

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, INC.

The Industrial City ECHOES

Newsletter No. 166 - June 2024

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2024 Calendar

June 22.....	Rummage Sale
July 15.....	Board Meeting
August 19.....	Board Meeting
Sept.16.....	General Meeting
Oct. 5.....	Garden Champagne Party
Oct. 18.....	Banquet Dinner
Oct. 21	Board Meeting
Nov.18	Board Meeting
Dec. 16	General Meeting

*Members are welcome to
Board Meetings.*

*Members and non-members
are welcome to General
Meetings.*



Program for June General Meeting

Monday, June 17 at 7:00 pm

Roberta Cerri Teglia Center (Magnolia Building)
601 Grand Avenue, South San Francisco

Remember when there were four engine clipper ships flying out of San Francisco Airport over South San Francisco. Next came the era in the 1960's with jet planes that were suppose to be quiet.

If you would like to hear and see how SFO has expanded,
join us for an interesting evening.

**A guest from the SFO Museum will be presenting us with
a history of what began as Mills Field.**

This program is free and open to members and non-members.

*Cookie Reminder: Any sweets that you can contribute
for our meeting will be much appreciated!*



March General Meeting See's Candy Presentation by Pat Egan



Memorial Donations

In Memory of Gary Bolentini

Donors: Robert & Linda Leggero

In Memory of Sam Bonanno

Donors: Frank, Robyn & Olive Risso

In Memory of Mary Fanti

Donors: Barbara & Larry Leusing

In Memory of Carol Thelen Florez

Donors: Carol Goodrich & Darby Reid

In Memory of Americo Juricic

Donor: Johnny Juricic

In Memory of Jerry Tilton

Donors: Al & Madeleine Banfield
Donna Bush ♦ Rich & Sally Busalacchi

Dave & Margie Casagrande

Basil & Barbara Cavalieri

Gail Davison ♦ Barbara Ervin

Virginia Ervin ♦ Juliane Gallagher

Mary Giusti ♦ Judy Hnilo

Diane Huddleston ♦ Linda Leggero

Mary Masini ♦ Sylvia Raquel

Pablo & Tracey Riesen

Frank, Robyn & Olive Risso

Crystal Ruth & Nick Rathke

Sunshine Pharmacy

Gwynne, Donna & Richard Tyler

Marie Yoschak ♦ Bill & Jo Zemke

In Memory of Dino Xerogeanes

Donors: Jean Simon

Jo Xeroeaneas

General Donation

Bill & Jo Zemke



Check out our website

www.ssfhistory.org

Facebook & Instagram!

@ssfhistory, @ssfhistorymuseum

@plymireschwarzhouse

Message from Historical Society President

Hello Members. After a well-deserved and expected lull at the beginning of the year, we have had a very busy Spring!

Julie Chimenti and Lois Severi continue their work at the Museum (80 Chestnut Avenue) every week, curating items donated as well as documenting and researching family and city histories. Our wonderful volunteer, Megan Callan, remains working on our database – updating and adjusting as new needs arise.

The Plymire Schwarz House hosted four successful Teas which were well attended. Can't say enough about our volunteers who are dedicated to maintaining our City's history.

Our March General Meeting was probably our best attended meeting in recent history! Could it be because the Guest Speaker was See's Candy's very own Pat Egan? And, yes, he very generously enough brought more than enough candy to share with the attendees.

Please be sure to visit our Museum and The Plymire-Schwarz House & Boutique. Regular operating hours for both are Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 or appointment.

Hope to see you at the June 17th meeting.

Dave Casagrande



Museum Acquisitions

Alan and Julie Chimenti: Vintage SSF High School various sport teams photos.

Mike & Evie Gonzalez: John's Men Shop credit card and State Theatre Tickets.

Barbara Irli: Maffei's Men's Shop suit bag.

Felicia Leis: Locatelli Family photos and SSF historic photos and ephemera.

Flory & Rita Parma: Aerial photo of undeveloped Sunshine Gardens neighborhood & various SSF Streetcars.

Lois Severi: Digital photo of L&L Club.

Plymire-Schwarz House Acquisitions

Maria Boller: Vintage clock, various pieces of vintage china.

Michelle Kirk: Vintage statues, china, ornaments, linen and tea accessories.

NEW MEMBERS

Josie Brignoli

Lena Frank.

Rev. Joseph Gordon

Carol Gradney

Floyd & Rita Parma

Angi Rodriquez

Charlene Rouspil



Historical Society Dues Expired on December 31st.

To renew or become a member please fill out this form and mail with check made out to:

*South San Francisco Historical Society,
80 Chestnut Ave., So. San Fran., CA 94080*

Name/Names/Corporation _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

☐ Student\$5.00

☐ Individual\$15.00

☐ Family\$20.00

☐ Supporter\$25.00

☐ Corporate\$100.00

☐ Life Membership ...\$500.00

The Historical Society's
PLYMIRE-SCHWARZ HOUSE

Tea, Tea and more Tea!



Over the course of two weekends, 120 guests were served not only Tea but sumptuous, delectable treats at this year's Plymire Schwarz House Victorian Teas. The 30+ volunteers took care not only in serving, but in set up, food preparation and filling the charming Boutique with interesting treasures. Many of our guests came decked out in party frocks and charming hats, a great compliment to the fresh flowers, fine china and crisp linens.

For the first time in our twenty-five years of serving Teas, we had a rainy Tea day! But our volunteers stepped up with umbrellas, coat racks and canopies and we made it work. Inside, it was warm and cozy and the hot tea and delicious scones were waiting for our guests.

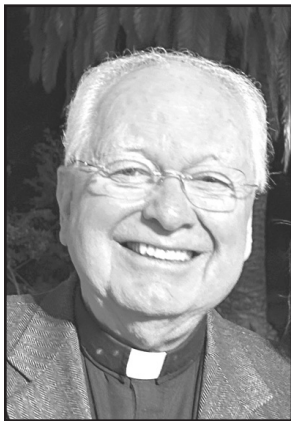
We thank all of you for your support of our lovely old home and our boutique. Remember, our normal opening hours are Saturdays from 1 – 4 or by appointment. Please stop by, we look forward to seeing you and sharing the House with you.



Photos by: Megan Callan & Lydia DGuzman Caragan

Museum News

Our Vintage Goods and Garage Sale is coming up on June 22 from 9 am to 3 pm. We are accepting useable household items, collectibles, antiques, and small furniture, etc. for this sale event. Unfortunately, we are not able to take clothing and large furniture. Items can be dropped off at the museum on Saturdays from 1 to 4, or by calling Bill Zemke at 650-922-0570 if you need to have them picked up. To allow us time to properly organize and price the items we need donations no later than June 15. We also need volunteers to help on the day of the event. The most help is needed during set-up from 7 to 9 am, and take down from 3 to 5 pm. Refreshments, beverages and lunch will be provided. *Bill Zemke*



Have You Wondered How 'The Echoes' Was Named?

*Original Article by
Fr. Joseph Gordon*

Most readers here will remember former SSFUSD Board member Ray Latham - who with his wife Claire and family have been dear friends since I arrived for my first

assignment at SSF's Mater Dolorosa Parish in June 1970. Claire's brother, Monsignor Warren Holleran, had been a professor at Rome's graduate-level seminary, "North American College", a highly-ranked school of theology where selected seminarians from around the USA were sent for their final 4 years of studies. As a faculty member at NAC at that time, Msgr. Holleran was a frequent contributor to their periodical, "Roman Echoes" - the very best of scholarly writings from American seminarians. Only days before, in the early 1980s I recall, the SSF Historical Society had announced a contest to select a name for its newsletter. Since I had just been reading the latest issue of Roman Echoes, an idea surfaced: Why not submit an entry for Historical Society's contest? Combining SSF's byline 'The Industrial City', and the location of the Latham home on Holly Avenue, with towering inhospitable San Bruno Mountain on the east, and the more gentle slopes of the Westborough area hills on the west, a lovely valley in between emerges. It can do double duty as a NASA-worthy wind tunnel, however, whistling ferociously afternoon after predictable afternoon. And so, I submitted "Industrial City Echoes" to the Historical Society. And the rest, as the saying goes, is history.

All Donations are Appreciated!

Donations can be targeted to offset the printing of the newsletter. Please send checks to:
Historical Society of South San Francisco
80 Chestnut Ave., So. San Fran., CA 94080



Fuedale and Lifetime Achievement Awards

Each year our Society uses its annual banquet (coming up in October) to recognize recipients of the Victor Fuedale and the Lifetime Achievement awards. These awards recognize a volunteer or volunteers that have made a significant contribution of their time and energy to achieving the goals of the Society. Nominations are now open for these two awards. In making the nomination, please describe how the nominee has worked to promote or sustain the Society's effort to identify, preserve or publish our city's history or contributed time and energy to the well-being of the Society. Recommendations may be submitted to Ginny Tilton, Awards Committee chair.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Suggested Nominee _____
(person or entity)

If entity, suggested contact person _____

Victor John Feudale Award: _____

Statement in support of nomination – Include how this person or entity has contributed to the identification, preservation, or publication of our history or historic sites of our city, or of promoting the well-being of the Society through the significant contribution of their time, energy and resources.

Return to: Historical Society of South San Francisco
Attn: Ginny Tilton, 80 Chestnut Ave.
So. San Francisco, CA 94080

FIRE RUINS S.S.F. CHURCH

WEATHER

Variable cloudiness tonight and Thursday. Gale warnings for northwest winds 30 to 50 miles per hour, decreasing early Thursday. Low temperature tonight, 46 degrees. High Thursday 60 degrees.

The Times

SAN MATEO TIMES AND DAILY NEWS LEADER

A HOME OWNED NEWSPAPER

Vol. 64—No. 97

★ ★

4 Sections

SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1964

10c PER COPY — \$1.75 PER MONTH

**\$500,000 Damage
In Mid-Morning
Downtown Blaze**

From the San Mateo Times, April 22, 1964

"All Souls Catholic Church in downtown South San Francisco has been destroyed by fire. All that remains is a gutted and blackened hulk.

A general alarm blaze roared out of control for more than two hours this morning, completely destroying the half-century-old Roman Catholic structure.



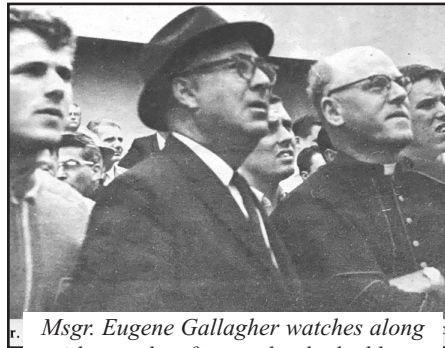
Damage was estimated as at least \$500,000.

The hungry flames shot high into the air and were visible as far south as Millbrae. Thick clouds of black smoke poured skyward and were visible to the East Bay.

One of the four oldest parishes in the county, the church itself, the sacristy, and the parish house were completely destroyed.

Shortly before noon, firemen battled successfully to save at least part of the adjoining convent.

During the height of the battle, a half dozen firemen narrowly escaped death or serious injury as the steeple toppled from the Walnut Avenue side of the church and pushed out the front of the building on Miller Avenue.



Msgr. Eugene Gallagher watches along with crowd as firemen battle the blaze.

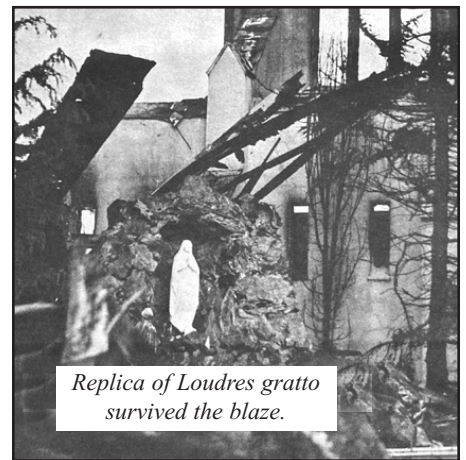
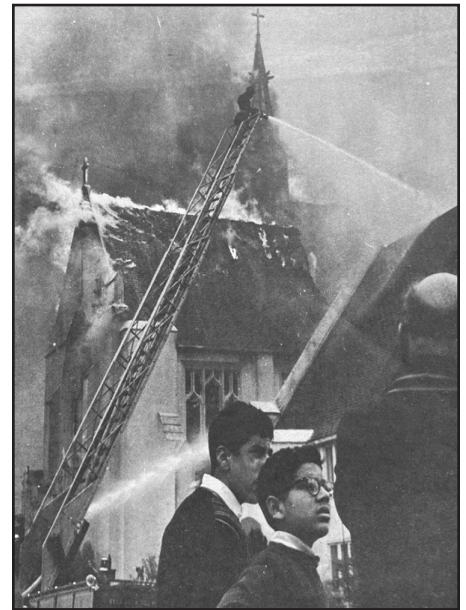
All Souls Church was established on November 23, 1916 by Archbishop Patrick William Riordan.

The first place of worship in South San Francisco was a small-frame building at the southwest corner of Miller and Cypress Avenues ... It was used from 1891 to 1898.

On weekdays, the church building was used as a courtroom for a justice of the peace.

In 1898, a petition led to an erection of the first Catholic Church at California and Linden Avenues. It seated about 200.

In 1916, All Souls church was erected at Walnut and Miller Avenues. The old church was moved from 'Irishtown' to be used as a parish hall, with alterations made to conform to architectural lines."



Replica of Loudres gratto survived the blaze.





The Industrial City ECHOES

Historical Society of South San Francisco, Inc.
80 Chestnut Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080

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Organization
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Historical Society of South San Francisco

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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 • info@ssfhistory.org

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