

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, INC.

The Industrial City ECHOES

Newsletter No. 151 - September 2020

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2020 Calendar

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Oct. 19 | Board Meeting |
| Nov. 16 | Board Meeting |
| Dec. 21 | General Meeting |

**Meetings are
cancelled until
further notice.**

*Members are welcome to
Board Meetings.*

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



Updates from the President

It is with great sadness that we report in this newsletter the passing of Roy Bava. He was a past President of the Society, long time chair of the Plymire-Schwarz House Steering Committee and a tireless worker and docent at the P-S House. Roy will be greatly missed. I hope that you will join me in offering our condolences to Rose, Denise and the rest of his family.

As you are probably aware, neither the museum nor the P-S House are able to open to visitors and all of our normal events are canceled until further notice. However, you will be happy to read in this issue of the Echoes that our Tea Committee has come up with opportunities for some limited events that we believe are consistent with our local health and safety guidelines. They will also provide a means of raising funds to support the House. A big Thank You to the committee for these creative ideas!

In the last issue I noted that our organization will not be able to easily hold board elections this year. As a result, the board has unanimously agreed to extend each of the current board members and officers to terms for one year.

As we go into our nice fall weather this year, remember to stay safe – wear your mask when out in public, observe safe distancing in any gathering with those outside your living group and follow our City's health directives.

Bill Zemke - Historical Society President

Join the Historical Society of South San Francisco Help Preserve Our Storied History

If you are interested in becoming a new member or to renew your membership please fill out this form and mail with check made out to:
Historical Society of South San Francisco,
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 Member | \$500.00 |

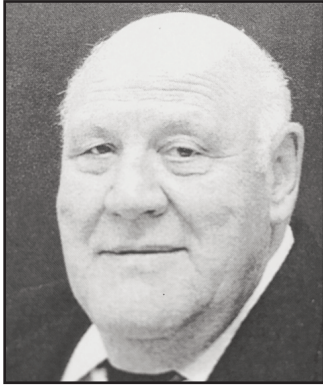


In Memory

Shirley Hoch

Roy Bava

August 14, 1925 - August 18, 2020



Roy Bava was born in San Francisco in 1925. He was a World War II veteran where he served in Europe and was awarded two battle stars. After returning home, Roy married Florence Pozzi and they lived in San Francisco for a short time. They then moved to South San Francisco where they made their home and raised their daughter, Denise. Roy worked for Simmons Company for eighteen years. After leaving Simmons, he went to work for Grassi American. In 1967, Roy and three partners started Bayside Building Materials in San Mateo. In 1981, Florence passed away. Roy continued working and at the age of 62, he retired. It was at this time that Roy and Rose were married and started their world travels.

Roy was a member of many organizations such as the VFW, the American Legion, the ICF, the YMI, the Italian Peninsula Social Club, and the Italian American Athletic Club, but his favorite and first love was the South San Francisco Historical Society, where he served as the Plymire House steering committee director and was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. The Society would not be where it is today without Roy's hard work and leadership.

We will miss Roy. The Society sends its thoughts and sincere condolences to his family.



THE PLYMIRE-SCHWARZ HOUSE

*When Coronavirus Gives You Lemons,
You Make Lemonade*

The Plymire-Schwarz Tea Committee is so disappointed that the annual Victorian Tea was canceled this year.

We thought there must be SOMETHING we can do to put some of that "Tea Fun" back in our lives.

We came up with these alternatives.

We will be holding a very special raffle with several Garden Tea Parties and Garden Lemonade/Dessert Parties as well as other fun prizes!

Winners Will Be Selected on September 20, 2020

** Grand Prize **

PRIVATE Tea Party for up to 6 guests in the Plymire-Schwarz House Garden.
Complete with savories, sweets, linen, china and silver.
Plus Boutique Access with \$5 Shopping Credit for each guest!

2 Second Prizes

PRIVATE Tea Party in the Plymire-Schwarz House Garden.
Complete with savories, sweets, linen, china and silver.
Up to 6 guests with Boutique Access

3 Third Prizes

PRIVATE Lemonade and Sweets Party in the Plymire-Schwarz House Garden.
Up to 6 guests with Boutique Access

4 Fourth Prizes

Custom Gift Baskets (Complimentary North Peninsula Delivery)

10 Fifth Prizes

Super-cute Desk Calendars (Mailed to Winners)

Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100

Return completed ticket(s), on opposite page, along with your payment to:
Historical Society of South San Francisco
80 Chestnut Avenue • South San Francisco, CA 94080

*If you are not able to participate in this raffle,
we hope you might consider making a donation to help
with the maintenance and upkeep of our historic jewel.*

Garden Parties can be scheduled for Sunday through Saturday
in late September through early October

*** CDC Guidelines in effect at that
time will be followed. ***



PLYMIRE-SCHWARZ HOUSE

NAME: _____
 PHONE: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 ADDRESS: _____

2020
*First Annual
 Garden Tea
 Party Raffle*

\$25 each or 5 for \$100

* WINNERS WILL BE CHOSEN ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 *
Please make checks payable and mail to:
 "Historical Society of South San Francisco"
 80 Chestnut Avenue • South San Francisco, CA 94080

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MEMORIAL DONATION

*In Honor of
 Elizabeth Ervin's
 Birthday*

Donors:
 Barbara Ervin
 Ginnie Ervin

MUSEUM DONATION

Robert Giorgi

PLYMIRE-SCHWARZ HOUSE DONATIONS

Paul Alvers and Donna
 Puizina-Alvers
 Alan and Julie Chimenti
 Bill and Jo Zemke

Donations

Any donation is much appreciated. Memorial and In Honor of donations will be listed in the newsletter. Donations can also be targeted to offset the printing of the newsletter.

Thank you!

Please make out and send checks to:
 Historical Society of
 South San Francisco,
 80 Chestnut Avenue
 So. San Francisco, CA
 94080

Check out the Historical Society on Social Media!



/SSFHistSocMuseum
 /historicalssf
 /plymireschwarzhouse



@historicalssf
 @plymireschwarzhouse



plymirehouse.org

THE ENTERPRISE – SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO – NOVEMBER 5, 1920 CITY CELEBRATES ARMISTICE DAY AND DEDICATES NEW HALL

In spite of the inclement weather, South San Francisco big Armistice Day celebration and city hall dedication was held according to schedule. It was a happy day in the history of the town and the city was bright with fluttering flags, waving bunting, and gorgeous blooms and gay with a holiday spirit and atmosphere of festivity, in spite of the fact that Old Sol stubbornly hid his face all day and a drizzling mist tried its best to dampen the ardor of the throng that had gathered from all parts of the county. Considering the weather, it was undoubtedly one of the most successful celebrations ever held in this part of the country. A great crowd was in attendance, and laughter and gaiety were apparent on every side in spite of the hidden sun, the lowering clouds, and the drizzling rain. Only one or two features had to be eliminated on account of the rain. The barbecue was called off early in the morning, this, too, after the fire for the cooking of the meat was well under way. The concessions, which were to have been held in booths on the Y.M.C.A. playgrounds, were located in the basement of the Fraternal Hall instead, and the dedication services, planned for the wide stairway leading from the street up to the beautiful city hall, were also held in Fraternal Hall.

The Parade



The float "In Memoriam" in the center of photo was the prize winning float.

The parade was a most agreeable surprise, for probably nine out of ten persons in the great crowd that thronged the streets had expected there would be but little showing on account of the rain. As a matter of fact, the big procession was fully a mile long, and the decorations and flowers, like the spirits of those taking part, were of a brightness and cheer that made the spectators forget the rain.

The parade was headed by Dr. J. C. McGovern as grand marshal. Dr. McGovern was mounted on a prancing bay steed and looked every inch the gallant cavalier. After him marched the police force, followed by a decorated automobile carrying the city trustees and leading another car containing prominent citizens and the speaker of the day, Congressman-elect Arthur M. Free.

Behind the speaker's car marched the Vista Grande Drum Corps of Daly City. This organization with its gorgeous uniforms presented a brave spectacle. The music they rendered was particularly inspiring and brought forth many complimentary comments.

Next came the ex-service men of Bernard McCaffery Post and other men from over the county who had come to take part in the day's festivities. The men were led by Lieutenant D. G. Martin. The troop had about a hundred khaki-clad veterans of the great war in line.

Another company of khaki-clad young men followed – the Boy Scouts of the local troop. There were as many of these in the troop as of the older men and the boys made a most martial and creditable appearance.

They were led by Scoutmaster Daniel Stevens and Scout Commissioner Lastreto of San Francisco.

Next came a company of warriors in paint and feathers from the local Red Men's lodge, who were followed by the San Mateo County Band.

A troop of boys on gayly decorated bicycles followed the band and were in turn followed by about 800 marching school children of the town. The little ones carried flags and seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves.

The Woman's Club with six decorated automobiles carrying club members was the next unit, and was followed by a long line of decorated cars. Then came a beautifully decorated machine bearing the inscription, "In Memoriam." It was decorated in the national colors and was a most fitting feature of a day made possible by the brave lads who went "across," never to return. This car was driven by Miss Ruth McMills. It was later awarded first prize as the most beautiful decorated auto.

"In Memoriam" was followed by an exquisitely executed float from the South San Francisco high school. In this float the color scheme was green and white and the creation brought forth many exclamations of admiration.

A company of about fifteen decorated cars came next and were followed by a beautifully trimmed and decorated auto, bearing an inscription showing it was entered by the Italian-American Citizens' Club.

Another car that drew forth much admiration was a coupe driven by Miss Bernice Holbrook. The machine was decorated in poppies and streamers, yellow and black being the color scheme carried out.

The Western Meat Company and the Virden Packing Company each had decorated trucks in the parade, showing their products.

The last float was entered by Panama-Pacific Exposition Lodge of Steelworkers, and showed a great deal of ingenuity and painstaking work in its preparation. It carried a half-size steel tower such as is used to carry power lines. A great many such towers are made at the local steel mill.

The Exercises

The exercises in the hall followed the parade. The large auditorium was filled to the doors with listeners.

The exercises started with an invocation by Father Moran, followed by a selection by the band. After the band came Arthur M. Free, the speaker of the day. Another band selection came next, following which Rev. Daniel Stevens spoke for the Boy Scouts.

Mr. Stevens also paid tribute to the city for its beautiful new city hall and to the enterprise of our citizens which had made it possible. Dwight H. Robinson of Palo Alto, known to fame as "Private Bob," was also a speaker, his address being largely a plea for justice for ex-service men. Mr. Robinson is the head of the Veterans' Non-Partisan Campaign, which took an important part in the campaign against Congressman Hersman in the election just closed. Mayor G. W. Holston spoke briefly in welcome to the throng which had come to help South San Francisco celebrate, after which the Rev. E. H. Molony, rector of Grace Episcopal Church, pronounced the benediction. Mr. Molony was in the uniform he wore in the late war when serving in France with the Canadians.

Dance and Concessions

The auditorium at Fraternal Hall was crowded with merry-makers through the afternoon and evening for the dance given by Bernard McCaffery Post of the American Legion. Downstairs in the basement many booths did a thriving business with refreshments, doll games and other things to lure the elusive dollar.

Woman's Club Serves Lunch

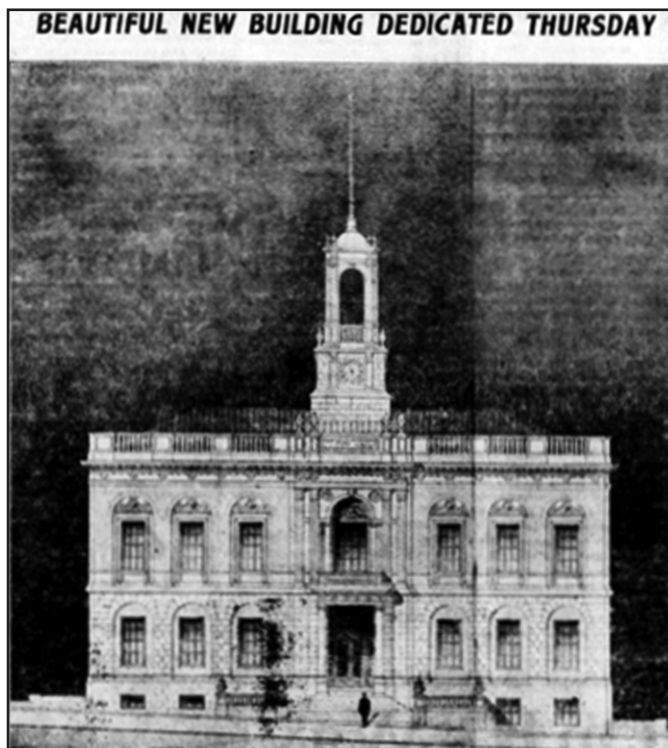
Through the noon hour and far into the afternoon the South San Francisco Woman's Club served lunch in the beautiful reception room on the second floor. Scores were served with sandwiches and other light refreshments.

During the early afternoon the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce acted as host to Mr. Free, county officials and city officials from different towns of the county. It was a jovial group at the club, but serious and important subjects were discussed as the afternoon waned, among them matters that this county may wish Mr. Free's assistance in after he takes his seat in congress. One of these was the location of the naval base on San Francisco bay.

Football Game

In spite of rain and mud, the football game between San Mateo High and South San Francisco high schools was held as planned. The field was soft, but the gallant young warriors of the gridiron valiantly fulfilled their part of the program. The game proved disastrous to the local boys so far as score went, the count being 31 to 6, but J. Huebel of San Francisco, who refereed the game, complimented the home boys highly on some of the good plays they made. They were far outweighed by the visiting team.

Many Visit Hall



Out of it all comes one biggest and strongest impression, that South San Francisco has a city hall that is a marvel of beauty and convenience, and that not only the city itself but all San Mateo county can well be proud of. Eminent authorities who have seen it have pronounced it beyond all question of doubt the most beautiful city hall possessed by a city the size of South San Francisco in the United States.

Visitors and home residents alike had nothing but praise for the beautiful structure. In all its freshness of paint and material, with huge baskets and bunches of gorgeous blossoms placed on every hand throughout its many rooms, all its visitors carried away a never-to-be-forgotten impression of a municipal building where modern, up-to-the-minute ideas in architecture have been wonderfully surrounded and encompassed about with artistic decoration. Architects, contractors, and city officials all came in for their meed of praise. Undoubtedly every visitor felt as one man from Redwood City, who said: "It's artistic; it's beautiful; it's splendidly substantial; it's simply grand."

Museum Acquisitions

- **SSF Library** – Digital photo of SSF High School Class of 1944
- **Family of Elizabeth Ervin** – Water color painted by Al Dimminger; photographs of Historical Society Events 1982 – 2008; two vintage school pull down wall maps by Rand McNally of California and the World (1913); Mangle (1950s), Hoffman TV Cabinet (1950s), a 1920's doll belonging to Helen Enderlin bought at Arndts Grand Avenue; and misc. memorabilia
- **47 Hills Brewing Co.** - Beer sampling glass
- **Mark Teglia and Family** – Display cabinet

100 Year Anniversary of City Hall Dedication

In the age of COVID-19 and sheltering in place, the City of South San Francisco is planning a virtual 100-year celebration for City Hall, with plans to promote the history of City Hall via social media, the City's website, a virtual picture carousel presentation, and a virtual anniversary party program. "The Parade" picture (on page 4) is from the celebratory November 11, 1920 Armistice Day Opening of City Hall, featuring a parade down Grand Avenue, with the prize-winning float named "In Memoriam" and dedicated to our servicemen who did not make it back. Stay tuned as we work together to promote photos, personalities and activities around the grand opening of our iconic City Hall.



The Industrial City ECHOES

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

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Historical Society of South San Francisco

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First Vice PresidentDave Casagrande
Second Vice PresidentRich Irl
Recording SecretaryDenise Fernekes
TreasurerJulie Chimenti
Financial SecretaryDonna Smith

2018-2021 Directors

Jeanette Acosta, Sam Bonanno, Ruth DeNardi,
Gene Hessler, Valerie Sommer

2019-2022 Directors

Lynn Boldenweck, Nancy Casazza, Diane Huddleston,
John Penna, Ginny Tilton

Ex Officio Members

Diana Ferrari, Mary Giusti,
Sylvia Payne, Ginny Tilton

Plymire-Schwarz Steering Committee

Director: Dave Casagrande
Jeanette Acosta, Julie Chimenti,
Mary Giusti, Gene Hessler, Donna Smith

Museum Committee

Director: Sylvia Payne
Lois Severi

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

Historical Society Museum

80 Chestnut Avenue
650-829-3825
Tues & Thurs (2-4:00 p.m.) and
2nd & 4th Saturdays (1-3:00 p.m.)
Please call if you are interested
in volunteering at the museum.

Temporarily Closed

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
Wednesdays (2-4:00 p.m.)
2nd Saturday (1-3:00 p.m.)
beginning 3/14
Temporarily Closed

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

Layout & Design: Gloria Lagomarsino • amgraphics25@yahoo.com