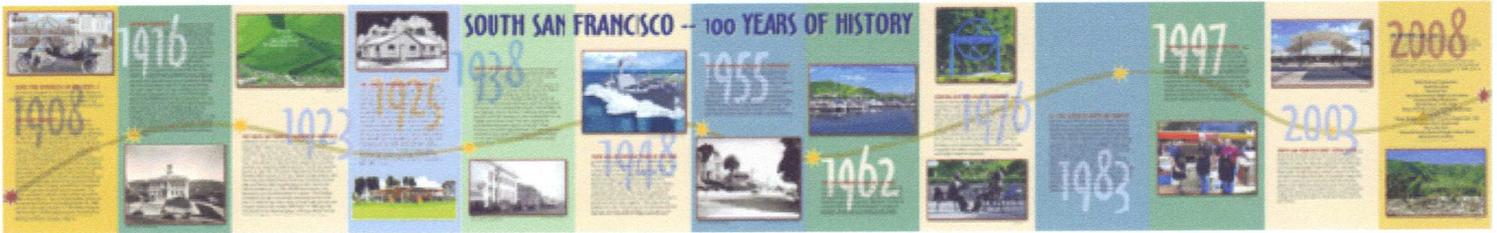


TIMELINE AND EVENTS



More than 300 years ago Ohlone Indians roamed the area known today as South San Francisco.

- 1542 – Spanish explorer, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, sails north of Mexico claiming western North America for Spain and naming it California.
- 1579 - Francis Drake lands on California Coast – it is not certain if the site is Ana Nuevo or Point Reyes
- 1769 - Gaspar de Portola Expedition – explores upper California by land and discovers San Francisco Bay. Father Junipero Serra leads the missionary effort. Mission Dolores established in 1776.
- 1835 - September 23. Rancho Buri Buri, 15,000 acres in North San Mateo County from Millbrae to Colma, is granted by the Mexican government to Jose Antonio Sanchez, a noted soldier and Indian fighter.
- 1843 Jose Antonio Sanchez, one-time soldier at the SF Presidio, maintained his casa grande in what will become Millbrae dies. In his will he decrees that his possessions should be divided equally among his 10 sons and daughters.
- 1850 Twelve Mile Farm built.
- 1853 1,500 acres of the Rancho Buri Buri is sold by Isidro Sanchez to Alfred Edmonson.
- 1856 German butcher and businessman, Charles Lux of South San Francisco, purchases the portion of Rancho Buri Buri from Alfred Edmonson which he intends to use as a ranch to fatten cattle preceding slaughter. The Lux operation constitutes the beginning of the community Baden (later a subdivision of South San Francisco).
- 1858 - Partnership of Charles Lux and cattleman Henry Miller formed. Both Germans, immigrating to California during the Gold Rush, form a partnership at Lux's ranch in Baden; the basis of the greatest cattle empire in the history of California. At its height the company owns more than a million head of cattle and an estimated 1.8 million acres of land.
- 1889 Peter Iler of Omaha, Nebraska commissioned by Gustavus F. Swift to choose location for a town and meat packing plant in California.
- 1890 South San Francisco Land & Improvement Company incorporated.
- 1891 Merriam Block (presently the northwest corner of Airport Boulevard and Grand Avenue) built.
- 1892 March. South San Francisco News (town's first newspaper) begins publication. Continued publishing until September, 1893.
- 1893 Andrew Hynding, later elected as South City's first mayor, hired by Western Meat company as a clerk.

- 1891 Merriam Block (presently the northwest corner of Airport Boulevard and Grand Avenue) built.
- 1892 March. South San Francisco News (town's first newspaper) begins publication. Continued publishing until September, 1893.
- 1893 Andrew Hynding, later elected as South City's first mayor, hired by Western Meat company as a clerk. His salary was \$1.25 per week.
- 1894 South San Francisco Stockyards open.

March 9. Incorporation of Western Meat Company, South city's first major industry. Controlled by Gustavus Swift, Philip Armour, Michael Cudahy, and Nelson Morris, the group is commonly referred to as the Beef Trust. The company name is changed to Swift & Co. in 1932. By this time, it is packing and shipping 88 million pounds of meat a year for sale in the Western states and the Pacific.

Baden School is constructed. It features four spacious classrooms and a broad sidewalk to kids will not lose their boots in the fathomless mud getting from the hitching posts to the building during the rainy season. The school has bars on the windows causing pundits to inquire whether they are to keep intruders out or the kids in. cost of construction is an incredible \$10,000.

Steiger Terra Cotta Pottery Works established.

Baden Brick Company established.

- 1895 Population 671. The Enterprise (South San Francisco's second newspaper) begins publication. Founding fathers Ebenezer E. Cunningham and William J. Martin conceived and created it. One week after the Enterprise's first issue, the city's first official census is taken. It proclaimed that 671 people lived in the new community.
- 1896 December 17. Grace Episcopal Church (at Grand & Spruce) dedicated. The Western Meat Co. is slaughtering a weekly average of 700 cattle, 4,000 lambs & sheep and 3,000 pigs.
- 1898 W. P. Fuller Oil & Lead Company established on property owned by South San Francisco Land & Improvement Company at Oyster Point; the company moved from San Francisco after disastrous fire (May 1896) at urging of W. J. Martin. Factory opened February 1, 1899.

South San Francisco Lumber Company established.

1899 - Western Meat Company is packaging between 10,000 and 20,000 pounds of meat a day for shipment to American soldiers involved in the Philippines Insurrection (1899-1902).

The old Charles Lux ranch in the Baden section of SSF becomes a popular picnic spot. Spectators come to watch cowboys who have been hired to break wild horses for use as U.S. Cavalry mounts in the Boxer Rebellion in China.

1900 Establishment list indicate sixteen saloons for every one church.

1902 Catholic Church (later called All Souls) built at Linden & California.

1903 St. Paul's Methodist Church (known as Methodist Episcopal) began holding services in Butchers Hall. Church at Grand & Maple built in 1906.

March 12. The so-called "New Electric Line", officially the SSF Railroad & Power Co., is incorporated; it begins streetcar operations along Grand Avenue to the waterfront in January 1904. The line provided easy commute for employees of the Western Meat Company and Fuller Paint, two of SSF largest industries.

1905 July 15. Bank of South San Francisco incorporated and open for business.

South San Francisco Women's club formed.

1906 South San Francisco General Hospital (Grand & Maple) established.

April 19. Henry Miller orders butchers along earthquake destruction swath to hand out all meat in company refrigerators for a period of 7 days without charge to earthquake victims.

1907 Grand Avenue School (San Bruno School District School) opens.

1908 - South San Francisco is known as a company town, its economic health had improved substantially by 1908, major industries that followed Western Meat Company were Steiger Terra Cotta, Fuller Paint Company, two steel mills (one being a subsidiary of U.S. Steel), a tannery, two brickyards, and a lumber company. The Bank of South San Francisco was established. Additional successes included the South San Francisco Railroad and Power Company operating an electric trolley and a power plant to supply electricity. The town has its own telephone service; Southern Pacific has redirected its main line through town for outsiders looking for employment and for neighboring towns seeking additional commerce. By 1908, the little hamlet of Baden is eclipsed by South San Francisco; the population is 1,989 and there are 14 industries; incorporation is granted by the County of San Mateo on September 3. On September 19, the State of California designates South San Francisco a city of the sixth class under the its Constitution. Andrew Hynding is elected president of the Board of Trustees and

serves one term.

Giffra and Sons, family owned store opens on the 100 block of Grand Avenue, then moves to 240 Grand in 1909.

1909 – Pacific Coast Steel (which later became Bethlehem Steel) established.
Sanitary Bakery established.

1910 – South City's population is 2500.

1912 – Santo Cristo Society formed.
The sidewalk at the corner of Linden and California Avenue is paved with the names of its donors.

A 7-room house rents for \$15 per month.

1913 – Shaw-Batcher Steele Company established.
The city block bounded by Grand, Walnut, Miller and Maple Avenues is purchased by the City from the SSF Land & Improvement Co. for its future civic center site.
South San Francisco High School District is organized and classes are temporarily held at the Grand Avenue elementary School. Rue Randall Clifford becomes first high school teacher.

1914 - Grand opening of the Metropolitan Hotel; the building housed many early businesses (e.g. restaurant, barber shop); its long association with commercial and community events is significant.
Dr. Harry Plymire converted his home, at the corner of Spruce and Grand Avenue, into a hospital.

1915 - South City's fire department acquires a Seagrave pumper, first motorized fire engine.

1916 – Carnegie Library opens - The city was incorporated for six years before concerned citizens began to feel the need to insure that their over 2000 citizens, especially the children, would have books and magazines available. In 1914, One of South San Francisco's most beloved high school teachers, Ms Rue Randall Clifford, felt the need for a library as much as her students. Riding on horseback throughout the community, this 25 year old female collected the required signatures to qualify for a grant from the steel-making philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie. An entire square block, to be used as a civic center adjoining the downtown business area, was purchased for \$10,000. Plans were immediately made for a gloriously bricked, neo-classic revival style, one-story building that would include a semi-basement as well. In 1919 the citizens approved a \$129,000 bond for the construction of a city hall and the extension of sewer lines to the industrial area. After searching for the best building design, the city forefathers approved one resembling Philadelphia's

Independence Hall. On Armistice Day, November 11, 1920, the City Hall was dedicated amid a drizzling rain. Thousands attended the dedication as well as a parade, to celebrate the introduction of the city's most impressive building on Grand Avenue.

All Souls Church at Miller & Walnut dedicated.

Italian American Citizens Club founded.

SSF is considered part of the Port of San Francisco; pierheads and bulkhead lines are established by order of the War Department. SSF shipyards went into full production, with companies such as Pacific Coast Steel and Shaw Batcher Steel Company constructing submarines, gunboats, and other wartime vessels. (During both WWI (1914-1918) and WWII (1941-1944) the shipyards produced ships to be used for war purposes.

City's first high school, Spruce Avenue High School, opens

Reichardt Duck Farm established on Mission Road.

1918 – R. S. Brown, employee of Shaw-Batcher Shipyard, won a contest sponsored by a San Francisco newspaper when he drove 1,150 7/8th inch rivets in a single day (5/31/18).

First ship is launched from Shaw-Batcher Shipyard, an 8,800 ton steamer, Isanti. It is financed by the government, which provides for an army of shipbuilders in South City by the end of the conflict.

Shaw-Batcher launches second freighter, the Nantahala.

SSF General Hospital moves to modern building at Grand & Spruce.

1919 - W. P. Fuller & Co, established in 1899, continues to grow. The plant's average shipment is 200 tons daily. Products are taken to San Francisco by barge from the company wharf or loaded into railroad cars on the company siding. By the 1950's the plant is a virtual city on almost 40 acres and paint produced at four diverse factories is distributed to 156 Fuller-owned stores throughout the west.

1920 – Population 4,411

Fred J. Lautze Ford opens South City's first automobile dealership.

City hall (costing \$125,000 that replicates Philadelphia's Independence Hall) is erected and dedicated on November 11.

1922 – Louis Belloni (born in San Jose May 12, 1895), formerly a butcher for Western Meat Company, joins the SSF Police Department.

1923 - South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce published articles in the town's newspaper, the Enterprise, promoting the community and its businesses. One of the slogans said: "Think well of your town, speak well of it, remember you live here. Buy here. Keep your tax dollars at home". In 1923, the words "South San Francisco the Industrial City" were painted on Sign Hill (white washed lime and white cement) as a temporary publicity gimmick. The hill thus becomes known as "Sign Hill"; the location separates the Parkway and Paradise Valley sections of the City. Native orange poppies, wild blue irises (the official flower of SSF), crimson sage, and Mission Blue butterflies gave the hill a vibrant and colorful background. In 1928 a \$5,000 bond measure was approved to put the 60 foot letters in cement. The Chamber felt the sign was the best advertising the city could have. It could be seen from a radius of many miles and was said to guide aviators who landed at Mills Field. In 1996 Sign Hill is placed on the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of the Office of Historic Preservation.

1924 – Louis Belloni appointed Chief of Police.

San Bruno Road is changed to Hillside Boulevard.

1925 - Louie Belloni fired. Rehired almost immediately.

Land & Improvement Co. donates land to city that becomes Orange Park. The city's first park sites cost \$22,000, the price set by the South San Francisco Land and Improvement Company. The deal offered by the Land Company was: 4.7 acres near the Martin School for \$12,000 and 3.3 acres on Miller Avenue for \$10,000 plus 20 acres in the Willows on Orange Avenue (it was then known as Third Street). The 20 acres would be a gift to the city with the proviso that the Land Company is allowed to build a road on both sides of the park and that all street paving necessary in the future be paid for by the city. Terms of the purchase were \$2,000 cash, \$2,000 a year for 10 years with 5% interest. At the height of the Depression, 1933, unemployment was about 30 percent. South San Francisco was hit hard. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the new president, tries to turn things around with the federal government providing money for hiring people at \$60 - \$90 a month. T. L. Farnsworth is hired as the city's first parks and recreation superintendent, and in 1941 the Parks and Recreation Commission is established.

1926 – Thirty-six industries operating in South City.

Groundbreaking for construction of an underpass, which will allow Bayshore Highway traffic to pass beneath Southern Pacific Railroad tracks, an essential element for a safe highway. The underpass opens September 15, 1927.

1927 – Bank of Italy (later Bank of America) established in South City. Enterprise purchased the SSF Journal.

Assessed valuation for the year 1927 was \$6,600,000 and the estimated population was 7,800.

McLellan family purchases land in South San Francisco for nursery. Operation closed in 1998.

1928 – Louis Belloni becomes Chief of the South City Volunteer Fire Department, and remained until 1930.

1929 – Sign Hill, the signature image of SSF, becomes permanent. \$4,845 is spent to plant “South San Francisco The Industrial City” in sixty foot cement letters on hill above town. 25,000 cubic yards of concrete – completed in 10 days.

1930 - Population – 6,193

Bayshore Highway opens. Augie Terragno is hired by Louis Belloni, and becomes South City’s first motorcycle police officer (nickname “Phantom of the Bayshore”). Augie reports there were often as many as six to eight accidents a day at intersection of Grand & Bayshore. He is known for herding speed violators daily into court. Augie works for the Police Dept for 42 years.

1931 – State Theater opened; located at the corner of Linden and Baden Avenues.

1932 – Western Meat Company becomes Swift and Company. By the mid-1930’s Swift was shipping as many as 88,000,000 pounds of meat a year.

Baden Dog Racing Track, just north of Tanforan, opens. Construction cost was \$100,000.

1935 - McLellan nursery opens, gardenias are grown under glass.

1938 – Dog racing declared illegal in California. Baden track closes.

An extensive program of housing was initiated under the Federal Housing Act providing new homes for the factory employees of the industrial plants. Prices were from \$4,000 to \$4,250.

5,000 people are employed at various factories, including Swift & Company (previously Western Meat Company), Bethlehem Steel (previously Pacific Coast Steel) and W.P. Fuller Paint Company.

1940 - Population 6,290

Western Pipe & Steel lays first keel under government contract for ships during World War II. There are 250 men working on the ways. By July 1944, 15,594 men and women are employed. Ships built are unique in that all 48 are constructed without rivets and replaced with welder's torch. A large percentage of welders are female.

- 1941 - Liberty Fleet Day is celebrated on September 27. The first C-3 type freighter built by Western Pipe & Steel is launched; 43 ships are built and each can carry as many as 2,000 soldiers.
- 1942 - Barrett & Help, concrete construction, builds barges at Belair Shipyard on the marsh the first keel is christened Agate; the barges are 366 feet long, with drafts from 26'-28' and capable of carrying freight of 5,000 deadweight tons. Cabin quarters accommodate a 10 man crew required to control the barge at sea.
- 1943 - Lindenville, a federal housing development, is created. There were 720 units housing 4,200 people and becomes the city's biggest headache; 90% of the units are occupied by whites and 10% are blacks. Development is turned over to city in 1955 and demolished in 1958.
- 1948 - There was an explosive period of postwar growth; the population increased from 6,629 to 15,862. There were more than 46 industries; many of them were involved in the war effort, such as Bethlehem Steel, Western Pipe and Steel, Metal and Thermit Corporation, Enterprise Engine and Foundry and Edwards Wire. Approximately 1,600 local men had been in the military and some twenty men never came home. VJ Day was celebrated with wild joy. The celebrants gathered at Fraternal Hall on Grand Avenue, and within half an hour a parade and picnic were organized. They sang, danced, laughed and cried. Everyone got so carried away with the festivities that they celebrated right on through to the next day with a barbecue at Orange Avenue Park.

Starlite Drive-in Theater opens (entrance located on Linden Avenue, bounded by Spruce Avenue and Canal Street).

- 1949 - City Manager/City Council form of government was adopted, but it wasn't until 1954 that the new system was in full operation. The first city manager was Mark Larwood.

Voters approved funding for a modern fire station and training facility and the City Council approved funding to hire paid, trained firefighters.

The historic #40 streetcar line stops. From 1903 to 1949, the #40 line was an important form of public transportation along the Peninsula. It ran from Village of Baden into San Francisco.

- 1950 - SSF population is 19,351.

The City began its irreversible transformation. In the middle of the city's industrial area stood a 150' solid rock hill occupying 80 acres. On the fringe of the area were several hundred acres of unused marshlands. Utah Construction Co., with the support of the city government, developed both areas into an "industrial park": by blasting away the entire rock and hauling it as fill to the marshland. The new development barred smokestack industries. By 1958 there were over 170 plants. Residential areas showed remarkable growth as well. New residents were attracted to the area by its mild climate, good schools, low tax rate and excellent recreation facilities.

1953 – SSF General Hospital becomes Kaiser Permanente.

1958 – SSF celebrates Golden Jubilee in grand style.

170 industrial plants (light and heavy) operating in SSF.

1959 - Reichardt Duck farm closes and moves to Petaluma.

1960 – Population 39,418.

Louie Belloni retires as Chief of Police after 38½ years on the job – ever so reluctantly (May 31). John Fabbri appointed.

1961 – Newly constructed El Camino High School opens on the former Reichardt Duck Farm on Old Mission Road.

Monsignor Egisto Tozzi died (10/11).

1962 – The city experienced one of the most successful years in its history during 1962 including the opening of the beautiful new Oyster Point Marina that provided facilities for 286 small craft. This later would be expanded to hold over 400 boats by the 1970's. The Marina included a fuel dock and landscaping for recreation purposes. Oyster Point is a popular site for fishing, boating, swimming, and other recreational activities (later windsurfing becomes popular).

WP Fuller Paint Plant merged with Hunt Foods & 1967 merged with O'Brien Varnish and became Fuller O'Brien

530 acres of Westborough are annexed

1963 – Plans for Cabot, Cabot & Forbes Industrial Park are announced; first companies to relocate here are F. W. Woolworth, Graybar Electric, Infant Specialty Company, Monterey Cheese and Thompson Industries, Inc.

1964 - All Souls Church destroyed in spectacular fire. Rebuilding begins in 1965.

- 1965 - 92 foot steel sculpture designed by Aristides Demetrios unveiled on hilltop in the 7600 acre industrial park.
- 1966 - City's population is 47,700
- 1967 - The new SSF Library is dedicated in memory of Rue Clifford. Cost of construction: \$865,000.
- 1968 - Otto Preminger came to town to film part of movie "Skidoo" in the SSF City Hall. Swift & Co closes down.
- 1969 - New All Souls church at Miller & Walnut is dedicated.
- 1970 - Population 46,646.
- City voters vote to retain Sign Hill. City estimates the cost of removal at \$40,000.
- 1974 - Kaiser Permanente Medical Center moves from old building at Grand & Spruce to modern facility at 1200 El Camino Real.
- 1975 - 325 full time employees work for the City of SSF.
- 1976 - Starting in a semi-vacant warehouse, Robert Swanson and Herbert Boyer founded Genentech as the first company to apply recombinant DNA technology commercially. From a city built on an entrepreneurial spirit once filled with stockyards, steel mills, and meat-slaughtering houses, South San Francisco has emerged as the world capital in biotechnology. Along the way, the city was able to retain its original entrepreneurial atmosphere but managed to switch industries and lure many biotech firms to South San Francisco as the ideal location. South San Francisco has become the center of bioscience worldwide - the birthplace of the biotechnology industry, and home of what is arguable the highest concentration of commercial biotechnology companies anywhere.
- 1980 - Population 49,393.
- 1981 - Historical Society incorporated.
- 1983 - U. S. Steel closes SSF plant after almost 70 years of service. After the city's incorporation it was the steel industry which came to dominate the city, define its character and give it major importance. Western Pipe and Steel (which opened in 1913 as Shaw Batcher Pipe Works and was taken over by United States Steel in 1929) was originally constructed to supply heavy-riveted penstock for PG&E. It fabricated thousands of miles of pipe and penstock, as well as steel locks, dam gates and other components for the infrastructure of California's water and hydroelectric developments. Its workers also fabricated key parts for most of the

Bay Area's oil refineries and many of its power plants, structural members for the Moscone and Oakland convention centers, San Francisco's Hyatt Regency Hotel and the San Mateo Bridge, and saddles for the Alaska pipeline. The property was sold to Shearwater Development for a commercial development.

SSF Conference Center opens (April).

1988 – South San Francisco Historical Society Museum opens at Magnolia Senior Center, 601 Grand Avenue (November)

1990 – Population 54,312.

1991 - Fuller O'Brien closes???????

1994 - Folger's Coffee plant closes.

1995 – Historical Society acquires Plymire house, located at 519 Grand Avenue.

1996 – Sign Hill placed on California Registration of Historical Resources and National Register of Historical Places

First Day in the Park - an annual event occurring each September at Orange Memorial Park. The one-day event was created by councilman Joe Fernekes to bring the community together for a fun day, entirely free. A car show, farmers market, petting zoo, entertainment and educational exhibitions are included. Local companies, such as Genentech, See's Candies, Britannia Investments, Myers Development, Hines, and Slough Estes sponsor the event and pay for much of the operating cost.

1999 – 40 biotech companies are located in SSF.

Millennium sculpture (James T. Russell, sculptor) is dedicated (11/5/99)

2001 – Community Learning Center opens at 520 Tamarack Lane, a portion of the building once housed the high school shop classes.

2003 – Genentech employs 4,500 employees. SSF becomes home to over 80 biotech companies.

SSF BART station opens (June) and becomes an immediate asset to the community. Its unique design of barrel vault roofs with a mountain peak pattern, are intended to reflect the adjacent, majestic San Bruno Mountain and surrounding foothills. Inside the station, Artists Rufus Butler Seder and Jeff Northam created a series of 16 LifeTile animated murals (glass block tiles carrying graphic images that are set in motion as one moves past them) that represent aspects of the industrial, cultural, and social history of SSF. The murals

combine historic and contemporary images that illustrate the physical, industrial and demographic changes that have taken place in South San Francisco over the past century.

2008 – Magnolia Center Museum closes on June 30; new 80 Chestnut Avenue museum ribbon cutting is held November 6; SSF centennial year celebration is spectacular starting with Gala on January 1, Multi-Cultural Dinner on March 23, Fourth of July barbecue at Orange Park, Day in the Park on September 20 and Historical Society Annual Banquet on October 24.