

BELMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MANOR HOUSE - MARCH 13, 1993

MITCH POSTEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, APPEARED AS GUEST SPEAKER ON SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1993 AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BELMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

MR. POSTEL CHOSE AS HIS SUBJECT "THE ART OF COLLECTING AND PRESERVING HISTORY."

MR. POSTEL FIRST CONGRATULATED THE CITY OF BELMONT AND THE BELMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR CONDUCTING THE HISTORICAL SURVEY TO IDENTIFY BUILDINGS AND AREAS OF HISTORICAL VALUE AND THEN TO FURTHER COOPERATE IN THE CREATION OF LEGISLATION TO PRESERVE THESE. HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE SAN MATEO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WAS ABLE TO ASSIST AND SPECIAL ACCOLADES WERE RESERVED FOR KENT SEAVEY, WHO ACTUALLY HEADED THE SURVEY.

MR. POSTEL THEN SPOKE ABOUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT ARE ATTENDANT TO COLLECTING ITEMS OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN A SOCIETY. THESE GIFTS, ENTRUSTED TO A SOCIETY BY DONORS, MUST BE PROPERLY CARED FOR. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO MAKE THESE ITEMS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND TO RESEARCHERS. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THE HOLDERS TO CATALOGUE IN SUCH A WAY THAT RESEARCHERS WILL BE ABLE TO FIND AND USE THE MATERIALS.

AS ASSOCIATIONS GROW, IT IS VERY VALUABLE TO PROVIDE REPRODUCTIVE CAPABILITIES FOR THESE STUDENTS. THEIR STAFF SHOULD BE KNOWLEDGEABLE SO PATRONS AND GUESTS WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE COLLECTION. GUESTS SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH A GOOD CATALOGUE, COMFORTABLE SURROUNDINGS, A DESK AND CHAIR TO WORK AND/OR READ, AND REGULAR HOURS.

STAFF SHOULD REGULARLY COMMUNICATE WITH LOCAL LIBRARIES, OTHER ASSOCIATIONS, ETC...TO KNOW ABOUT THEIR COLLECTIONS ALSO. IT IS HELPFUL FOR RESEARCHERS IF THE STAFF CAN DIRECT THEM TO OTHER NEARBY SOURCES...NATIONAL ARCHIVES, SAN MATEO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, REDWOOD CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND COUNTY RECORDS.

MR. POSTEL OFFERED EXCELLENT SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR SOCIETY FOR FUTURE ENDEAVORS:

CREATE PUBLICATIONS SO THE PUBLIC CAN READ ABOUT OUR SPECIAL HISTORY.

CREATE EXHIBITS OUTSIDE OUR HISTORY ROOM THAT CAN BE RENEWED FREQUENTLY...AT CITY HALL FOR INSTANCE.

CREATE VIDEOS FOR TOWN MEETINGS, FOR SCHOOLS, AND FOR USE AT PUBLIC GATHERINGS.

MR. POSTEL THEN ACCEPTED QUESTIONS...HARTLEY LAUGGHEAD ASKED IT MATERIAL CONCERNING LAND USAGE IN BELMONT DATING BACK TO 1979 WAS WORTH SAVING. HE REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY THE CITY LAWS CONCERNING LAW USE AND GROWTH ARE STILL AFFECTING US TODAY AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

TOM SIEVERT, PRESIDENT OF THE BELMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT LACK OF SPACE TO HOUSE AND EXHIBIT OUR COLLECTION. BELMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAS BEEN VERY FORTUNATE IN THE GIFTS GIVEN BY BELMONT RESIDENTS AND IT WANTS TO PROPERLY CARE FOR ALL OF ITS MEMORABILIA SO FUTURE GENERATION CAN ENJOY.

HARTLEY ASKED IF AN OLD HOUSE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR A MUSEUM. MITCH ADVISED AGAINST IT...OLD HOUSES TEND TO BE DRAFTY, THEY NEED A LOT OF REPAIR, THEY TEND TO BE COSTLY TO HEAT, TOO MANY WINDOWS...LIGHT DESTROYS PHOTOS, ETC...TEMPERATURE CONTROL IS UNSATISFACTORY.

A DISCUSSION THEN ENSUED CONCERNING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO AND THE SAN MATEO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. MR. POSTEL GAVE US AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW AND SAID THAT LETTERS TO THE TRUSTEES WOULD BE APPRECIATED SO THAT THEY CAN REMAIN IN THEIR BUILDING AT THE COLLEGE. HE SUGGESTED THAT A WORKING RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH CLASSES COULD ACTUALLY BE GIVEN AND RESOURCES USED COULD BE A VIABLE SOLUTION TO THIS ECONOMIC CRUNCH!

WHEN THE QUESTIONS WERE EXHAUSTED THE SPEAKER AND GUESTS ADJOURNED TO ANOTHER ROOM FOR COFFEE AND GOODIES. EVERYONE ENJOYED THE DELICIOUS PASTRIES GENEROUSLY GIVEN BY KLAUS ZANDER, OWNER OF THE PINE BROOK INN IN BELMONT.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



ELEANOR WOODARD

3/13/93

BHS

Belmont Historical Society
Income & Expenses
for 1st thro Mar. 12th 1993

Income

Membership	\$ 530.00
Donations	6.00
Books	26.00
Stationery	6.00
Interest	8.18
	8.18
Total Income	\$ 576.18

Expenses

Office supplies	\$ 123.16
Film Processing	21.03
Sales tax	40.00
Construction/ Repairs - History Room	95.95
Rent	2.00
Consultation fees (K. Seavey)	89.91
Donation - S.M. County Hist. Ass'n.	50.00
Checks paid charge	1.20
Bank service charges	18.00
	18.00
	\$ 471.25

Excess of Income over expenses

\$ 104.93

Fund Balance

12/31/92 \$ 2644.22

End of Period \$ 2749.15

Balance per Treasurer's Report \$ 2749.15

Difference —