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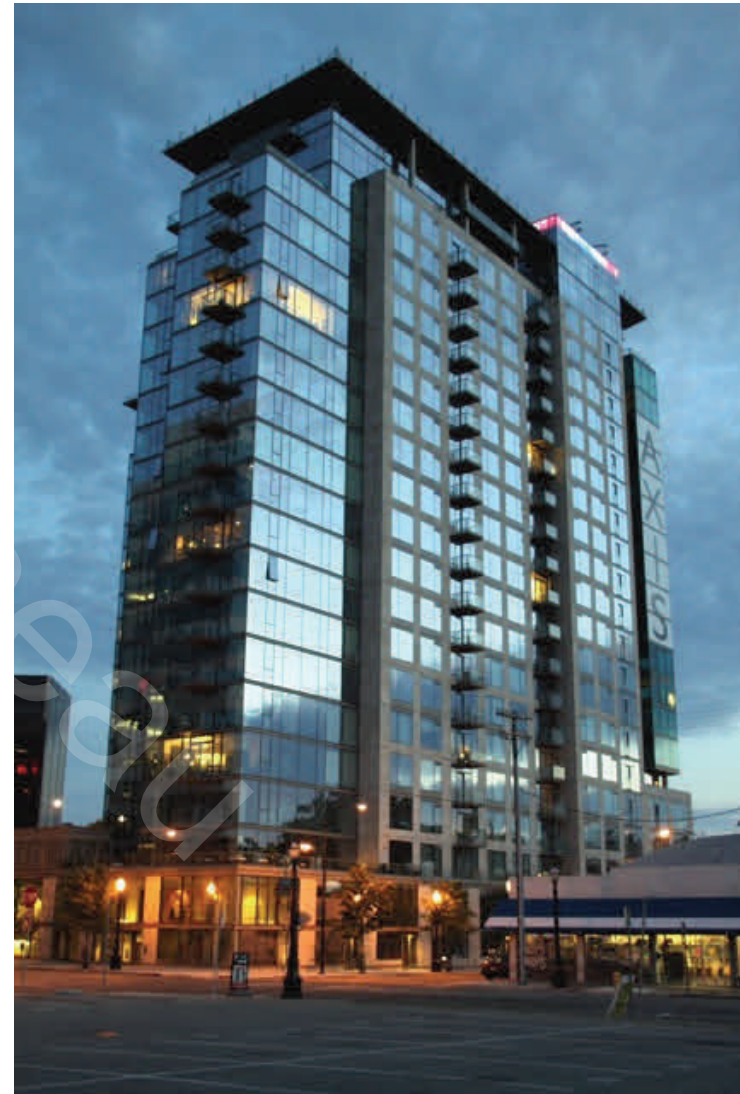
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August 2014

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A photo recently acquired by *Les Amis de Sourisseau!*
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57) As we sip margaritas and gaze across San Jose from a condominium balcony high in the Axis Tower, it may come as a surprise to discover that the building's foundation clutches hallowed ground: where was born the first Baccalaureate degree program for women in California; where operated the first interracial nightclub in San Jose; and where lies an epicenter of the Information Technology Revolution that now transcends the world. But we are getting ahead of our story! (Axis photo courtesy Thomas Wohlmüt. Caption by Tom Layton)

A photo recently purchased by *Les Amis de Sourisseau!*
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58) It had been an undeveloped Mexican garden plot along what is now West Santa Clara Street, dating back to the Pueblo de San Jose, California's first city. In 1850, Peter Davidson, an enterprising Englishman, would subdivide the parcel into 36 lots; and in 1851, the Sisters of Notre Dame, a teaching order from Belgium, bought two of them (soon to be increased) to establish what would become the College of Notre Dame.

At that time only the most optimistic of those Sisters — and certainly not the residents of San Jose — would have predicted that seventeen years later in 1868, their college would become the first in the State of California to offer the Baccalaureate degree to women. But by 1869, the results of the Sisters' diligence was plain to see, for when J. H. Heering climbed up to the birds-nest walkway atop the 115-foot dome of the newly completed Santa Clara County Courthouse and aimed his camera southwest, the College had already completed three of the four wings that would eventually enclose its central courtyard. Heering also captured a vista of rural farmsteads stretching far into the distance. (Caption by Tom Layton.)

A photo recently purchased by *Les Amis de Sourisseau!*
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59) Seven years later, in 1876, when Thompson and West's *Historical Atlas* was published, its aerial depiction of the college, now occupying 14 acres, showed the interior courtyard completed. However, although the large domed building with the four columns must have been high on the Sisters' "wish list," no such structure was ever built. The surrounding "farmscape" drawn by the artist was also imaginary, for it ignored the development that was occurring between Notre Dame and the Guadalupe River, where as early as 1870 at least 19 homes had already been built, with some of them on lots between Pleasant and Santa Teresa Streets that had been subdivided and sold by the Sisters, themselves. (Caption by Tom Layton.)

A photo recently purchased by *Les Amis de Sourisseau!*
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60) In 1893, when Andrew Hill and Sidney Yard climbed up to the 215-foot platform near the top of the Electric Tower, which soared over the intersection of Market and Santa Clara Streets, they shot eight panoramic views — one in each of the cardinal directions, and one from each halfway spot between them. This view along West Santa Clara Street captures the almost completed College — which would eventually incorporate some of the finest work of architects Levi Goodrich, Theodore Lenzen and Louis Theodore Lenzen — and a dense cityscape extending far beyond. (Caption by Tom Layton.)

A photo recently purchased by *Les Amis de Sourisseau!*
August, 2014



61) With the increasing commercial development of downtown San Jose, the Sisters' property became quite valuable, and although it was in excellent condition, they realized it was no longer the best location for a girls' school. Thus, in 1922, they bought the 50-acre Ralston estate in Belmont and began the process of removing themselves from their San Jose campus. They sold the old campus, moved the high school to the O'Connor mansion on South Second Street and began developing their Belmont campus. This north facing c1929 view by John C. Gordon shows the old campus during the final stage of demolition. The neo-classic Science Building (constructed in 1907) stands alone and forlorn, with the old San Augustine (now W. St. John Street) residential neighborhood visible in the background. The dump truck parked in the foreground is northeast of the location that the Hotel De Anza (originally to be named Hotel San Jose) would be constructed in 1931. (Caption by Tom Layton.)

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62) Completed in 1932, the 10-story Hotel De Anza boasted a "stepped" Art Deco or Spanish Moderne exterior, a Spanish Colonial Revival interior, and first floor commercial space opening to the street. On the left is a coffee shop, and on the right a General Electric Refrigerator dealer, providing cutting edge technology to the discerning consumer. (Caption by Tom Layton.)

A photo from Special Collections
August, 2014



63) The rest of the area was slow to be developed. This 1933 view shows an expanse of vacant land, with the Science Building at the far left. Housing the Rosicrucian Press from 1933-1964, the Science Building was the only major College structure to escape the initial phase of demolition — not coming down until 1966. Further distant is the brand new Bank of Italy (soon to become the Bank of America building), and to the right is the Hotel De Anza that would dominate the neighborhood skyline for the next eight decades. (John C. Gordon photo, courtesy SJSU Special Collections. Caption by Tom Layton.)

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August, 2014



64) By late 1943, the West Santa Clara Street frontage to the west of the Hotel De Anza was occupied by a thriving business district, including the San Jose Tire Company —featuring Goodyear tires — and Artana's REO truck dealership. Heald Business College and the sprawling San Jose Mercury building were located on the east side of the hotel, where the main complex of Notre Dame buildings had originally been constructed. (Caption by Tom Layton.)

A photo recently purchased by *Les Amis de Sourisseau!*
August, 2014



65) When Arnold "Del" Del Carlo shot this aerial view of the Notre Dame neighborhood around 1965, he captured, just to the west, a vibrant neighborhood of well-kept houses. However, much of the old college property had by then become the home of a glitzy nightlife. The wildly popular Palomar Club ballroom, built in 1946 just behind the Hotel De Anza, was the first interracial nightclub in San Jose (still remembered for the 1956 Fats Domino rock-and-roll riot), and the Hotel De Anza housed the studios of Radio KEEN, featuring country and western music. But it was in an unassuming one-story building, constructed in 1949 at the corner of Notre Dame and St. John Street, where occurred a seminal event that was to change the world. Occupied by IBM from 1952 to 1968, it was here that the RAMAC (Random Access Method of Accounting and Control) was developed. Today, we call it RAM — short for Random Access Memory — the disk storage system that defines the Information Age. (Caption by Tom Layton.)

(Franklin Maggi photo)
August, 2014



66) Over the years the glitz faded. When the interior of Hotel De Anza was remodeled in 1990, only its Moorish-themed Hedley Lounge was preserved. Much of the residential neighborhood to the west was demolished in order to build Highway 87 and also to make flood control improvements to the Guadalupe River; and then in 2005, the Palomar Ballroom (after several incarnations it had become the Tropicana) was torn down. But today's changes are once again moving in a positive direction. A cluster of historic buildings, some of which have been relocated and known as "Little Italy," have been preserved just to the northwest of Notre Dame, and the IBM building — now occupied by the Santa Clara County Superior Court — is designated an International Mechanical Engineering Landmark, as well as a City Landmark. But the greatest positive change has seen the old Notre Dame campus become home to a new generation of urban pioneers, eager to live and work in a newly vibrant downtown. The Axis Tower of luxury condominiums now dominates the skyline high above Hotel De Anza, soon to be joined by The Carlyle. Even as salmon are returning to the Guadalupe River, these lively homeowners have reclaimed the streets and brought new life to downtown museums, galleries and eateries. (Tropicana photo, courtesy Franklin Maggi. Caption by Tom Layton.)