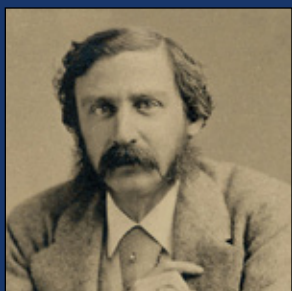




PANORAMA

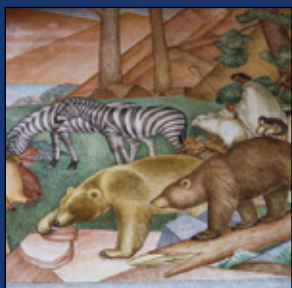
April-June, 2020 Vol. 32, No. 2

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THE MURPHY WINDMILL RESTORATION



Photo by Ron Henggeler

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

COVID-19 debarks from the tongue less trippingly than mellifluous *Spanish Flu*, the misnomer for the pandemic that ravaged the world and San Francisco 102 years ago. But as we've read, COVID-19's arrival here is much like the Spanish flu.

COVID-19 too resembles another pandemic, black death, or bubonic plague. Those words conjure the medieval world. Or 17th-century London, where an outbreak killed almost 25% of the city's population between 1665 and 1666. At the turn of the 20th century, twenty years before arrival of the Spanish flu, the bubonic plague found its way to the United States and San Francisco. Here, politicians and power brokers, concerned more about commerce than public health, tried to pass off evidence of the plague as "fake news."

David K. Randall just last year published his history of this unfamiliar outbreak, *Black Death at the Golden Gate: The Race to Save America from the Bubonic Plague*. It deserves another look. He may seem eerily prescient, taking us to familiar debates over media influence, government-supplied information, and the legitimacy of scientific research in the midst of a pandemic. How can such history be so readily forgotten? How is it that the nine days of November 18 to 27, 1978 have slipped from the memories of so many? When we wring our hands over the number of homeless people in San Francisco, estimated varying at around 7,500, how is it that we forget that in three days in San Francisco in 1906, five-eighths of the city's population—250,000 people—were made suddenly homeless?

The history of our city engages us and can inform us. "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be...; there is nothing new under the sun" said, or wrote, Ecclesiastes. And so, we should ever ask ourselves, what did we do the last time this happened? What

worked, and what didn't? On page 11 of this issue of *Panorama*, Lorri Ungaretti gives a summary of how we dealt with the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic.

The San Francisco Historical Society seeks to tell our history, our story (the words have the same root) in ways that engage us, entertain us even. At the same time we tell our story to make each of us, as the Romans would say, a better civis, or citizen, and our city, as the Greeks would put it, a greater polis, or body of citizens.



John Briscoe
President, Board of
Directors

To be a part of the mindful polis, we have had to cancel a number of upcoming events, including our upcoming fundraiser at Salesforce Tower on June 3 and all in-person presentations through May. However, we plan to make upcoming presentations available on our website so you can enjoy them from home. And, as the next several weeks unfold, we are planning to add a number of other free digital resources, all available through our website, sfhistory.org/events.

In other news, as the saying goes, Charles Faulhaber, long-time director of the Bancroft Library, will deliver this year's Kevin Starr Lecture October 20.

A generous corporate citizen of San Francisco is poised to give SFHS an exquisite collection of exhibits from the Gold Rush and silver boom. Two very generous San Franciscans have given the Society a cash gift in six figures. (Stay attuned for announcements.)

SFHS CONTRIBUTIONS – OCTOBER 1, 2019 – JANUARY 31, 2020

We gratefully acknowledge all contributions received between October 1, 2019 and January 31, 2020. Our listings include all levels of membership dues payments, in addition to year-end appeal, tickets for fundraising events, and other contributions. Gifts totaling \$100 or greater are presented here.

We apologize for any errors or omissions, and thank you in advance for bringing them to our attention so that we may correct our records.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS**\$100,000 and up**

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\$25,000 and up

John Briscoe & Carol E. Sayers

\$10,000 and up

Lana Costantini & Everett Rhodes Castle III

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Richard S. E. & Eleanor Johns
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Ray Sullivan & Shauna Rose
Judith M. Taylor M.D.
Judith Terracina
Donald Ungar
Sloan & Priscilla Upton
Carol Walker

SFHS PROGRAMS

The April 14 and May 12 in-person monthly presentations at Roosevelt Middle School have been cancelled, but we will make them available in digital format on the SFHS website. You will receive an email invitation to each event. **Note: The June program will be held at the San Francisco Historical Society's museum at 608 Commercial Street (between Sacramento and Clay Street).** This program will be free to members. Non-member fee is \$10, which can be applied to membership dues within 30 days; \$5 for non-member seniors, students, K-12 teachers, and people with disabilities. Programs are usually scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month, except August and December. Programs are subject to change, so please check for updates at sfhistory.org.

SUTRO'S GLASS PALACE: THE STORY OF SUTRO BATHS

JOHN MARTINI

The Sutro Baths at Lands End bedazzled visitors with its many attractions: seven swimming pools with filtered and heated seawater, a museum, restaurants, tropical plants, and promenades. John Martini will tell you all about Sutro Baths and answer the question, "What was this place?"

John Martini is a native San Franciscan and a life-long researcher of California history and the American West. He worked as a National Park Ranger for more than 25 years at parks locally and around the country. John's many published works include *Sutro's Glass Palace: The Story of Sutro Baths*.



THE WPA MURALS OF SAN FRANCISCO: FORGOTTEN, CONTROVERSIAL, AND NEEDING PRESERVATION

RICHARD ROTHMAN

Created in an era of social upheaval and severe economic challenge, publicly funded murals were created not only to employ artists, but also to record historical and political themes. After more than 80 years, we will look anew at some of these murals. Richard will show examples of San Francisco's well-known murals, as well as more obscure ones.

Richard Rothman is a native San Franciscan and photographer whose passion is documenting the murals of the Depression-era Work Progress Administration. He has searched out some of the lesser-known murals and worked to save and preserve them.



TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 7:30 P.M.

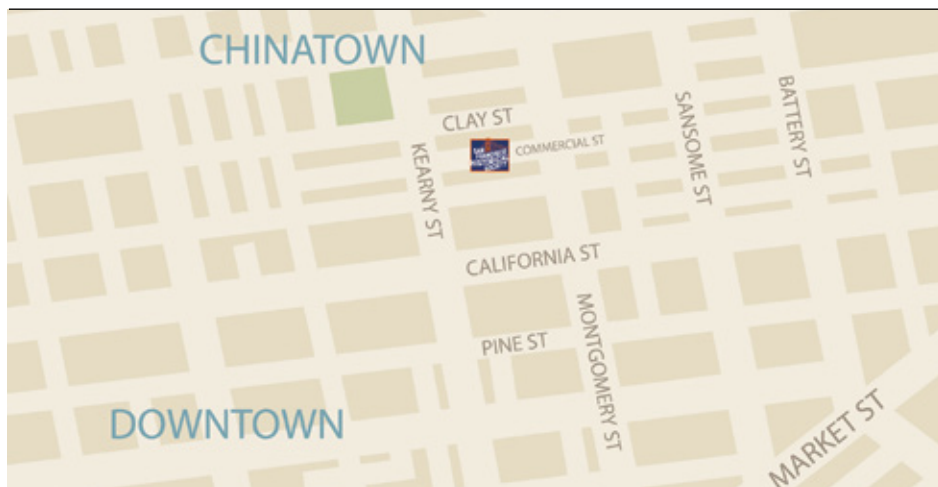
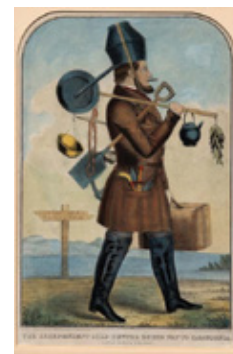
ALERT! - THIS PROGRAM WILL BE HELD AT THE SFHS MUSEUM, 608 COMMERCIAL STREET

HOW BRET HARTE "INVENTED" THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

CHRIS O'SULLIVAN

USF historian and teacher Chris O'Sullivan will explore the life and works of Bret Harte, the most consequential storyteller of the Gold Rush. Working out of his office in the U.S. mint at 608 Commercial Street, Harte's literary portrayals of the Gold Rush had an enormous impact on how we imagine and remember this formative event in California history. Note: This program will be held at San Francisco's first mint, the new home of the San Francisco Historical Society Museum (608 Commercial Street).

Chris O'Sullivan has taught California history at University of San Francisco (USF) for two decades and has taught at USF's Fromm Institute since 2015. He currently serves on the board of directors of the San Francisco Historical Society.



This map shows where the San Francisco Historical Society Museum and offices are. If circumstances allow, the June program will be held in this location.

Street parking is scarce. You can park in various nearby parking lots, including The Portsmouth Square Garage (entrance on Kearny). Many Muni bus lines run close to the SFHS Museum.

Schedule of events is subject to change due to the coronavirus. Please check the SFHS website for more information: sfhistory.org

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since our first exhibit opened in October, we have welcomed more than 1,200 visitors to our museum. Some people find us by accident while strolling down the charming side-pocket street that is Commercial. With its eclectic mix of old brick buildings and marble skyscrapers our street is at once old and new—gilded and gritty. The wealthy and the destitute, bikers and bankers, share the iron benches that line the sidewalk to catch a bit of sun.

Other people visit the museum not by chance, but because 608 Commercial has become a regular part of their old-town exploration. Several walking tour guides and even Emperor Norton himself (wonderfully represented by Joseph Amster) now bring groups by on a regular basis to visit the city's first mint on one of its oldest streets.

From the Hudson Bay Company's plaque across the street from the museum to the stately banks along Montgomery Street, the legacy of commerce that fueled early San Francisco is visible everywhere you look. The 600 block still hums with small industry: there's a florist, a shoe repair place, two coffee shops, two bars, a tiny public park, and a dim sum "palace."

Assuming the stewardship of this fine old building carries responsibilities. We must fill our museum with curious people. We must illuminate the story that it tells. We've got to make

history fun and engaging, an excuse to socialize. And we must give students opportunities to find out that history isn't boring after all.

On March 5 we hosted 50 sixth graders from the Sunset District for

a presentation on the Gold Rush. Afterward, students went on a scavenger hunt through our exhibit, *Gold Fever!* They pored over panels, peered into museum cases, and scooted from room to room looking for answers. It didn't matter that the "Sydney Ducks" found the answers first; all the groups kept going until they'd located every answer. Watching the organized chaos of the hunt, I thought, "Yes. More of this."

And more of this will come.

As the current edition of *Panorama* is being finished, most museums and cultural institutions in San Francisco have temporarily closed their doors. The SFHS Museum will remain closed at least through May 3. At that time we'll reassess the situation and make a determination about when to re-open. We plan to send weekly email updates to our members and friends until COVID-19 is behind us. The updates will announce the new digital resources that will be available each week and keep you apprised of other SFHS news. Stay tuned.

— Lana Costantini
Executive Director



Lana Costantini
Executive Director



The Vigilantes
San Francisco Historical Society Gold Rush Scavenger Hunt

1. What is Commandment number VIII in the "Pioneer's 10 Commandments?"
No stealing

The Sydney Ducks
San Francisco Historical Society Gold Rush Scavenger Hunt

1. What is Commandment number VIII in the "Pioneer's 10 Commandments?"
No stealing

The Argonauts
San Francisco Historical Society Gold Rush Scavenger Hunt

1. What is Commandment number VIII in the "Pioneer's 10 Commandments?"
No stealing

2. What were marbles made from back in the 1850s?
clay

3. What were miners' spoons often made of?
wood or animal ivory

4. What did Chinese immigrants call California?
Gold Mountain

5. What expensive gift was given to Dr. Lewis Birdsall, first superintendent of this mint?
rose wood walking cane

6. What is the official name for Fools' Gold?
pyrite

7. I am an African American woman who came to California as a free woman in 1849. I became a successful business person and fought hard to end slavery. Who am I?
Mary Ellen Pleasant

8. I'm the architect who designed the subtreasury (lower floor) of the mint. Who am I?
William Applegate Potter

9. What famous chocolate company is shown in the diorama?
Ghirardelli

City Guides Honors Charles Fracchia

For many years, SFHS Founder and President Emeritus Charles Fracchia has participated in the SF City Guides new guide training program. Charles has generously shared his knowledge, wit, and wisdom about San Francisco history with countless cohorts of new tour guides. On February 15, San Francisco City Guides hosted an interview of Charles with SFHS volunteer Lorri Ungaretti. After the interview, City Guides honored Charles by making him an honorary member.



SFHS volunteer and local historian Lorri Ungaretti interviews Charles Fracchia at the Koret Center on February 18. City Guides honored Charles for his years of service as a City Guides mentor and friend.

SFHS WALKING TOURS

FRESH SPINS THROUGH THE BARBARY COAST

This spring we are refreshing our popular Barbary Coast Trail walks to provide a deeper exploration of the people and events that shaped early San Francisco and still influence us today. Geographically, the walks will focus on the historic neighborhoods adjacent to our museum at 608 Commercial Street. There will be a series of four unique Barbary Coast Trail walking tours.

- All the walks will begin or end at 608 Commercial Street.
- The walks will explore the mix of cultures that came together in early San Francisco to forge a uniquely diverse community.
- Add-ons will be available for these walks, such as dim sum tasting, a drink at an historic watering hole, and special access to buildings the public does not generally get to see.

Secrets of Chinatown

Discover hidden stories and secrets in one of San Francisco's oldest neighborhoods. Learn about the history of Chinatown, the many contributions of Chinese immigrants, attitudes toward Chinese and other immigrant groups over time, and life in Chinatown today.

Men, Miners, and Merchants of Montgomery Street

This walk explores the Financial District and focuses on the Gold Rush, the Comstock Lode silver boom, and the explosive birth of San Francisco's banking business.

Pleasure-seekers and Merry-makers

The Jackson Square Historic District was ground zero for the "anything goes" culture that influences us still. Find out how food, drink, and pleasure-seeking paved the way for today's lively bar and restaurant culture and San Francisco's penchant for the unconventional.

Sunken Ships, Hidden Treasures

Learn the role of ships, wharves, and the waterfront in the growth of the "instant city." Find the locations of ships buried beneath the Financial District, view Gold Rush artifacts, and learn how San Francisco's sudden growth fueled a housing shortage with unusual solutions.

Dates for these walks haven't been determined, and will depend on when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Photo courtesy of Salesforce



Due to reasons that are self-evident, we have had to cancel our upcoming fundraiser, On Top of the World, at the Salesforce Tower on June 3. This event generated tremendous excitement, and we'd like to thank the many who purchased tickets. We will be planning another evening fundraiser later in the year, at a place and time still to be determined. Thank you for your support. We are deeply sorry for any inconvenience or disappointment this has caused.



Announcing SFHS's New Online History Resources (Don't Stay Home Without Them)

COVID-19 has altered the rhythm of life in San Francisco in unprecedented ways. Events have been cancelled, people are sequestered in their homes, and social distancing is "the new normal." What role can the San Francisco Historical Society

play in keeping not only the history community, but also all members of our community, connected and engaged?

Beginning the last week of March, we began releasing weekly online history resources you can enjoy from home.

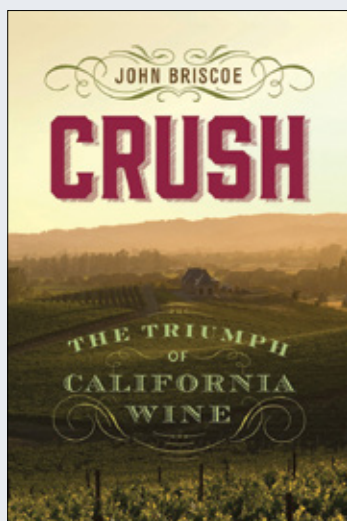
<p>Armchair History Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Romp Into Gold Rush History (released in March) • SF Then & Now: Re-photography as a Research Tool (Coming April 14) • The WPA Murals of SF (Coming May 12) 	<p>From the SFHS Archive: Panorama and The Argonaut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past articles on disasters, recovery, and resilience give a historical perspective to current events and remind us that we will overcome this challenge.
<p>SFHS Videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curated short videos provide unique views and perspectives of life and times in San Francisco. 	<p>Virtual Journeys Into Past & Present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A selection of SF Mobile History apps featuring history and the arts in SF let you explore the far reaches of our city from the comfort of your living room.

Stay tuned—weekly announcements are being sent by email. If you are not yet a member of SFHS, you may sign up for these announcements by sending an email to steve@sfhistory.org.

The *Other* Oscars Go to Mary Austin and John Briscoe

Mary Austin, founder of the San Francisco Center for the Book—and whom the San Francisco Historical Society just last fall honored for her contributions to San Francisco history—is this year's winner of one of the two annual Oscar Lewis Awards given by the Book Club of California. Mary will share her award, for contributions to the book arts, with Kathleen Burch.

The club will present its other Oscar Lewis Award, for contributions to western history, to John Briscoe, president of SFHS and the author



of *Crush: The Triumph of California Wine*. *Crush* also took first prize in the annual Top Shelf Book Awards in the history category (nonfiction).

Previous winners of Oscar Lewis Awards have included Brewster Kahle (Mary Austin's husband), Kevin Starr, Carl Nolte, Andrew Hoyem, Malcolm Margolin, and Dr. Albert Shumate. The awards were established in 1994 by the Book Club of California in honor of Oscar Lewis (1893-1992), San Francisco author, historian, and club secretary from 1921 to 1946.

NOW SHOWING AT SFHS MUSEUM

The Restoration of the Murphy Windmill

By Pia Hinkle

The planting of thousands of trees in newly created Golden Gate Park at the end of the 19th century made for a huge water bill in the reclaimed sand of the Outside Lands. The monopolistic Spring Valley Water Company was charging more than \$1,000 a month to water just 70 acres. The Parks Commission suggested, then approved, construction of a wind-powered “Dutch” windmill that drew water from aquifers near Ocean Beach. The windmill was built at the northern edge of the park in 1903. Despite initial controversy over its feasibility, the windmill quickly returned its \$16,000 investment by watering 100 acres each month.

A proposal for a second, larger windmill soon followed,

and in 1908 the Murphy Windmill, named after its primary philanthropist, Samuel G. Murphy, was completed at the southern edge of the park. Both windmills became functionally obsolete when electric pumps were installed around 1913, but they continued to be major park attractions despite their decline through the decades. Efforts to maintain and beautify these landmarks continue.

Note: The people restoring the Murphy Windmill gave photographer Ron Henggeler unique access during the restoration process. Some of the photos he took are on display in the San Francisco Historical Society Museum at 608 Commercial Street. The museum is closed at least through April 30, but the exhibit will continue after the museum reopens.



The fully restored Murphy Windmill. Its copper-clad dome has acquired a beautiful patina from wind and weather. Photo by Ron Henggeler.

1903

Construction of the Dutch (North) Windmill is completed to supply Golden Gate Park with regular, inexpensive water from an underground aquifer. It can pump 30,000 gallons a day and irrigates the western end of the park.

1908

Dedication of the 95-foot-tall Murphy (South) Windmill, the second windmill constructed to water Golden Gate Park. Named after its primary philanthropist, First National Bank President Samuel G. Murphy, the Murphy Windmill is the largest of its kind in the world. Operated strictly on wind power, it pumps an average of 40,000 gallons of water a day. An electrical motor is installed around 1913 and its wind blades become largely ceremonial.

1935

A new water distribution plan is put in place in Golden Gate Park. The Dutch and Murphy Windmills cease operation.

1940s

Interior workings of both windmills are stripped out for the war effort. In 1948, the Murphy Windmill receives a new 114-foot-long spar.

1950

Two spars are removed due to danger of falling.

1960s

Eleanor Rossi Crabtree, daughter of Mayor Angelo Rossi, launches a campaign to save the windmills, now fallen into disrepair due to dry rot and vandalism. The funds raised can only save one of them. Restoration on the Dutch (North) Windmill begins in the 1980s.



The Dutch Windmill in 1904, after its completion. The building with the flags was a Life-Saving Station built in 1878 to monitor the coastline and rescue sailors in distress. Photo courtesy of OpenSFHistory.org.



This photo shows the two remaining spars on the Murphy Windmill. Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

1993

San Francisco Beautiful and the Park and Recreation Department begin an effort to save the Murphy (South) Windmill.

2000

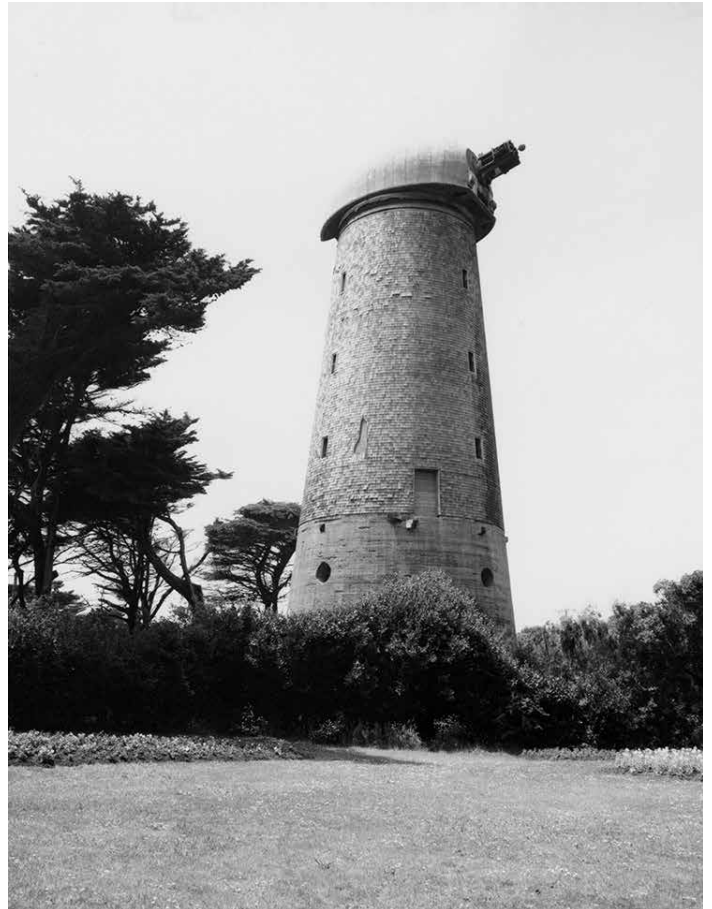
Campaign to Save the Golden Gate Park Windmills founded. The City pledges \$500,000 toward restoring the Murphy Windmill, now designated San Francisco Landmark No. 210.

2002

Restoration begins on the Murphy Windmill, and the City of San Francisco contributes another \$500,000.

2011

The newly refurbished copper-clad dome is placed atop the Murphy Windmill after extensive renovations in Holland and a \$5 million-plus makeover. The shaft, brakes, and gears are largely original, and the mechanism is entirely wind-powered once again, with a fantail at the rear that automatically spins the dome so that the sails face the wind. The Dutch (North) Windmill awaits similar TLC.



The Murphy Windmill in a state of disrepair. Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.



Restoration of the Murphy Windmill begins. Many of the original fir beams, visible in the foreground, were used in the restoration. Photo by Ron Henggeler.



The 64-ton copper dome being lifted into place. Photo by Ron Henggeler.

THE SAN FRANCISCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PLEASED TO INTRODUCE THREE NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Christopher A. Patz

Chris Patz has more than 20 years of experience working as an investor, an officer, and an attorney with a variety of companies. He also participates actively in many social and philanthropic organizations in San Francisco and the Bay Area. For instance, he sits on the executive committee of the YMCA Association of San Francisco and serves or has served on the boards of several other local clubs and associations. A native of Norwood, Massachusetts, Chris grew up in Los Angeles and has lived in San Francisco for more than 20 years. He holds an A.B. in political science and history from the University of California, Berkeley, and a J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Brent Johnson

Brent Johnson brings more than 20 years of experience in the financial markets to his position as CEO of Santiago Capital. He enjoyed more than nine years as a managing director at Baker Avenue, a \$1.7 billion asset management and wealth management firm. Before join-

ing Baker Avenue, Mr. Johnson spent nine years at Credit Suisse in its private client group. He got his start as part of the training program at Donaldson, Lufkin, & Jenrette (DLJ) in New York, prior to moving to San Francisco. Mr. Johnson regularly gives interviews and speaks at conferences regarding precious metals, currency markets, and macroeconomic trends. He lives in San Francisco with his wife Mary and son Moses. He previously served on the board of directors of the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society.



Joe Barkett

Joe Barkett earned a B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley and a J.D. from University of San Francisco. He has combined 45 years of law practice with a variety of top management positions in government and business, including serving as a California State Deputy Attorney General, CEO of the California Exposition and State Fair, CFO for two closely held California corporations, CEO of the Solano County Fair and CEO of the Cow Palace. In conjunction with these various activities Joe has served as a director and officer of numerous business and trade associations and non-profit agencies.

Celebrating 150 Years of Golden Gate Park

SFHS is pleased to take part in the celebration of Golden Gate Park's 150th anniversary. Here are a few of the things we're doing to honor our world-class park and the people who created it.

- This year's Fracchia Prize asks high school students to create a guided walking tour of a portion of the park that explores the history of sights along the route. We are partnering with San Francisco City Guides on this venture.
- Our newest exhibit at 608 Commercial Street is a photo essay on the restoration of the Murphy Windmill by San Francisco photographer and historian Ron Hengeller. We are also featuring a timeline of the Murphy Windmill's history in this issue of *Panorama*.
- We'll be compiling a series of online articles about the park from *The Argonaut* and *Panorama* as part of our new Digital Resources.

Correction—We Apologize!

In the last issue of *Panorama*, we printed an 1861 letter from William McElroy, builder and original owner of San Francisco's Octagon House. A reader pointed out that this letter is on display at the Octagon House, a fact we failed to mention.



Team SFHS braves the rain to help plant trees at the anniversary's opening event on January 28. From left to right: Volunteer Mike Castle, SFHS board member Rich Johns, Executive Director Lana Costantini, volunteer Everett Snowden, SFHS Membership Coordinator Steve Schulz, and SFHS board member Ken Sproul.

The Pandemic of 1918

By Lorri Ungaretti

Everyone seems to agree that we are suddenly living in a different time. One newscaster compared the current coronavirus pandemic to the influenza pandemic in 1918, saying a pandemic like this had “skipped a generation.” It actually skipped TWO generations. Few people remember the pandemic of 1918–19.

In 1819, no method of world-wide communication existed. There was no television, no computer, no cell phone. People did not even have radios (AM broadcasting began in the 1920s; FM in the 1930s).

The first wave of the virus was in spring 1918, but San Francisco had no cases of influenza at that time. The second wave was in fall 1918. San Francisco’s first case was confirmed on September 24, and once influenza arrived, it spread quickly. One source says that by October 9 the city had 169 cases and one week later had 2,000 cases. Like today, schools, theatres, churches, and other public meeting places were closed. People were not told to stay home or keep a six-foot distance from others.

We know today that only certain medical masks are effective against viruses, but in 1918, Mayor Rolph required that all people in San Francisco wear gauze masks. He claimed the masks were “99 percent effective” (when they were probably 100 percent *ineffective*, at least in preventing a person from catching the virus). Anyone who refused to wear a mask or wore it improperly was arrested and fined \$5. A popular rhyme was: “Obey the laws and wear the gauze. Protect your jaws from septic paws.” Levi Strauss began manufacturing gauze masks and sold them for 10 cents each.

San Francisco Health Director William Hassler told citizens to keep windows open and to avoid crowds. Many events were held outside, and no one told people not to stand or sit close to one another. (See the 1918 photo on this page, showing an outside religious gathering with

participants crowded together.) The spread of influenza began to slow down, probably due mostly to the shutdown of public meetings.

On November 21, 1918, San Francisco authorities declared that after two months the danger had passed. The mask law was lifted. Public meetings could once again be held; however, influenza cases quickly increased. In December, 5,000 new cases were reported in the city. San Francisco leaders reinstated the mask law on January 17, 1919.

Some famous people caught influenza and survived, including actors Lillian Gish and Mary Pickford; authors Raymond Chandler, Robert Graves, Franz Kafka, and Katherine Anne Porter; current (at the time of the pandemic) U.S. President Woodrow Wilson; future U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt; and Berlin emperor Kaiser Wilhelm. Walt Disney also contracted the disease at the age of 17 but recovered. One well-known person who died from influenza was Phoebe Apperson Hearst, mother of newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst.

Little girls skipped rope reciting the following ditty: “I had a little bird / Its name was Enza. / I opened the window, / And in-flu-enza.”

Worldwide, the highest number of deaths in a month occurred in October of 1918. The pandemic ended in December 1920, and the virus quickly disappeared.



Top, a church service held outside. Bottom, gargling was one proposed way of avoiding influenza.

Resources

Anonymous, “The influenza Pandemic of 1918,” <https://virus.stanford.edu/uda/>.
BBC History Revealed, “Why Was the 1918–19 Pandemic that Killed 50 Million People Known as ‘Spanish Flu’?”
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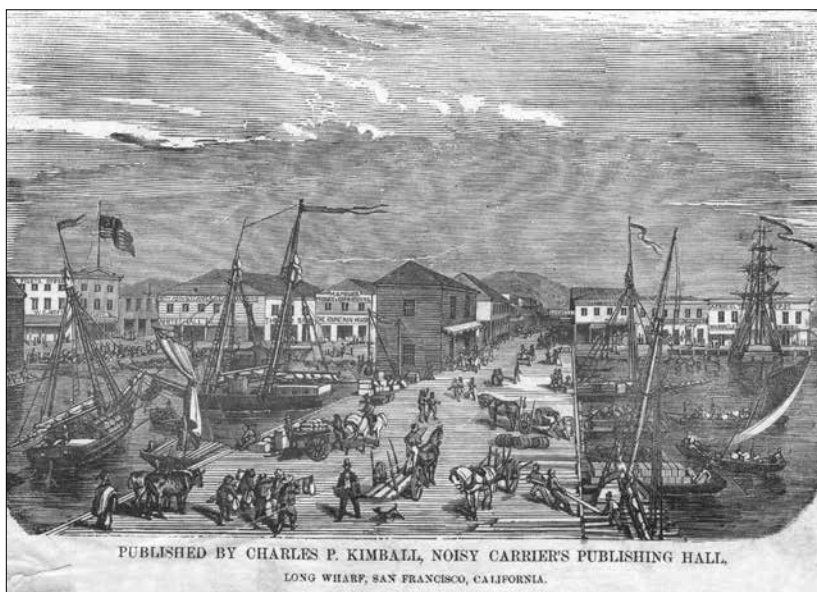
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A Peek at the Past



In the 1850s, San Francisco Bay lapped against land where Montgomery Street now runs. People bought “water lots,” believing that someday Yerba Buena Cove would be filled in and their lots would be on solid ground. As Charles Fracchia wrote in *When the Water Came Up to Montgomery Street*, the city built wharves to extend “from the streets into the water.” The Long Wharf, pictured above, began where Commercial and Montgomery Streets intersect today (just a block from the SFHS Museum) and extended more than 2,000 feet into the bay. The Long Wharf was one of the young city’s busiest wharves. Photo courtesy of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.