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# *Sourisseau Academy*

*Smith-Layton Archive presents:*

## Politics in San Jose

In this rousing election year, let us remember past candidates, local and national, who sought the favor of San Jose voters as our fair city grew from a quaint farm town into a vast modern metropolis.

by Glen Gendzel

*Les Amis (The Friends)*

*July 2016*

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July 2016



[89] **Mayor Martin, Cigars, and Candy.** The mustachioed San Jose businessman Charles J. Martin was both the 20th *and* the 27th mayor of San Jose. He served one term (1882-1884), and a few years later he came back for two more (1898-1902). Campaigning for reelection in 1900, Mayor Martin gave out “cigars for the men” and “candies for the ladies.” The *San Francisco Call* reported that “the campaign has been a feast for factory and shop girls.” Too bad women couldn’t vote in California for another 11 years!

July 2016



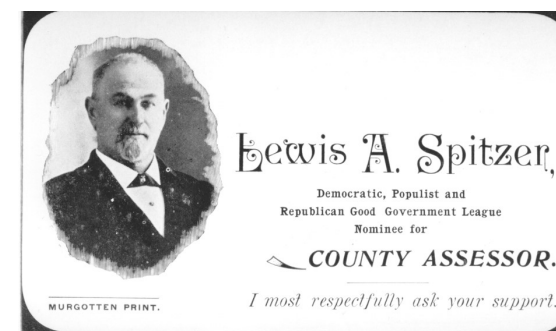
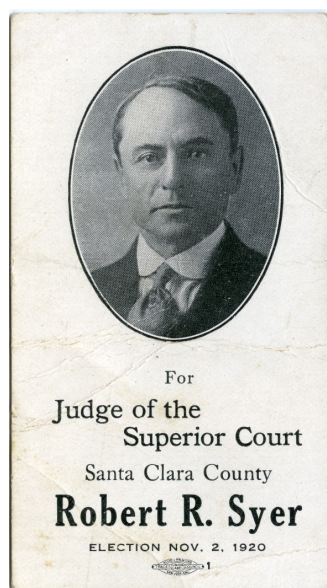
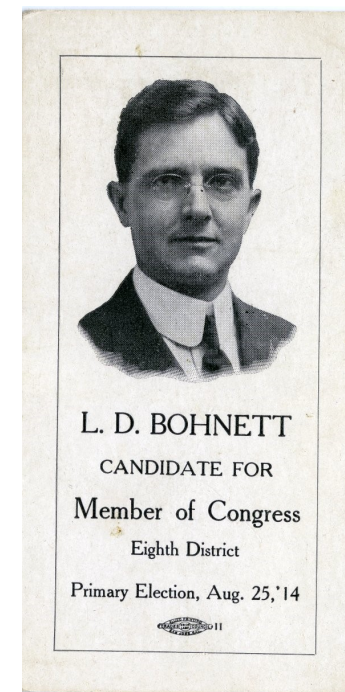
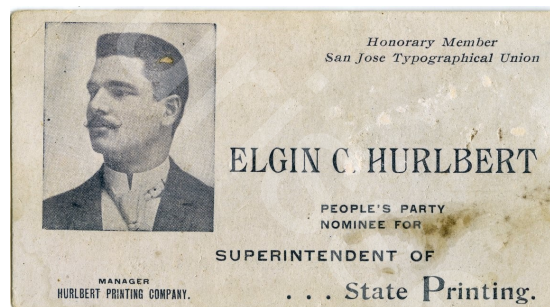
[90] **McKinley Speaks.** If you've seen the McKinley statue in St. James Park, you know what this photo is about! In May, 1901, four months before his tragic assassination, President William McKinley visited San Jose and spoke to a large crowd on North 1st Street. Mayor Martin played host. President McKinley is at the podium opposite the St. James Hotel, where the San Jose Post Office now stands. In 1903, a statue of the martyred president was erected on the spot where he stood.

July 2016

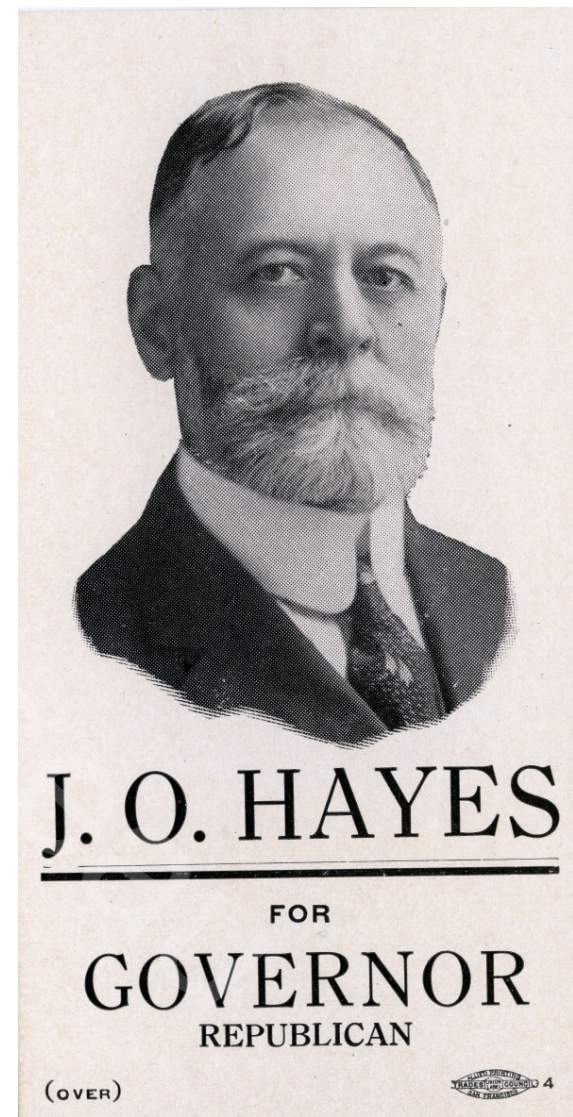
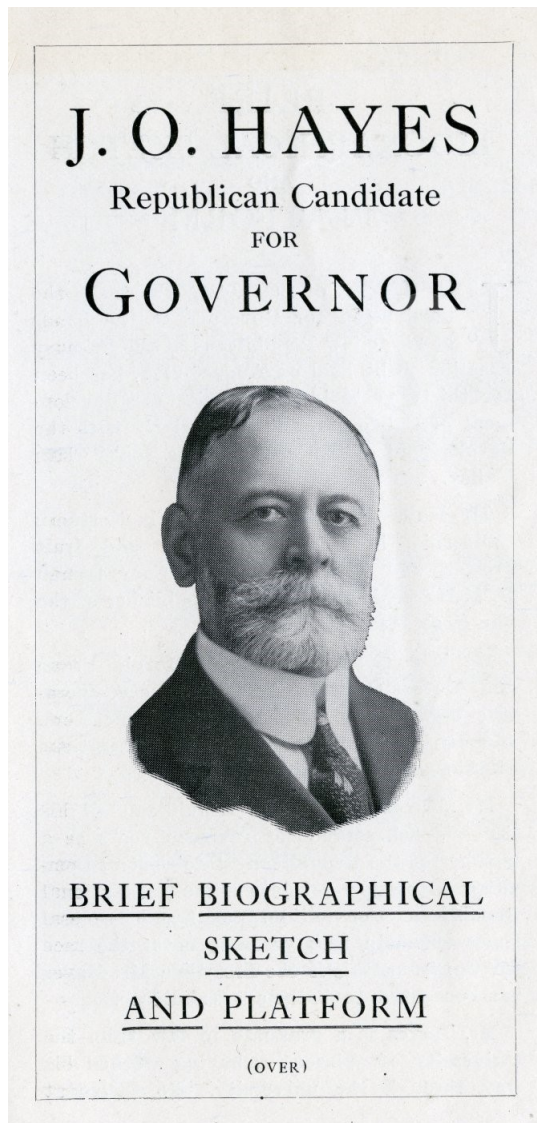


[91] **T.R. in S.J.** McKinley's assassination elevated Vice President Theodore Roosevelt into the presidency in 1901. T.R. (he disliked being called "Teddy") was the youngest president ever—a record he still holds. (Look it up: John F. Kennedy was the youngest man ever *elected* president, but Theodore Roosevelt was the youngest man ever to *serve* as president.) In May, 1903, President Roosevelt visited San Jose. Here he was photographed with ex-Mayor Martin and Secretary of War Elihu Root behind him. In front of him are J. O. Hayes, publisher of the *San Jose Mercury*, and Mayor George D. Worswick, who served from 1902 to 1906.

Images on file at the Smith-Layton Archive, Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History  
July 2016



[92] **Campaign Cards.** Back in the days before electronic media, San Jose candidates courted voters by printing and circulating thousands of campaign cards. Local print shops depended on income from mass printing orders during election season. Later, such cheap methods of publicity gave way to expensive advertising on radio and television.



[93] **Hayes for Governor, 1918.** Ever been to the fabulous Hayes Mansion in the Edenvale district of San Jose? Here's someone who actually lived there! Wealthy widow Mary Chynoweth built the ornate 65-room, 41,000 square foot Mediterranean Revival villa, but she died just when it was completed in 1905. Nonetheless, her sons J. O. "Black" Hayes and E. A. "Red" Hayes moved in with their families and lived there for decades. "Black" Hayes was a lawyer, rancher, grower, mining investor, and newspaper publisher. He bought the *San Jose Mercury* in 1901. He ran unsuccessfully for governor several times, his last attempt in 1918. His brother "Red" represented San Jose in Congress from 1905 to 1919.

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[94] **Speaker's Platform in Plaza Park.** We don't know who was speaking in this photo from the 1930s, but San Jose political candidates often addressed crowds from temporary wooden platforms like this one erected in Plaza Park, now Plaza de César Chávez. A bit of the old San Jose City Hall can be glimpsed in the upper left corner of this photo. Nowadays, this spot hosts San Jose's Christmas in the Park every holiday season.



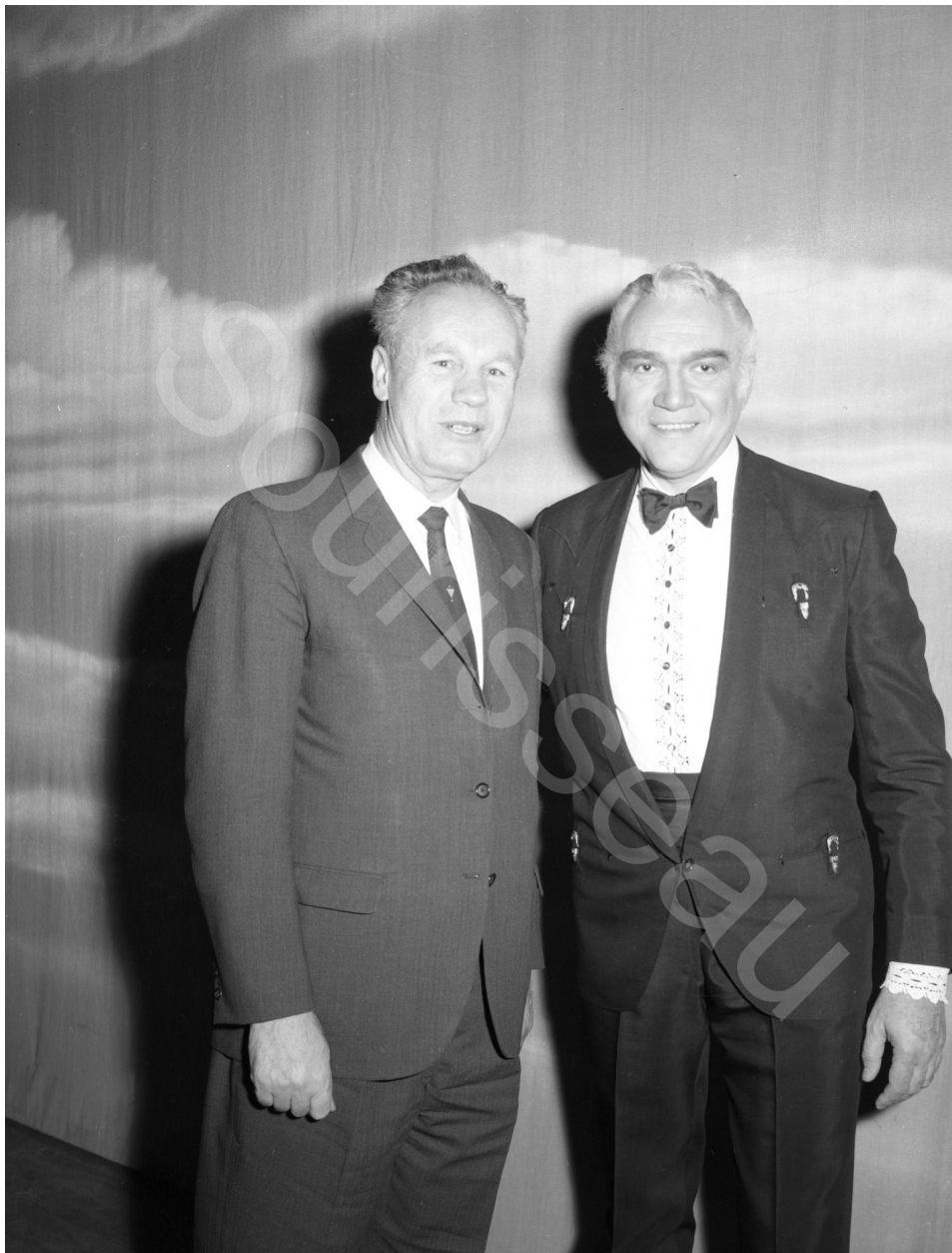
[95] **Ex-Mayor Renzel and His Airport.** Ernest H. "Ernie" Renzel was the 47th mayor of San Jose (1945-1946). A reform candidate, he helped overthrow the notorious Bigley machine. But Renzel is best known as "The Father of San Jose International Airport." Running his family's wholesale grocery business in the late 1930s, Renzel found time to organize the city's purchase of 483 acres of former ranch land in north San Jose for a future airport. He wanted to "get San Jose out of the horse-and-buggy class." San Jose Municipal Airport opened in 1949. Later, Renzel served as airport commissioner from 1969 to 1977, and today a bust of him is on display in Terminal A. Ernie lived to be 100 years old!



July 2016



[96] **San Jose Power Duo.** Here are two men who drove San Jose's rapid expansion in the 1950s and '60s. Russ Pettit (right) was the longtime manager of the San Jose Chamber of Commerce and the Santa Clara County Fair; A.P. "Dutch" Hamann (left) was city manager of San Jose from 1950 to 1969. These were years when San Jose exploded in size through annexations of surrounding communities, orchards, and fields. Is Hamann handing Pettit a magnifying glass to scrutinize the fine print of that contract?



[97] **Mayor Bradley and the Star.** In politics, “everybody wants to get into the act,” as Jimmy Durante used to say. Or is it that politicians seek out celebrities, in hopes that their fame will rub off? Here we see San Jose’s Mayor Clark Bradley, who served from 1950 to 1952, with Canadian-born actor Lorne Greene, better known as Ben Cartwright of the TV show *Bonanza* . The mayor is the one on the left!



[98] **Mayor Bradley Tells a Joke.** Perhaps on the same night he met Lorne Greene, Mayor Bradley addressed a banquet audience. Apparently he could tell a good joke! Bradley went on to serve another 22 years representing San Jose in the state legislature.



[99] **Mayor James Makes a Phone Call.** Mayor Ron James, who served from 1967 to 1971, was the first popularly elected mayor of San Jose since 1916. This phone call must have been important, because Mayor James had lots of reporters and photographers on hand for it! James was also a longtime president of the San Jose Chamber of Commerce.



[100] **Senator McCarthy and the Moon.** In May, 1968, at the peak of the Vietnam War, peace candidate Senator Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota was running for president. McCarthy gave a speech at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds in San Jose while campaigning for votes in the California primary that year. According to Associated Press reports, over 1,500 people went to hear the senator. They also saw rock bands, Hollywood stars, and “a piece of the moon,” according to this leaflet. But the first Apollo moon landing was still a year in the future!



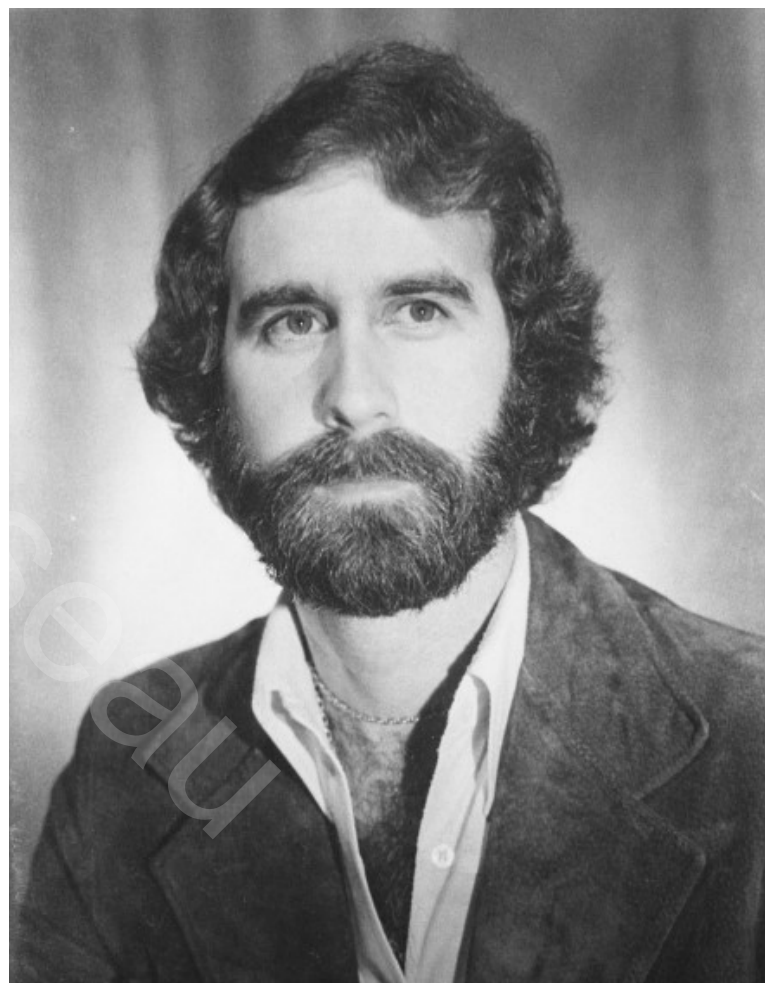
[101] **Mayor-to-Be Mineta.** Norman Mineta, born and raised in San Jose's Japantown, was a city council member and vice mayor when he ran for mayor in 1971. He faced no less than 14 other candidates—and he beat them all, with a whopping 61% of the vote. Mineta was the first Asian American mayor of a large U.S. city. Here he greets a much taller supporter who takes the liberty of straightening the future mayor's tie. Mineta left the mayoral office in 1975 to represent San Jose in Congress for the next 18 years. Later, he rendered bipartisan service as a cabinet member in the Clinton and Bush II administrations.

July 2016



[102] **Mayor Hayes and the “Feminist Capital.”** Janet Gray Hayes was a social worker and neighborhood activist when she won a seat on the San Jose city council in 1971. Three years later, she was elected mayor—the first woman mayor of a major U.S. city. Her slogan was “Let’s Make San Jose Better Before We Make It Bigger.” During her time in office (1975-1983), women held a majority of seats on the San Jose city council and on the Santa Clara County board of supervisors. Mayor Hayes proclaimed San Jose “the feminist capital of the world.”

July 2016



[103] **The McEnery Dynasty.** John P. McEnery (left) was a longtime San Jose community leader, downtown developer, and state Democratic party official. Wes Payton of the *Mercury News* described him as “a classic Irish politician.” His son, Tom McEnery (right), also a developer, became a city councilman, and then served as mayor of San Jose from 1983 to 1991. Dubbed “the most powerful person in Silicon Valley” by the *Mercury News*, Tom McEnery has led downtown revitalization efforts and other major civic campaigns. The San Jose McEnery Convention Center is named after him.