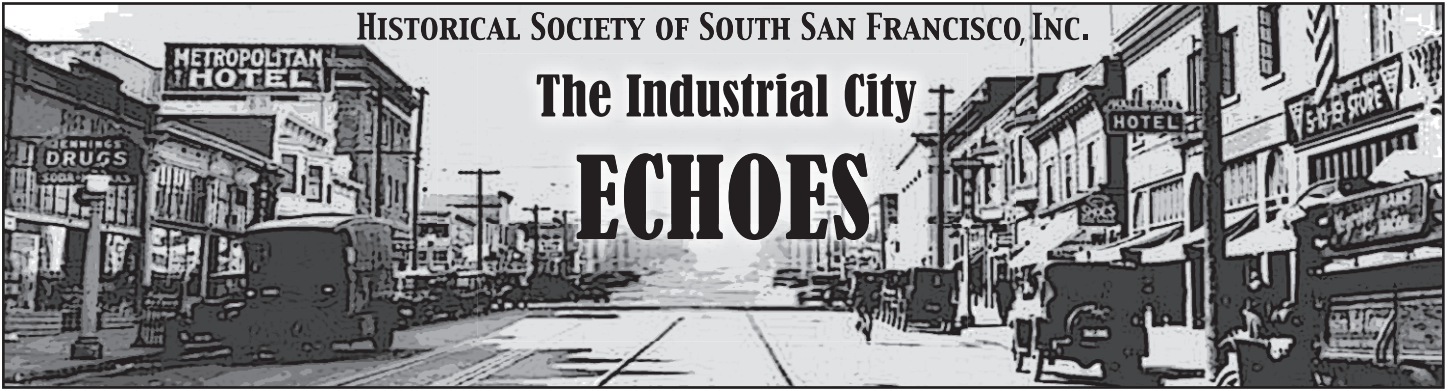


The Industrial City ECHOES



Newsletter No. 158 - June 2022

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2021 Calendar

- July 18.....Board Meeting
- Aug.15.....Board Meeting
- Sept. 19General Meeting
- Oct. 17Board Meeting
- Oct. 21Banquet Dinner
- Nov. 21Board Meeting
- Dec. 19General Meeting

In-person meetings are cancelled until conditions change. Dates are tentative.

Members are welcome to Board Meetings.

Members and non-members are welcome to General Meetings.



Program for June General Meeting Cancelled

The SSF Historical Society Board of Directors met on May 16, and decided to err on the side of caution and canceled the June 2022 General Meeting due to the upswing of Covid cases.

We hope that by September we will be able to meet again.

Stay safe everyone.

Message from Historical Society President

It seems that as we are learning to adjust our way of life in this Covid era. Fortunately we have slowly...cautiously... found new ways to resume programs, fundraising, and provide access to Historical Society events. Unfortunately, we still have bills to pay! As we begin rolling out events, please consider supporting the Historical Society in anyway you can. This newsletter has an application for renewing or joining the Society. We have an amazing group of volunteers who are loyal, creative, and hardworking. At the same time we have a lot of fun too.

The Plymire-Schwarz House and the SSF Historical Museum are open every Saturday from 1:00-4:00 pm. Come by and see it for the first time or come again to see what's new. We look forward to seeing you all.

Dave Casagrande



Help Preserve the History of South San Francisco - Join the Historical Society!

*If you have not renewed or want to become a new member please fill out this form and mail with check made out to:
South San Francisco Historical Society, 80 Chestnut Avenue, So. San Francisco, CA 94080*

Name/Names/Corporation _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student\$5.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual\$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family\$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter\$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate\$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership\$500.00 |

ANTIQUE BIZARRE RUMMAGE SALE TAG SALE

Saturday - July 16

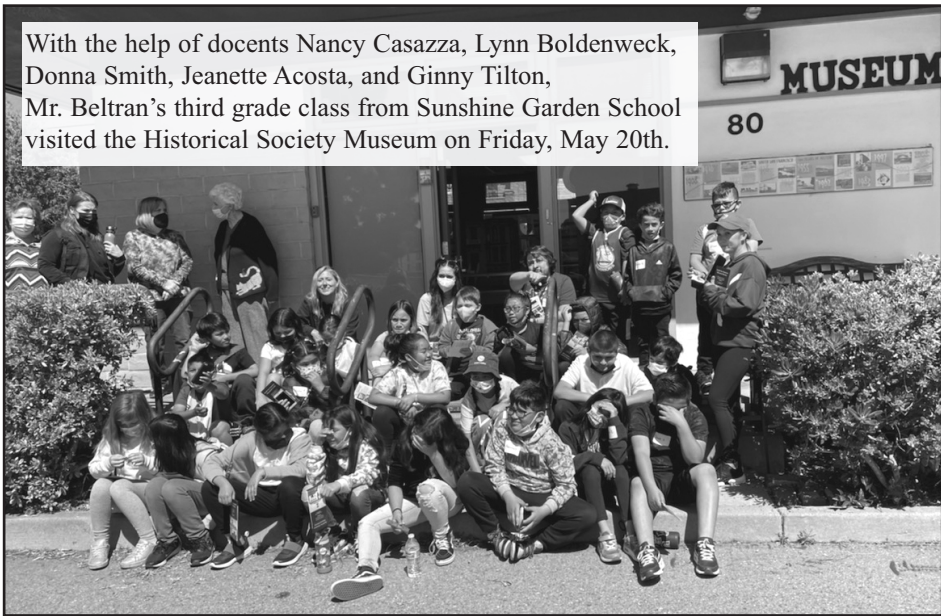
Our Antique bazaar and rummage sale is coming up on July 16.

It will run from 9am until 3pm in the parking lot at the museum at 80 Chestnut. This fundraising effort will benefit both the Museum and the Plymire-Schwarz House.

We will highlight vintage and quality items that include surplus inventory from the Plymire-Schwarz House Boutique as well as items donated for the sale. If you have vintage or lightly used items to donate, please let Bill or Jo Zemke know by July 9 so they can be priced prior to the sale. Unfortunately, we will not have adequate display options for clothing, large furniture or electronics and therefore are unable to accept those items for the sale.

We will also need all the help we can get on the day of the sale, particularly setting up (7 – 9 am) and packing up (3 – 5 pm).

If you can volunteer contact Bill Zemke (650-922-0570) or Jo Zemke (650-208-5095).



MEMORIAL DONATION

In Memory of Leonore Armanino

Donor: Shirley Zocchi

GENERAL DONATIONS

Bonino Family

Historical Society Coloring Books

Sponsor: South San Francisco Rotary

NEW MEMBERS

ELMER & VIOLA MADRID

ANGEL & PAULA MORA

BUD & BARBARA PALMER

DOLORES ROSALES

LIFETIME MEMBERS

ROBERT AITCHSON JR.

LULA TUBBS

Nominations Due for The Victor Feudale and Lifetime Achievement Awards

After two years without an annual banquet and awards, we are pleased to announce that we will be taking recommendations for the Victor Feudale award and Lifetime Achievement Award. Awards will be given at the annual banquet planned for October 21.

The Victor Feudale Award is typically given each year to a Society member or members that have made a significant contribution of time and energy to furthering the goals and objectives of the society. The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to a member who has made significant contributions of time and energy over the course of many years. This award may or may not be awarded each year. Nominations will be reviewed, and winner(s) selected by the awards committee lead by Ginny Tilton and assisted by Valerie Sommer, Mary Giusti and Bill Zemke.

Nominations should be received by July 1 and include a statement of how the nominee's efforts have contributed to the identification, preservation, or publication of our city's history or historic sites. Nominations can be given to Ginny, Valerie, Mary or Bill or mailed to the museum at 80 Chestnut Avenue. The committee will meet in early July to consider the nominations and make any selections. These selections will be confirmed by the Board at its July meeting.

Enjoy a visit to the
Historical Society Museum
80 Chestnut Avenue or the
**Historical Society's
Plymire-Schwarz House**
519 Grand Avenue.

Both are open on Saturdays
from 1 to 4 p.m.

Historical Society Social Media

Check out our website
www.ssfhistory.org



Facebook and Instagram!

@ssfhistory

@ssfhistorymuseum

@plymireschwarzhouse

PLYMIRE-SCHWARZ HOUSE

The Teas Are Coming! The Teas Are Coming!



We all miss the large, fun Teas of prior years but in light of the continuing pandemic, we will be offering a number of smaller, more intimate teas this coming August. Please see the enclosed announcement or contact us (info@plymire-house.org) for more details!



A Touch of Class

Because of the incredible generosity of our members and supporters, the Plymire-Schwarz House was able to add a splash of elegance to the front door: gold leaf house numbers! Thanks, also, to New Bohemia Signs in San Francisco for the lovely and professional job.

The Magnificent Man With His Flying Machine

The Plymire-Schwarz House had a wonderful and rare opportunity when a South San Francisco neighbor, Reza Kurniawan, owner and founder of Space Monkey Films, volunteered his services and created a drone virtual tour of the House. We were blown away with the end result and so grateful to Reza for sharing his skill and expertise. To view the video in its entirety, please visit our website www.plymirehouse.org.



Plymire-Schwarz House Acquisitions

- Julie Formosa* - Vintage oak & tile washstand.
- Barbara Boccaleone* - Vintage patchwork quilt.
- Merel Glaubiger* - Vintage hand-knit blanket and various linens.
- Marcia Meloni* - Various vintage glass dishes, china and serving pieces. (*Boutique Donation*)
- Molly Boyll* - Vintage china bowls and serving pieces.

Museum News



Tanisha Mohammed (left) and Megan Nussbaum (right)

Thanks to the Genentech Grant the library received and shared with the Historical Society, the museum now has a new large-format scanner. With this new scanner we are now able to more safely scan and catalog delicate ephemera in our collection. The museum also benefitted from two energetic interns, Megan and Tanisha. Their accomplishments included cataloging items into our new database and reorganizing our current exhibits. Sadly, their last day was Saturday, May 14 but their diligence and dedication made a noticeable impact in the enormous task ahead of us. Julie Chimenti has also spent considerable time and effort guiding the interns, finalizing details on the database, and modifying museum displays. Bill Zemke has been instrumental in building and creating different types of displays, most recently one to enhance the Grand Avenue Corridor panoramas and another for the Windbreaker's parade banner.

Most importantly, Lois Severi remains steadfast and adaptable to all the newly-implemented procedures and changes. We thank them all for their hard work and invite you to come down to the museum and see our refreshed exhibits.

Museum Acquisitions

- Joann Paiva Seaver* - Various items that had belonged to her mother, Florance Seaver.
- Peter Sodini* - Bertolucci's restaurant memorabilia.
- Alan & Julie Chimenti* - 2 glass display cases.

Prophecy for the South San Francisco High School Class of 1919

As published in the Yearbook

It was tradition for high schools to pen a prophecy in yearbooks for the Senior Class and South City High was no different. We found this prophecy for the Class of 1919 eerily accurate in detailing the future South San Francisco.

Written by James O. McMills (Class of 1920) the prophecy follows exactly as printed in the 1919 Iris yearbook. James was later known as Dr. McMills to many in South San Francisco. While in high school, Dr. McMills designed the block letters "SSF" for South San Francisco High School. He studied dentistry at UC Berkeley and practiced in South San Francisco for over 40 years.



James O. McMills

Prophecy:

Upon finishing my course in a large Eastern university, I decide to make a tour of the West where I had spent the younger days of my life, and also to visit South San Francisco High School from which I was graduated about ten years ago.

"South San Francisco," shouted the conductor (sic) on the S. P. Ry. I put on my hat and alighted from the train. My eyes bulged out with bewilderment as I gazed at the large depot which since my departure had been built. I left the depot, and was very much puzzled as to which way I should walk. Upon inquiry I succeeded in reaching Grand Avenue, and from there took the car to the heart of the city and got off. During the years I had been away from South San Francisco great changes had been brought about. Instead of small buildings which once straggled along Grand Avenue, tall skyscrapers had taken their place. On the streets all faces were strange to me, where once they had been familiar years ago. Having secured a room in a hotel, I rested till evening, when I decided to go to a show to kill the monotony.

The streets were brightly illuminated with electric signs and arc lights. Across the street a large picture show dazzled the eye with colored lights. I walked over and bought a ticket, and as I glanced inside the ticket booth, I saw a small sign, "Edwin Brawn, Mgr." The name seemed familiar to me, and at once I remembered Edwin Brawn as one of my schoolmates and a graduate of the class of '19. I was directed to his office by an usher, and was surprised to see him a fat young man instead of the tall, lanky boy he was in his school days.

I said, "Hello, Edwin."

He looked at me in surprise, and said: "Hello."

Seeing he did not recognize me, I explained to him who I was, and he was overjoyed to see me. After talking a while I asked him where the rest of the class of '19 were, and was surprised to find out that about half of the class of '19 were following different occupations about the city. He asked me to go to lunch with him at the Metropolitan Club where we might meet some of the class of '19. The club rooms were very beautiful and the walls were adorned by oil paintings by great artists. One picture particularly attracted my eye, and I walked over close to further scrutinize the painting and discovered in one corner that it had been painted by Sylvia Doak, another graduate of the class of '19. Edwin then informed me that Sylvia was now noted all over Paris as an artist, and this was only a minor production. Speaking of the girls of the class of '19 reminded me of Polita Turnbull, and I asked about her. Edwin informed me that she had been married and was traveling with her husband, who was an alarm-clock salesman. While we were talking two stout young men came in, whom I recognized as Charles Hein and Joe Mahoney. Charles looked at me several times and then said something to Joe. By the looks of their faces I knew they recognized me, but couldn't remember who I was. Directly they walked toward me and asked me if they hadn't met me before. I told them I guessed they had, and my name was James McMills. They were overjoyed and shook hands with me. I asked Charles what he was doing, but before he could answer, Edwin interrupted by showing me the headlines of the paper, which were: "Charles Hein, the speed king, will race at Tanforan speedway tomorrow." I was not surprised to see that Charles had become a racer, as he was a sort of speed demon when I used to chum with him ten years ago. On further conversation Joe informed me that he was now pitching for the Frisco National League, and had become a very popular player. We talked over our old days until a late hour, when we bade each other good-bye and departed, each of us wishing to meet again. All luck to the further success of the class of '19!

1919 Graduating Class of South San Francisco High School

Joseph Fountainrose Mahoney
"On their own merits honest men are dumb."

Polita Gloria Turnbull
"Do you know I am a woman? When I think, I must speak."

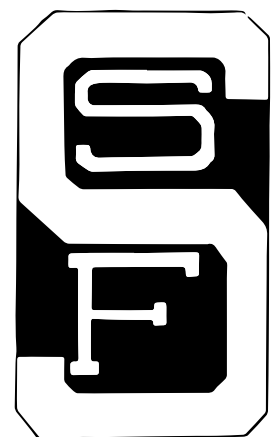
August Charles Hein
"Let the world slide, I'll not budge an inch."

Sylvia Coffing Doak
"I can do with my pencil what I know"

Edwin Everett Brawn
"And he was not right fat, I undertake."



South San Francisco High School - 1919



Block letters designed by James McMills for the school



The Industrial City ECHOES

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South San Francisco, CA 94080

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Second Vice PresidentGinny Tilton
Recording SecretaryDenise Fernekes
TreasurerJulie Chimenti
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Director: Dave Casagrande
Jeanette Acosta, Julie Chimenti,
Mary Giusti, Gene Hessler, Donna Smith

Museum Committee

Julie Chimenti, John Penna, Lois Severi, Valerie Sommer,
Donna Smith, Bill Zemke

The Historical Society is co-sponsored by the SSF Parks & Recreation Dept. It is through the City's generosity that many of the Society's goals are accomplished.

Contact & Location Information

Historical Society of South San Francisco, Inc.

80 Chestnut Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080
info@ssfhistory.org

Historical Society Museum

80 Chestnut Avenue
650-829-3825
info@ssfhistory.org
Saturdays (1-4:00 p.m.)
Please call if you are interested
in volunteering at the museum.

History Room / Grand Avenue Branch Library

306 Walnut Avenue
650-877-8533
By appointment only.

Historical Society's Plymire-Schwarz House

519 Grand Avenue
650-875-6988
info@plymirehouse.org
Saturdays (1-4:00 p.m)

Memberships Expire December 31

Membership runs on a calendar year expiring annually on December 31st.
Membership is \$15.00 per person - \$20 per family.
If you are interested in becoming a new member contact the Society at 650-829-3825 or
Mail your check to:
Historical Society of South San Francisco
80 Chestnut Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080

ECHOES: 650-829-3825 • ssfhistorical@gmail.com • info@ssfhistory.org
Layout & Design: Gloria Lagomarsino • amgraphics25@yahoo.com