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Sourisseau Academy

Smith-Layton Archive presents:

Gateways and Arches: Affirmations of Place

by Thomas Layton

and

April Halberstadt

Les Amis (The Friends)

June 2018

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June 2018



[71] **Why a Gateway?** - Oakland may forever be remembered by Gertrude Stein's statement: "There is no there, there!" Although Gertrude's purpose may have been to show three meanings for the word "there," she was also right about Oakland. Thus, in order to avoid this ignominious fate, many aspiring municipalities chose to erect a gateway, archway or banner over a thoroughfare to announce that you were, indeed, there! Consider Fort Point in 1890 — alongside the narrow, fog shrouded, unremarkable, entrance to San Francisco Bay. In 1937, the completion of a bridge over that passageway abruptly established a "there" with worldwide name recognition.

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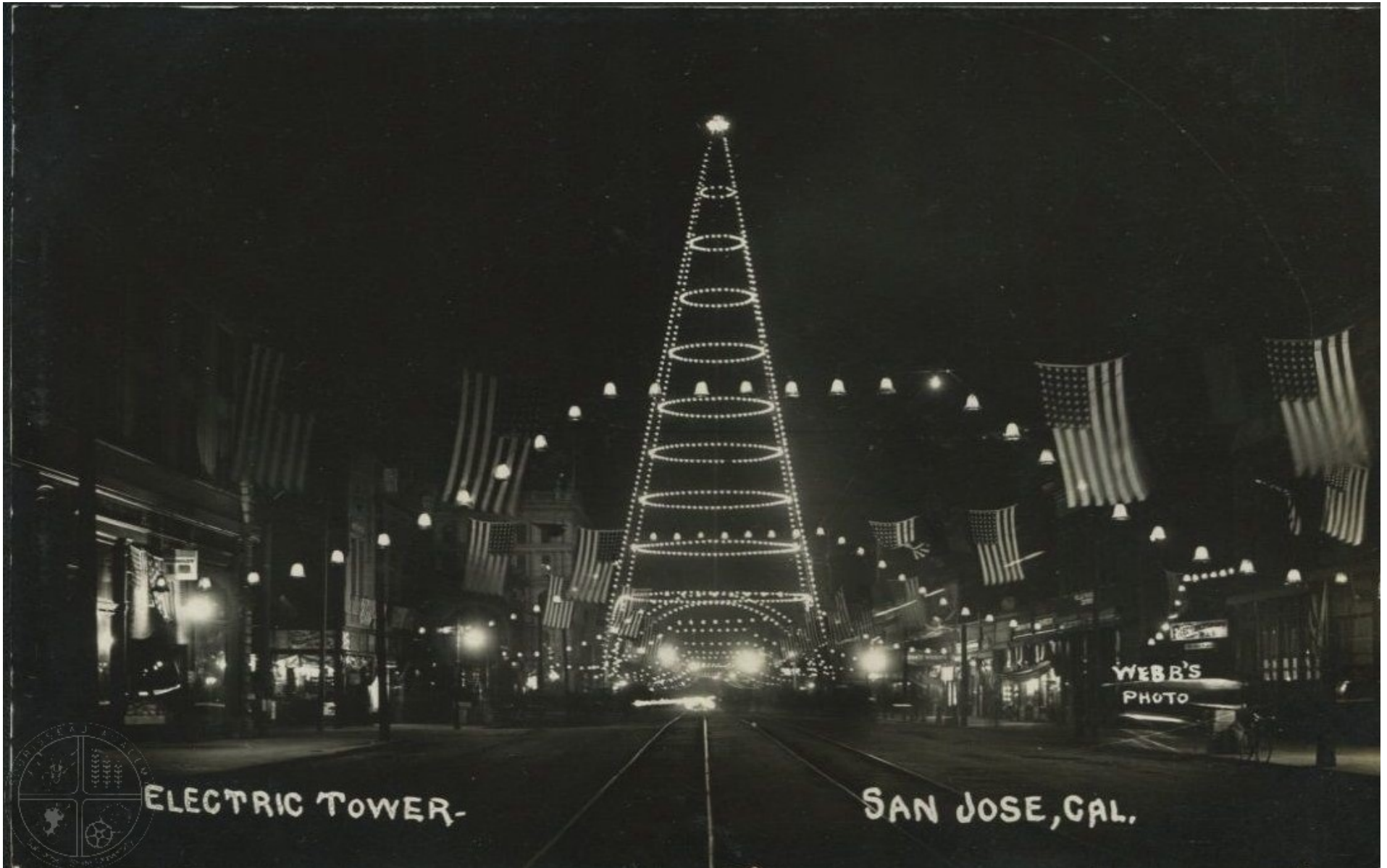


[72] **A Very Special Garden** - One of San Jose's earliest gateways marked the entrance of San Jose's Notre Dame School and College. The school featured a walled garden enclosing its 14 acres that established a sacred, scholarly space, separated from the mundane affairs of the surrounding city. The gateway, located on Santa Clara Street, had quarters for a guard. Notre Dame, established in 1851, attracted students from around the Pacific Rim, many of them boarding at the school. It included elementary grades, high school and college.

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[73] **Naglee Estate gates** - The gates were always open at the magnificent Naglee estate. General Naglee had his 140-acre estate landscaped in the style of an English park, with five fountains and a long driving path. The General enjoyed visitors and shared his landscape from the 1860s until about 1902.



[74] **Defining San Jose's Civic Center** - From 1881 to 1915, San Jose's 230-foot Electric Light Tower dominated the skyline. Anyone who passed beneath its street-level arches, anchored at the four corners of Market and Santa Clara Streets knew that they were standing at a very significant place, a landmark like no other.



[75] **Arch of Welcome** - San Jose once had a welcoming gateway for visitors. Located near the Bassett Street train station, it greeted visitors who passed underneath on North First Street. Here is the Grand Parade that opened the Festival of Roses parade in 1896.



[76] **New Almaden celebrates our first President** - In 1889, the citizens of New Almaden's Hacienda celebrated the centennial of George Washington's presidency. This decorated gateway — a toll gate — led to the Quicksilver Mining Company's business offices and industrial buildings.

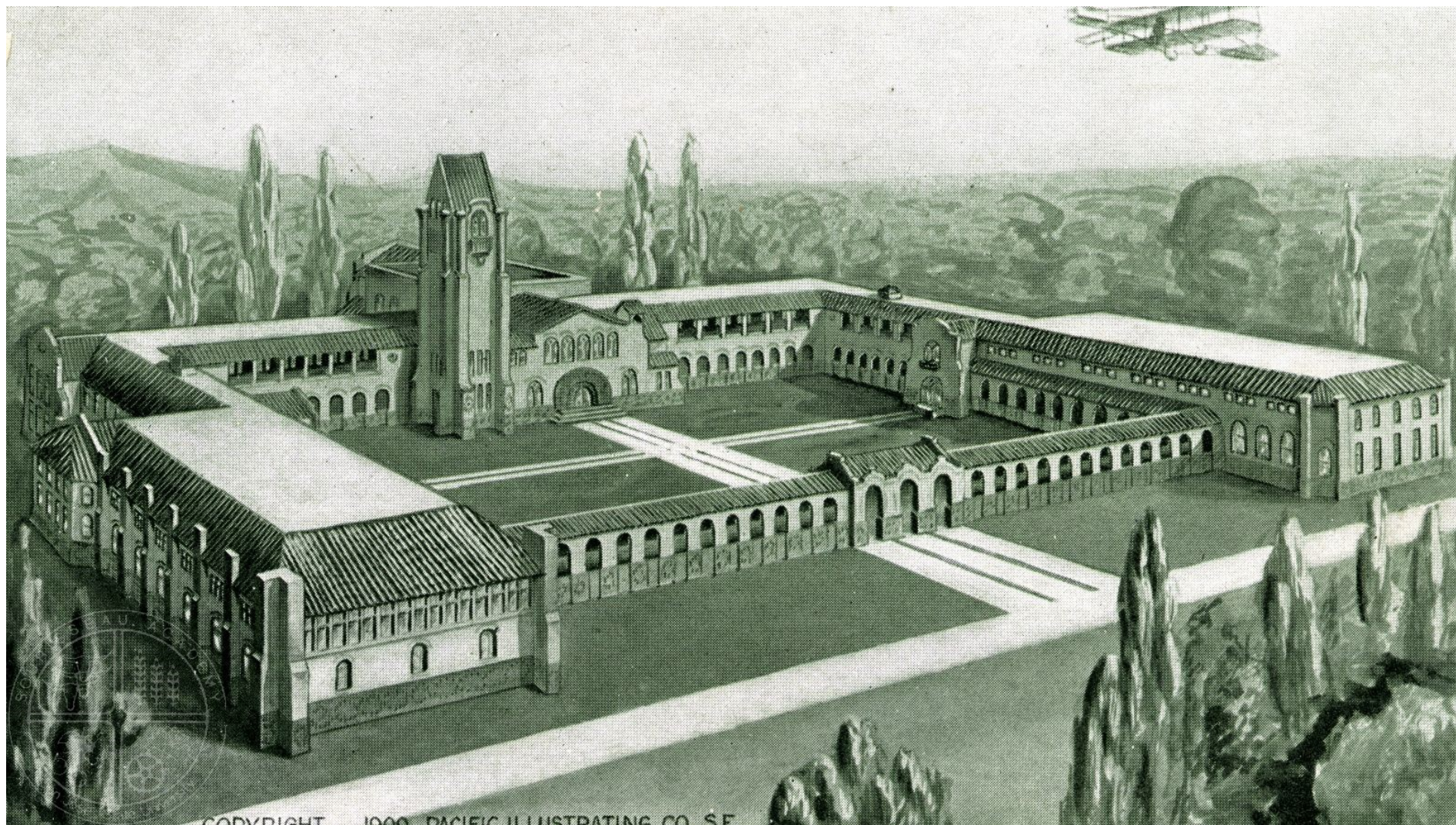
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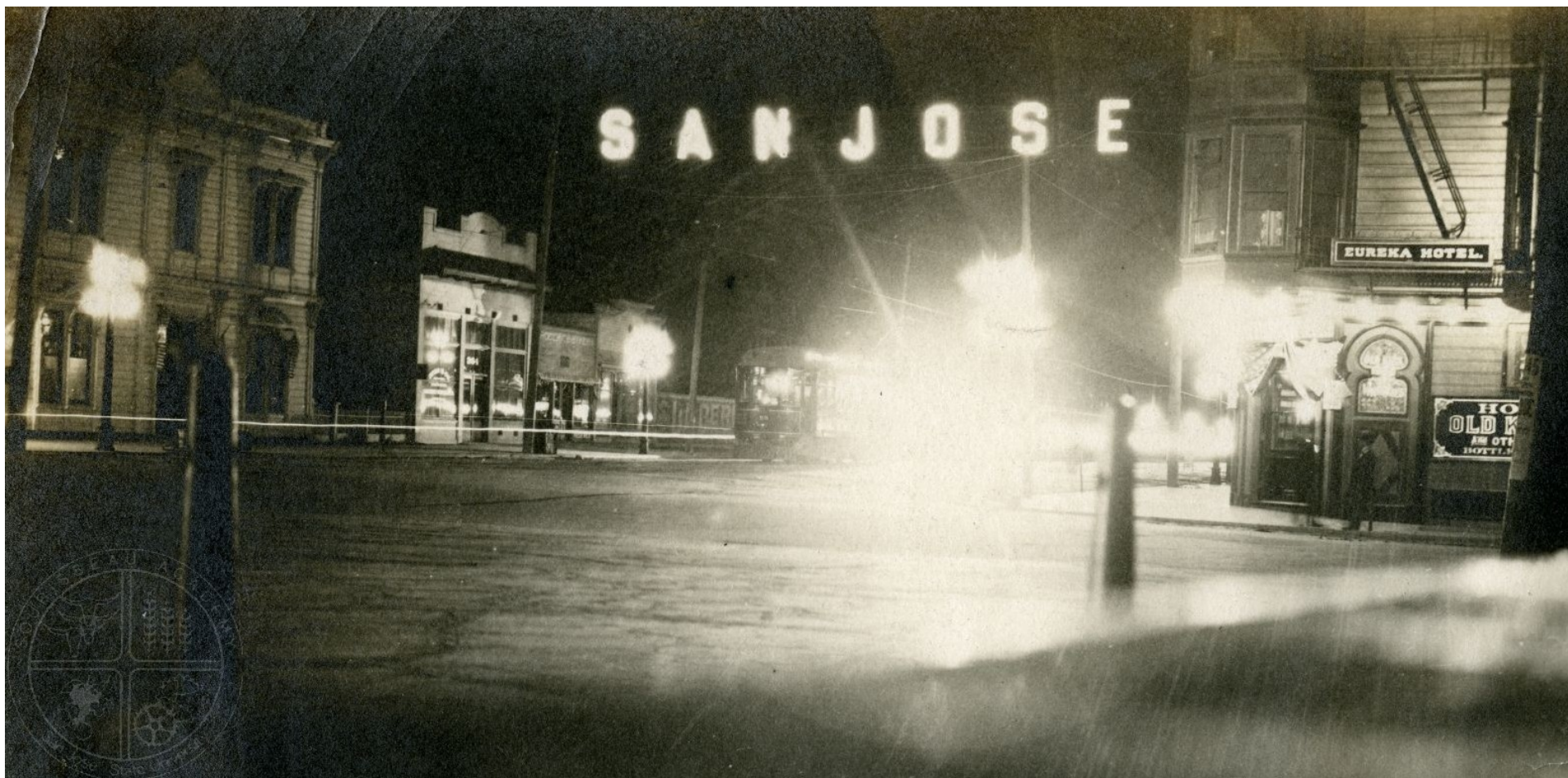
[77] **Welcoming President William McKinley** - President William McKinley was the first sitting president to visit San Jose. To welcome him in May 1901, the town built a ceremonial triple archway, covered in flowers. The young men in the foreground on the left are members of a local bicycle club, a very modern conveyance at the time. McKinley was assassinated four months later and the little city of San Jose, still mourning, erected a statue in St. James Square in commemoration.



[78] **A Memorial Archway at a Memorial School** - In 1899, widow Jane Stanford celebrated the completion of Memorial Arch, the formal entrance to Stanford University. Jane and her husband had planned the school to honor their son, Leland Stanford, Junior, who died of typhoid at age fifteen. This masonry structure fell in the 1906 earthquake and was not rebuilt. Jane Stanford had died in 1905 and was spared the sight of the destruction.



[79] **San Jose Normal School** - Following the destruction of the San Jose Normal School in the 1906 Earthquake, the architect's plan for a redesigned school featured a walled inner sanctum, entered through a triple arched gateway — effectively separating "town" from "gown." The actual triple arch, as built in 1909, although continuing to frame the entrance to Tower Hall was, in our opinion, far more elegant than the architect's original draft version.



[80] **San Jose's Electric Banner** - When the Electric Light Tower collapsed in 1915, San Jose needed a new municipal sign. The solution was an electric sign across Market Street to welcome visitors as they entered town from the Southern Pacific Railroad Station. The Kentucky Whiskey sign, seen at the right corner of the newly built Eureka Hotel, dates this photo before the January 11, 1920 passage of the 18th Amendment, establishing Prohibition.



[81] **Saratoga Memorial Arch** - Saratoga lost six fine young men in World War I, a tragedy for a small town. Charles Blaney, a community leader, commissioned designer Bruce Porter for an arch to memorialize Clark Waterhouse and others. Blaney also donated the park for the arch. It is located at the Saratoga crossroads. The arch was moved when Caltrans realigned the intersection, but was later replaced within its park, where it now frames a "vista of eternity".



[82] **We're here!** - In 1930, Mountain View proudly affirmed its existence, among miles of orchards, with an electric sign suspended across Castro Street, its main thoroughfare. Sunnyvale erected an electric sign at its most important location, the intersection of Murphy Street and El Camino Real. This 1930 photo finds the camera facing out of town toward miles of orchards. This blossoming city grew from an orchard center to one of the largest cannery areas in the county.



[83] **An Arch for the Ages** - San Jose's Rosicrucian Museum entryway features an authentic Egyptian arch and colonnade, shown in this 1937 photo. This replica of an Egyptian Temple, still located at 1660 Park Avenue near the Rose Garden, is a reminder that an impressive entry is greatly enhanced by arches and columns. As an architectural form, the arch is very pleasing to behold. It is a very satisfying form, one with both ends firmly planted, but with a center that pulls the gaze toward the sky. It is a reminder of the rainbow. It can celebrate a triumph, a beginning...or an end.