

## **SAS TOUR** - *“Fremont: Fossils, Native Americans, and Mission”* led by Paul K. Davis

On Saturday, October 7 and Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> seven members of Sacramento Archeological Society attended a historical and pre-history tour in Fremont, CA. They visited the Children's Natural History Museum; Mission San Jose with its associated museum; the Museum of Local History; Coyote Hills Regional Park where Tuibun, a Chochenyo Ohlone-speaking tribe lived; and Shinn House Historical Park site. They also viewed the illumination of the altar of mission at sunset.



SAS tour group and guide at Museum of Local History\*

### **Math/Science Nucleus Paleontology Museum in Children's Natural History Museum**

Ken Miller and Eltha Robert presented a slide show on Fremont's early history highlighting the Ivingtonian faunal fossils found at Bell Quarry on Sabercat Creek by Wes Gordon and his Hayward Boy Paleontologists during excavations in 1940's. The fossils mentioned in the talk and displayed in the Wes Gordon Fossil Hall included saber-tooth cats, mammoth, Western horse, mastodon, Pronghorn antelope, dire wolf and ground sloth. The museum also included the "Tools of Early Humans" exhibit to show how California Native Americans used natural fibers and rocks to help them survive.



Wes Gordon Fossil Hall display

The tour continued at the **Mission San Jose Museum** with a short historical film and a walkthrough of mission history through displays. Mission San Jose was founded on June 11, 1797 by Father Fermin Francisco de Lasuen on a site which was part of a natural highway by way of the Livermore Valley to the San Joaquin Valley. It is the fourteenth of the 21 Spanish Missions in Alta California. Before establishing Mission San Jose, the area was the Ohlone Village of Oroysom.

At about 6:30 PM on Saturday near the end of a church service in the **Mission San Jose Church** the setting sun shone of the alter especially highlighting the rays above Christ's image.



Mission San Jose Church

### **The Museum of Local History**

The tour members were first introduced to the history of Fremont through aerial maps of the city. Then they stepped through time through exhibits: ranchos, fossils, schools, wineries, transportation, kitchen utensils, etc. There was a wealth of memorabilia.



Fremont aerial maps\*

### **Coyote Hills Regional Park**

Martha Arlette Cerda led our tour. Before walking into the low lands to a village site for the Tuibun, a Chochenyo Ohlone-speaking tribe, she highlighted crafts made from local materials. On the tour Martha pointed out the ecosystems and their natural resources. We even tasted pickleweed. The East Bay area's original inhabitants were the ancestors of the Ohlone Indians, hunters and gatherers whose skills enabled them to live well off the land's natural bounty.





Illustrating crafts\*



Coyote Hills wet lands\*

**Shinn House Historical Park**

The tour through the Shinn House provided another glimpse at the history of Fremont through the experiences of James and Lucy Shinn and their descendants. The Big House dates back to 1876 and it is surrounded by large trees and beautiful gardens. The 20.1 acre property is the remnant of the California Nursery Company, a once grand nursery operation.

\*Photos by Jan Johansen