



THE GUIDEPOST

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There Is More To Carneros Than Sheep!

By Ulla Kaprielian

The Carneros region, the southern most area of the Napa and Sonoma Valleys, and thus the first appellation to be reached from San Francisco, is one of California's premier wine growing regions.

During the 1840s, Nicholas Higuera and Jacob Leese were granted land by Mariano Vallejo. Leese received Rancho Huichica while Higuera's grant was called Rincon de los Carneros (Land of Sheep). The first grapes were planted in the mid-1850s and the first winery opened 20 years later. Phylloxera and Prohibition had devastating effects and only thanks to some visionaries could this area eventually recover.

In 1983 the area was designated an American Viticulture Area (AVA), based solely on the climate, which was a first. It is a unique cool climate appellation. The close proximity to the water of the Bay, early morning fog and moderate temperature create a much longer growing season compared to other parts of the wine country. This makes it an ideal location for the cultivation of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, and also, more recently, Merlot, Syrah and other varietals.

The soils of Carneros tend to be dense, in some areas only three feet deep, with high clay content and only moderately fertile. There are two predominant soil types. Alkaline rich Haire, derived from shallow tidal waters, is full of organisms and salt marsh vegetation. The decayed fossils (sea shells) add calcium to the soil, beneficial to grape growing. The other, more acidic soil type is Diablo soil. It consists of much deeper Bay sediments high in magnesium, an essential plant nutrient that is needed to form chlorophyll. River and creek sediments form some of the other soil types to be found here.

There is hardly any winery in both the Napa and Sonoma Valleys which does not draw on the vineyards of the Carneros region for the production of their fine wines. Thirty-four growers and thirty-six wineries are located in this appellation; they form the Carneros Wine Alliance (check their website www.carneros.com for a list of wineries). Growers and vintners work together to select the best vines for the unique soil and climate of the area.

But there is more to this region than wineries and vineyards. Consider the di Rosa Preserve. (See Guidepost Vol.18, No.1 – "A Day at the di Rosa Preserve" by Anita Bohbot*.) The current Preserve is a portion of the original 460 acres of land purchased by Rene di Rosa in 1960. He planted grapes and developed a successful vineyard. His real passion has been and still is collecting art. After selling the vineyards to Seagram in 1986, he, together with his wife Veronica, founded the Preserve on 53 acres, which include a 35-acre lake. Another 162 acres of natural wildlife preserve are under the Napa County Land Trust open space protection.

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The GUIDEPOST (ISSN 1097-2285) is published quarterly by the San Francisco Tour Guide Guild, a non-profit association established in 1984 to promote the integrity of the profession through certification testing and continuing education, and foster a standard of quality, ethics, and professionalism among guides and operators in the San Francisco Bay Area. SFTGG is a member of the San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau.

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**Deadline for Next Issue:
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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

SPRING GENERAL MEETING

Monday, June 16, 6 – 9 PM, Farallons Room at PIER 39

We will have a speaker from the San Francisco Giants to tell us about the 2008 season. There will be game tickets for door prizes! (We are scheduling a training tour in late June, and we'll be attending a game as a social event in August!)

We will have a second speaker to present the latest update about the forthcoming opening of the Academy of Sciences.

It's been suggested that we have a resource table at the meeting. Those of you who have resource materials you no longer need, but that are still useful to others, bring them for a free swap.

TRIVIA NIGHT AT LEFTY O'DOUL'S

July 22 (One day later than the tentative date previously mentioned)

This will be a fun way for members to socialize and share San Francisco trivia. Great for those studying for the certification exam and for those who just love trivia – and socializing – and beer (the first round is on the Guild!) – and food.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Thanks to everyone who participated in our recent focus groups. Your input was invaluable in helping the Strategic Planning Committee develop a planning survey to be distributed to the membership in June. More details to follow.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS POLICY

Thanks to everyone who gave your input to our recent professional standards policy survey. A total of 75 members responded with 79.5% approving the policy. This is important because it means that present and future Boards can address these sensitive situations knowing they are acting in a way the members feel is appropriate.

CERTIFICATION DISCOVERY

There has been a feeling in recent years that the number of people achieving certification is far lower than in the past. We asked Nancy McCormick, who processes certification paperwork, to look at her records. It turns out that 3-4 certifications per year have been consistent for the past fifteen years. So while we definitely should work hard to encourage members to become certified, it is nice to know that there is no crisis.

NEW POSTINGS TO THE INFO CENTER

We have recently updated the Info Center section of our website (www.sftgg.org) with resource documents that you might find useful. Included are: 2008 – [SFCVB Motor Coach Update](#); 2008 [Restricted Streets Map](#); 2008 [Muir Woods Tour Manual](#) and Introductory Letter; “[Reserved for Handicapped](#)” sign for bus; [Bus seating chart template](#) (for seat rotation); [Private Tour Booking Form](#) (a template of questions to remember to ask when booking a private tour); and [Alcatraz Feedback Form](#) (the National Park Service has suggested that when guides have suggestions/concerns about service on Alcatraz or the cruise/ticketing experience, filling out this form would be a great way to bring the concerns directly to their attention.)

GUIDEPOST editors are eager for members to contribute articles for future issues. Because our goal is to have in-depth, fact-filled articles that members can learn from, please contact one of us before starting to write so we can together plan a great article.

Misión San Francisco de Asís a/k/a Mission Dolores

By Renate Coombs

Standing in front of San Francisco's historical Mission (State Registered Landmark 327), it is hard to imagine a better place for the equestrian statue of the founder of the City, Capitán Juan Bautista de Anza, than the grassy median of Dolores Street. (See Guidepost Vol. 22, No. 3 & No. 4 – “Why Was Anza Banished?” Parts I & II.) However, all that adorns the spot now is a rusty mission bell marking the northern end of El Camino Real. (See page 6 under “Just the Facts!”)



Having followed Anza and Father Font - at least in spirit - all the way to the beautiful creek they named Arroyo de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores on March 29, 1776, it was most appropriate to have a closer look at what subsequently happened to the spot they considered the best site for a mission.

On a recent Wednesday morning, a group of SFTGG members was fortunate enough to get the full-court press orchestrated by fellow Guild member and veteran Mission Dolores docent Al Lopez. Even if it had been remotely possible to keep up with the torrent of facts spilling out of Al, it would take several issues of the Guidepost to recount them. Of course, you could always take the course offered by San Francisco State University, but in this forum a few highlights must suffice. Fortunately, the official brochure – available in

English and in Spanish – provides an excellent concise description.



Most importantly, there is the Mission itself, founded under the direction of Father Junípero Serra and not officially established until October 9, 1776, after the necessary church documents had arrived. Nevertheless, the “City of Saint Francis” claims June 29 as its founding day because that is the day when Father Francisco Palou celebrated the first Mass under a temporary

shelter. Five days later, the thirteen colonies declared their independence from Britain.

The current chapel of the sixth Alta California mission is not the original building. Its construction in this higher spot became necessary after the first one sank into the swampy land surrounding Dolores Lagoon. Built on a foundation of serpentine rock to guard against earthquake damage (Father Palou's assistant, Father Pedro Cambon, knew about temblors from his stay in the Philippines), the thick adobe walls capped by redwood beams lashed with rawhide have proven most durable. This structure withstood the 1906 earthquake.

A sample of these simple, but durable roof trusses is displayed in the small museum, housed in an adjacent restored former classroom. One would presume that after their stellar performance in 1906 no earthquake retrofit would be contemplated. Not so, in 1916 the trusses were paralleled with steel for extra insurance.

Today worshippers no longer enter the Mission chapel through the main doors. They are permanently locked. The key serves as the official key to the City and has been removed to a more secure location. All visitors enter through a side door that appropriately connects the church with the gift store.

Once inside, it is easy to get overwhelmed by a multitude of saints, depicted both as sculptures and on paintings. To appreciate their identity and particular significance in this setting, it comes in handy to know a little about their roles in Catholic religion and the English equivalent of their names. So many of the Spanish names have a familiar ring in California because the first settlers invariably named new places after one saint or the other: Joseph, the Virgin Mary's husband and foster father to Jesus, is San José while her mother Anne is Santa Ana and her father Joachim is San Joaquin; the archangel Michael wielding a sword is San Miguel while the warrior-monk John, half clad in armor and half in a Franciscan robe, is San Juan Capistrano; the dark-skinned Dominican friar San Martín de Porres and his friend and fellow-Peruvian Santa Rosa de Lima, are the first two New World saints; Louis IX, the crusader king of France, is San Luis Rey; and, of course, Francis, Clare and Anthony are San Francisco de Asís, his Assisi-contemporary Santa Clara and his close Portuguese friend San Antonio de Padua, the patron saint of lost causes.

In the midst of so many saintly personages, a little heresy provides some worldly relief. One of the many art treasures that came from New Spain to Mission Dolores via the all-important Pacific port of San Blas is a painting still hanging on a chapel wall. Rather than using the approved symbolism for depicting the Holy Trinity, it shows three Jesus figures. Good thing the Spanish Inquisition never made it to California!

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An array of modern art, all collected over the years by di Rosa, is surrounded with views of wineries.

approximately of art by more artists. The Gallery supported, in from the



by vineyards neighboring There are 2,200 works than 900 Gatehouse exhibitions are part, by grants Phyllis C.

Wattis Foundation. You can find more information on their website www.dirosapreserve.org.

Staying at the Carneros Inn is also an option. The hotel, opened in 2003, encompasses 27 acres surrounded by 6000 acres of vineyards. They sell "fractional ownerships" (time share to some). Spending the night can run from \$550 to \$1,600 and, yes, they have a high occupancy rate.

Thanks to our capable Program Chairperson Madelon van Lier, SFTGG members recently had the good fortune to experience the Carneros AVA. Our first stop was at the Acacia Winery (www.AcaciaVineyard.com) where we sampled some of their excellent products. The winery was founded in 1979 and now produces about 160,000 cases annually.

Our next stop was at the Carneros Inn. We were welcomed and treated to a guided tour of their fabulous facilities. It was really not hard to imagine the life of the rich and famous.

Prior to our excellent lunch at the Inn's Farm Restaurant we enjoyed stunning views while tasting wine from the Adastra Vineyards, Castle Vineyards & Winery, Cuvaision Estate Wines and Madonna Estate among others.

Before heading back to San Francisco we had a quick look at the new Oxbow Market in Napa. When fully occupied, the market will provide specialty food suppliers, wine tasting, and farmer's stalls along with casual dining facilities. The market, like Copia (American Center for Wine, Food and Art), was a vision of Robert Mondavi. City Planners are looking forward to a positive influence of the downtown area.

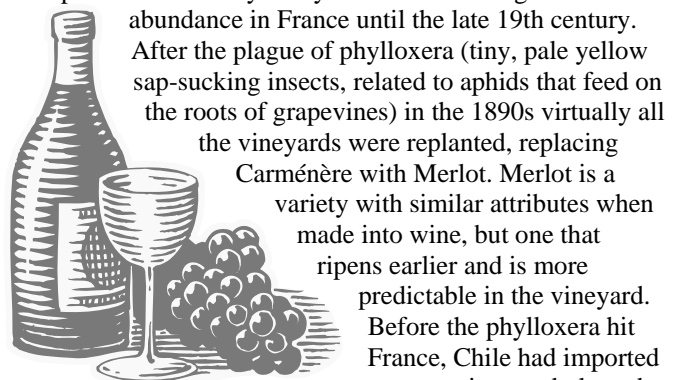
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*Anita Bohbot's 2002 article will be on our website www.sftgg.org – Info Center, Past Programs

Wine Country in Chile

By Brian Beer

Wine Country in Chile delivers a wonderful experience. My wife and I had the opportunity to visit several of their wineries with a ZAP* group in February. We visited wineries in 3 of Chile's 10 wine regions: the Maipo, Casablanca and Colchagua Valleys. All were within 1-2 hours drive of Santiago which was our base. Chile stretches over 2,700 miles along the southwestern coast of South America, a distance roughly the same as that from San Francisco to New York or Mexico City to Juneau, Alaska. At the same time, its width never exceeds 150 miles, making the country more than eighteen times longer than its widest point, sandwiched between the steep Andes and the Pacific Ocean.

The wineries we visited are very modern, large and elegant. They are owned by large corporations or very wealthy multi-generational families. It's only been in the last 20 years or so that Chile has competed effectively in the modern global wine market. One reason for their success, and perhaps a key to their future, is Carménère, a little known grape in the wine world. Carménère is often called the forgotten Bordeaux grape. Its name derives from the French word for crimson (*carmin*). While Carménère was reputed to produce excellent wine, it ripened late and was susceptible to coulure, or shatter, a natural condition that can produce extremely low yields. Carménère grew in



abundance in France until the late 19th century. After the plague of phylloxera (tiny, pale yellow sap-sucking insects, related to aphids that feed on the roots of grapevines) in the 1890s virtually all the vineyards were replanted, replacing Carménère with Merlot. Merlot is a variety with similar attributes when made into wine, but one that ripens earlier and is more predictable in the vineyard. Before the phylloxera hit France, Chile had imported many cuttings and planted

them in their Central Valley. Chile has never had phylloxera. To many of us on the trip a fine Carménère reminded us of a fine Merlot.

Like California each wine region's individual combination of soil and climate is suited to produce different varieties and cultivate unique characteristics in their wines. In addition to Carménère's new popularity, Chile has been known for its fine Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, and Merlot. It also produces Riesling, Gewurztraminer, and Sauvignon Blanc in the more southern cooler regions. Ironically for our group, no Zinfandel is grown or known.

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The greatest treasure and the one in greatest danger of falling victim to the ravages of time and termites is the huge reredos, or decorative altar. Although a survivor of 1906, its fate in another Big One is far from certain. Of course, there is nothing wrong with it that a couple of million dollars couldn't fix; but belonging to an active church, it can only be saved by private money.

The reredos contains another example of worldly considerations sometimes trumping church matters. At its very apex, a magnificent statue of San Miguel, patron saint of the Noé family, presides over the rest of the saints, even though the Mission is dedicated to San Francisco. This, apparently, was the doing of José de Jesús Noé, a two-term alcalde (1842 and again 1846) and ranchero who owned nearby San Miguel Rancho (Twin Peaks and Sutro Heights). One of the four burial places within the Mission Chapel is that of the Noé Family.

Over time, the Mission Chapel has proven a lot more durable than the big church next door. The original neo-Gothic annex, built to accommodate a growing congregation, collapsed in the 1906 earthquake. The new building was completed in 1918, but the Spanish neo-Baroque embellishments were not added to the towers until later as were the stained-glass windows. Manufactured in Germany, the lower side windows depict the 21 California Missions as well as Fathers Serra and Palou.



unfolded after the advent of European settlers. Now one of only two cemeteries remaining within City limits, prior to the 1890s it used to cover a much larger area. Of the estimated 11,000 burials, approximately 6,000 were Native Americans, mostly in unmarked graves. As the cemetery was gradually consolidated to its present size, many unidentified bodies were reburied in a common grave, but untold numbers remained in the ground, underneath the streets, parking lots and school playground that have sprung up since. A stone sculpture of Kateri Tekakwitha, daughter of a Mohawk warrior and a Catholic Algonquin and the first Native American to be declared a Blessed, reminds us of their presence. A life-size statue of diminutive Father Serra, the Apostle of California, watches over all of them.

Another reminder of the profound impact of the colonialists on the Ohlone way of life is a Tule hut. It replaced a modern artifact that attracted far too much attention to a place of respectful commemoration – the film-prop tombstone of fictitious Carlotta Valdes visited by Kim Novak's Madeleine in Hitchcock's "Vertigo." As in real life, the hut wears out and needs replacing at regular intervals.



With the first grave markers having been simple wooden crosses, little physical evidence, other than official records, of the early days remains. The elaborate stone tombstones mostly designate people who died in the decades after the Gold Rush, several of them victims of Vigilantes. Only two mark the graves of men whose impact predates the Yankee take-over: Mexico-born Francisco de Haro who in 1834 acted as the first alcalde of Yerba Buena, and Luis Antonio Argüello who was between 1822 and 1825 the first governor of Alta California under Mexican rule.

Buried in the chapel, not in the cemetery, one of the most famous Mission Dolores dead is William Leidesdorff. An African American of racially mixed ancestry and refined education, he arrived in California in 1841 and became one of the City's most enterprising and public-spirited citizens. A merchant and land owner, he is credited with building the first hotel and the first school house. His prominence was so great that, upon his death in 1848, he was interred in the Mission Chapel although he had never been a Catholic.



In 1952, Pius XII designated the former parish church a Basilica, meaning a church under the special protection of the Pope. A partially opened red-and-gold umbrella on the right side of the altar symbolizes this elevated status. Dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, the sanctuary is adorned with several depictions of the Virgin Mary's heart

pierced by seven daggers, the Seven Sorrows she had to endure as the Mother of Christ.

Between the two churches and the cemetery are some open-air spaces with more reminders of the illustrious role Mission Dolores played in San Francisco's early history. Now hard to imagine, the three mission bells could be heard as far away as the Presidio, directing the day's activities. A diorama created for the Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island in 1939 attempts to illustrate the mission buildings and surrounding area as they looked in 1791. A colorful mosaic covering an entire wall shows in its center the ship San Carlos, symbol of the City, exploring the Bay.

Despite the unique historic, religious and architectural significance of the buildings, nothing really compares to the cemetery as the ultimate chronicle of the events as they

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The vineyards of Chile fall between the latitudes of 32° and 38° South, which in the Northern Hemisphere would be the equivalent of Napa to Ensenada, Mexico, the gateway to the Baja California Wine Country. The climate in Chile's wine regions is quite temperate, comparing closely to California and Bordeaux.



Overall, it is classified as a Mediterranean climate with average summer temperatures of 59-64 °F (15-18 °C) and potential highs of 86 °F (30 °C). Similar to the influence of our mountain ranges on our vineyards, the majestic Andes Mountain Range enhances not only the panorama of the Chilean landscape but also the character of Chilean wine. Nestled between the Andes and the Pacific Ocean, vineyards have the benefit of a warming effect in the winter and cooling effect in the summer. In late winter, warm, dry air from the interior of the mountains travels down to warm the soil and promotes the vines to bud in spring. In the warmer months, during the night the mountains lose the warmth built up from their exposure to the sun, producing cooler air that settles around the vines. The icy mountain peaks also prove to be an effective barrier to insects and fungi. Much like Napa and Sonoma, early volcanic activity in the area has enriched the surface layer of soil with sediments and produced a greater diversity in the soil. As snow on the mountain peaks melts, the water carries sedimentary deposits down the slopes where it is then fed into irrigation canals where the vineyards take full advantage of the enriched water.

For information on ZAP (Zinfandel Advocates and Producers) log onto www.zinfandel.org. There were 85 people in our group, mostly from Northern California, including wine maker/winery owners Carol Shelton, Kent Rosenblum, and Paul Sobon.

Be sure to look for Marilee Traynor's article:
**Craig's San Francisco Moving Movie Tour -
March 3, 2008**

on our website: www.sftgg.org, Info Center
scroll down to Past Programs

See also: Guidepost Vol.19, No.1 - 2003
"Craig's Moving Movie Tour" by Joan Wollenberger.
This article will also be on the website.

Just the Facts!

By Jason Cohen

In this column we publish questions on subjects that have potential for confusion or misinformation. Here are the questions from the last Guidepost, and the answers we have found (with sources cited). Please send questions for future columns to Jason at jcohen1@pacbell.net (don't forget the "1" in the address).

1. Are the mission bells along Highway 101 the originals?

The freeway mission bells were erected beginning in 1906 by the California Women's Clubs to mark the location of El Camino Real, the connected the Spanish members of the knew the original route development and preserve it. The bells and made by Mrs. who founded the Company and made many of the that are so collectible bell was placed in Angeles and can still be seen in front of the plaza church at Olvera Street.



Federation of mark the location path that missions. The Women's Clubs was being lost to wanted to were designed A.S.C. Forbes, California Bell subsequently souvenir versions today. The first downtown Los

The California State Auto Association also got involved, adding some of the first road signs in California to the poles that hold up the bells. By World War II there were about 400 bells between San Diego and Sonoma, but over time most disappeared due to traffic accidents, theft, etc. Only about 75 remained in the 1960s. There were various unsuccessful attempts to replace them over the years.

Success finally came in the late 1990s when Keith Robinson, a Caltrans landscape architect, obtained a federal grant for a replacement project. About 550 new bells have been placed since then, restoring the original idea of having a bell every 1-2 miles along the route.

Amazingly, the patterns for the original bells still exist and were used for casting the replacements. This came about because an admirer of the bells, John Kolstad of Saratoga, contacted the elderly owner of California Bell Company (which had passed through various owners since Mrs. Forbes) because he wanted to buy a single bell. The owner said "I won't sell you a bell, but I'll sell you the whole company." Mr. Kolstad thus became a bell company owner.

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In a recent interview in *Via Magazine*, Kolstad was asked if he thinks the new bells will last longer than the originals. He replied, "We think so, because there's a great respect for California history these days. Also, we welded them in place."

More details are at www.californiabell.com. If you want to learn even more, see *California's El Camino Real and Its Historic Bells*, by Max Kurillo and Erlene Tuttle, Sunbelt Cultural Heritage Books.

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2. Driving back from the Wine Country on I-80, as you approach Richmond, there's a building off to the left up on a hillside, with golden onion domes. I've heard it's a Muslim mosque. Is that true?



No. We drove up to the entrance to find out for sure. It's the Sikh Center of the San Francisco Bay Area. The current building was completed in 1992. More details are at www.sfsikhcenter.org

3. Is it true that international orange was chosen for the Golden Gate Bridge because that was the color of the primer and they realized it looked good?

I will admit that, as a skeptic, I always assumed this story was a myth, so I was really surprised to learn that it's true! We sent the question to Mary Currie, Public Affairs Director of the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District. Mary provided a copy of a document called "The Golden Gate Bridge – Report on Color and Lighting," dated April 6, 1935, submitted by consulting architects Morrow & Morrow.



In his discussion, Irving Morrow states that the first decision was to choose colors either to try to diminish the imposing nature of the bridge or, alternately, to celebrate it. He felt that celebration was the only choice since it really would be impossible to "hide" the bridge, and with its location, size, and design it was bound to be a landmark. Thus, it would be important to choose a luminous color so that shadows would be visible and the apparent scale of the structure would not be diminished. Warm colors would serve well by contrasting with the natural cool palette of blue water and gray fog. Thus the choices would be yellow, orange or red, but yellow would lack substance and dark red would be too heavy and non-luminous.

Morrow states, "Fortunately it is not necessary to make a decision on theoretical considerations alone, for there have been two practical demonstrations of the ideal color. During the erection of north tower, and again at the present moment with the south tower assuming form, observers from all walks of life have been universally impressed by the beauty of the structures in the shop red lead coat. This color is luminous, undergoes atmospheric changes with great beauty, is prominent without insistence, enhances the architectural scale to the utmost and gives weight and substance at the same time that it is light enough properly to register variations of shade and shadow. In short, it is the ideal color from every point of view, and it is hereby recommended and urged as the most appropriate and satisfactory color for the finished bridge."

He recommended warm gray as a distant second choice, and disqualified black and aluminum as being unacceptable for various reasons.

Morrow quotes letters from various people complimenting the primer color, e.g.:
"...let me hope that the color will remain the red terra cotta because it adds to the structural grace and because it adds to the great beauty and the colorful symphony of the hills..." – Beniamino Bufano

Though Morrow clearly wanted this color, he did add a comment to help alleviate any fears—he pointed out that if the color turned out to be a mistake it could be changed with the next repainting!

Here are three new questions:

1. I know the United Nations was founded in San Francisco, and that the Fairmont Hotel, the Opera House and the Veterans Building each played a part. But what happened at each location?
2. How did the name San Francisco come to be associated with this region? Did Father Serra give the name?
3. We always hear that the granite foundation stones in Old St. Mary's Cathedral came from China. Is that related to the fact that it's in Chinatown, or is it just a coincidence?



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SFTGG PROGRAMS

- June 12, 2008
10 AM **Victorian Home Tour and Visit to the Octagon House**
Meet at the St. Francis Hotel's Famous Clock
\$20 (does not include lunch), check, payable to SFTGG, to be sent to
Madelon van Lier, 247 Playa Del Rey, San Rafael, CA 94901
- June 16, 2008
6-9 PM **General Meeting, Farallons Room at PIER 39**
see Message from the Board for more details - page 2
- July 22, 2008
 Trivia Night at Lefty O'Doul's
(One day later than the tentative date previously mentioned)

For detailed information, check our website at www.sftgg.org/programs.

If you do not have access to a computer, call:
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