



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LIBRARY

A collaboration between the City of San José and San José State University

News Release

For Immediate Release

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New Library Digital Collection Broadens Online Access to the History of Santa Clara Valley

Library Invites Comment on Individual Images to Enhance Collective Memory

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Where can you find images that document the diverse history of Santa Clara County including photographs from Japanese Internment during World War II, the 1906 earthquake, and a variety of subjects spanning 150 years of history? San Jose’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library introduces a new Digital Collections Database in September that will provide fresh opportunities to explore the richness of the valley’s history.

Through this new online portal the community can research the rare and unique materials held by San José State University Special Collections and San José Public Library’s California Room. The database features interactive links that enable community members to share personal knowledge concerning individual images, thus enhancing collective memory. Visitors are encouraged to contribute their knowledge to the rotating array of “mystery” images featured on the collection’s home page: <http://digitalcollections.sjlibrary.org>.

The Digital Collections document the history of the Santa Clara Valley from its agricultural beginnings to the high-tech boom and formation of the Silicon Valley, recapturing the look and lifestyle of a bygone era (1850-1950). The range of subjects covered include local politics, social and cultural traditions, education, local business and industry, and historical events. Featured collections include San Jose State University Archives, Japanese Internment Records, the archives of Frontier Village, along with many others.

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The development of the database is ongoing and will eventually encompass letters, maps, brochures, and other primary documents. The Digital Collections will stimulate discovery of the rich and diverse resources of the library and promote new scholarship from our community.

To further celebrate the success of this public and university library collaborative project, the King Library is sponsoring a virtual scavenger hunt encouraging exploration of the Digital Collections. Those who complete the hunt have the option to enter a special drawing for prizes. The grand prize will be a digital camera intended to encourage the recipient to experiment with capturing contemporary images that might later become part of the Digital Collections. Three additional winners will receive one of the following historic photo books produced by Arcadia Publishing:

- Mexicans in San Jose (2009)
- San Jose's Historic Downtown (2004)
- Theatres of San Jose (2009)

To be eligible, entries must be received no later than 6 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2009.

The Digital Collections are accessible 24/7 at <http://digitalcollections.sjlibrary.org>. For general information about the collections, contact the California Room at (408) 808-2167 or SJSU Special Collections at (408) 808-2062.

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