



SAN JOSE'S HISTORIC LANDMARK CLOCK TOWER

RESTORING SOUND TO
A HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARVEL

Why restore clock tower bell operation to our Historic Landmark Clock Tower?

- Add Sound to the Tower's Current Visual Prominence
- Feature the Clock's Historic Technology
- Enhanced Sense Of Place & Civic Pride



Significance?

The Nels Johnson Century Clock is the oldest continuously operating piece of high technology in Silicon Valley



No one knows we have this technical jewel.
It's been largely forgotten for over a century.

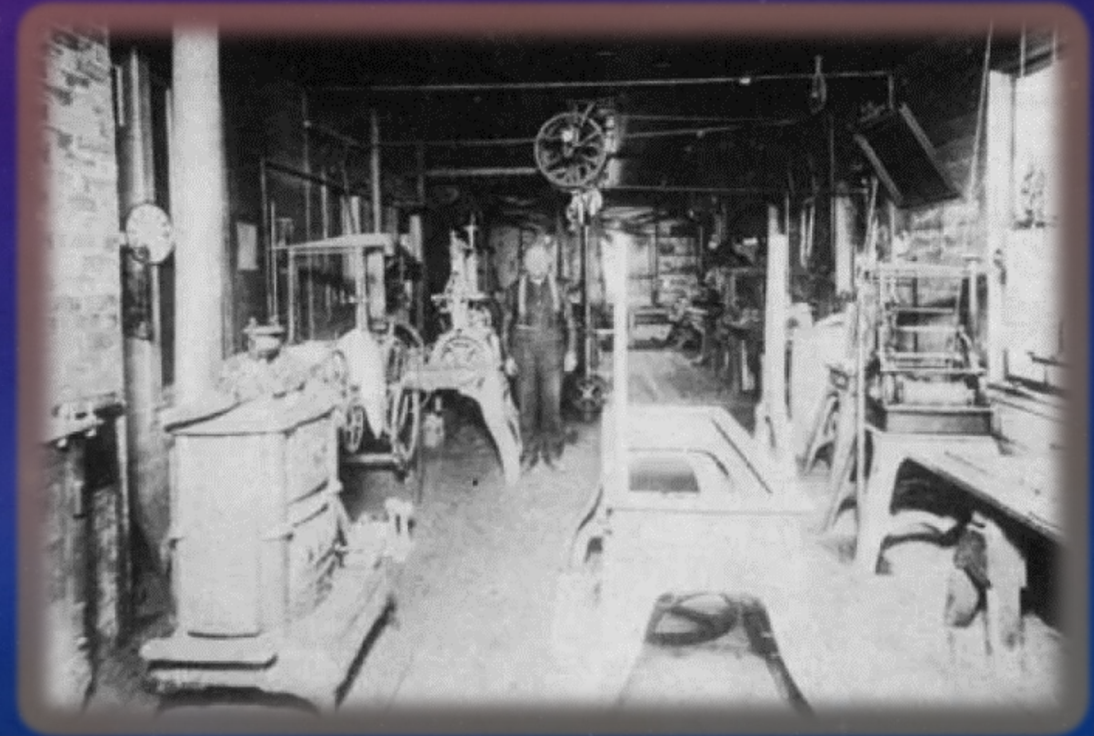


San Jose, the capital of Silicon Valley, has its premiere landmark. Yet few know.

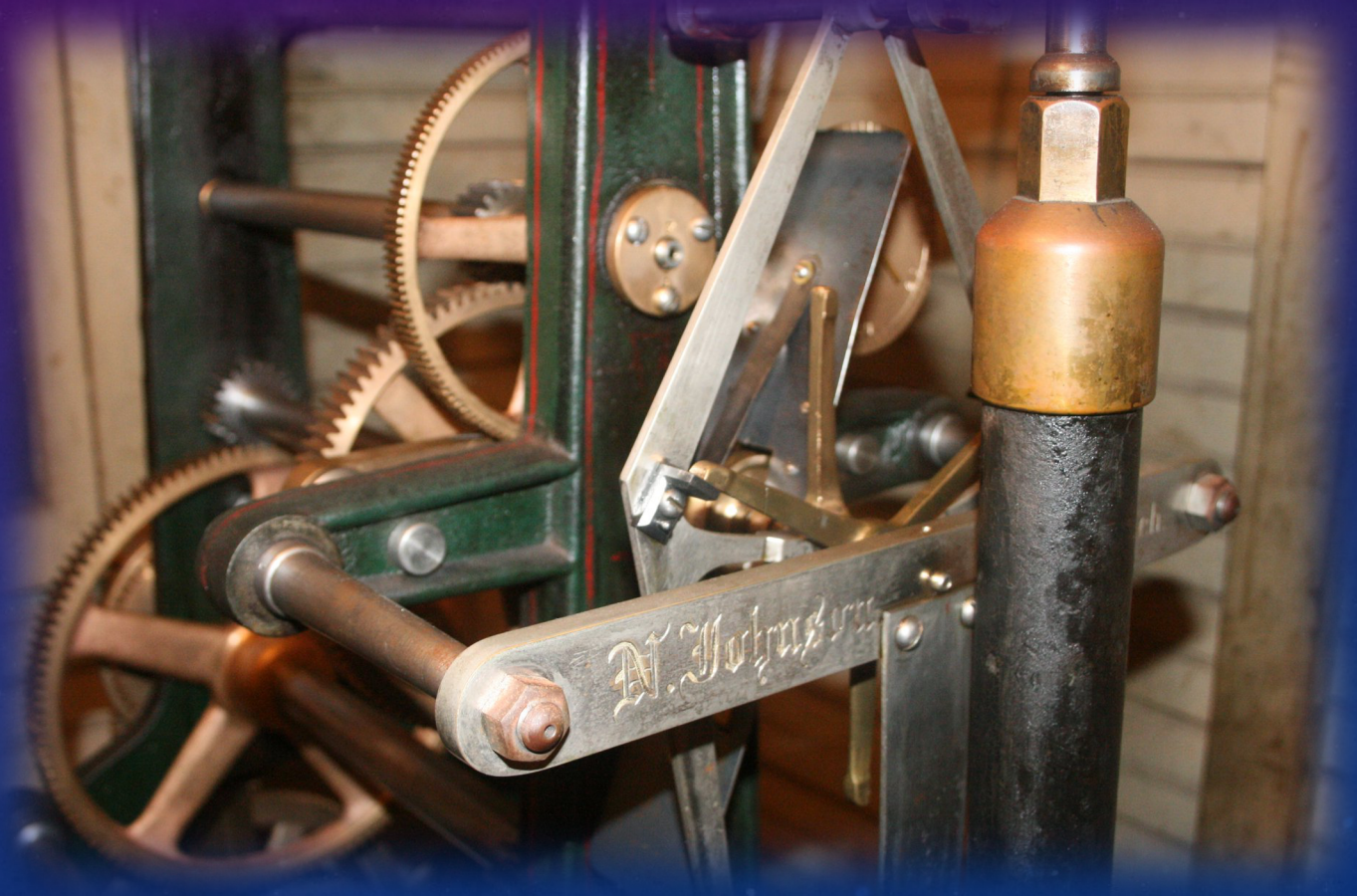
San Francisco:



San Jose



Secured in a post 1906 Earthquake tower, faithfully keeping time as the heartbeat of our city, but unable to trigger the ringing of its historic bell.



Did you know that? Have you heard it?



95% of the public does not know we have an amazing one-of-a-kind technological wonder ticking above their heads.



Clockmaker Nels Johnson associated with other early technologists and innovators of the day:

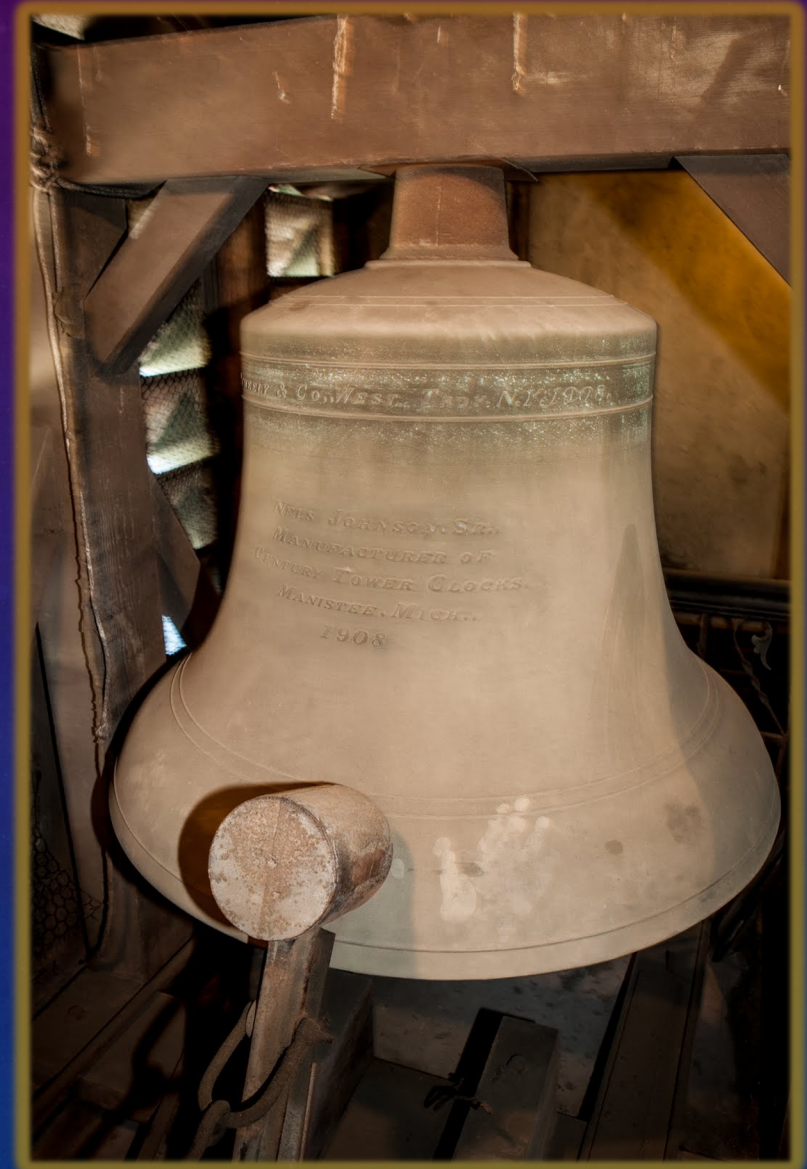
- Charles “Doc” Herrold, Father of Radio Broadcasting, San Jose
- John J. Montgomery, Aviation Pioneer, Santa Clara College
- Fr. Richard Bell, Radio invention, Santa Clara College
- Guglielmo Marconi, Father of Radio
- Nikola Tesla, Father of Electricity, Inventor
- Thomas Edison, Inventor
- Father Jerome Ricard, Sunspot weather forecasting pioneer, Santa Clara College
- William Hussey, Astronomer, Lick Observatory

We have a limited time opportunity to introduce
the world to San Jose's finest example of early
technology.

How?

What's Missing?

In addition to assembling his hand-forged mechanical clock, Nels Johnson also brought a 1,500-pound bronze bell from Manistee, Michigan, to announce time in order to bring attention to the work of the city's precise timekeeper.

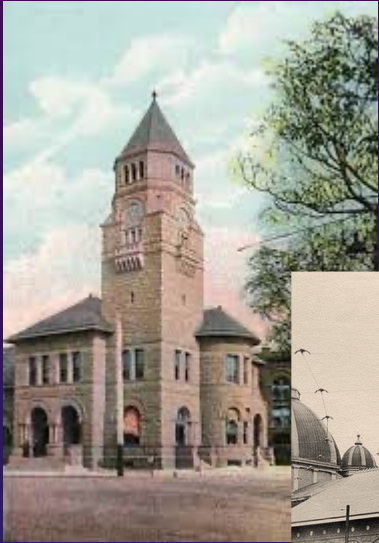


The Inventor/Creator?

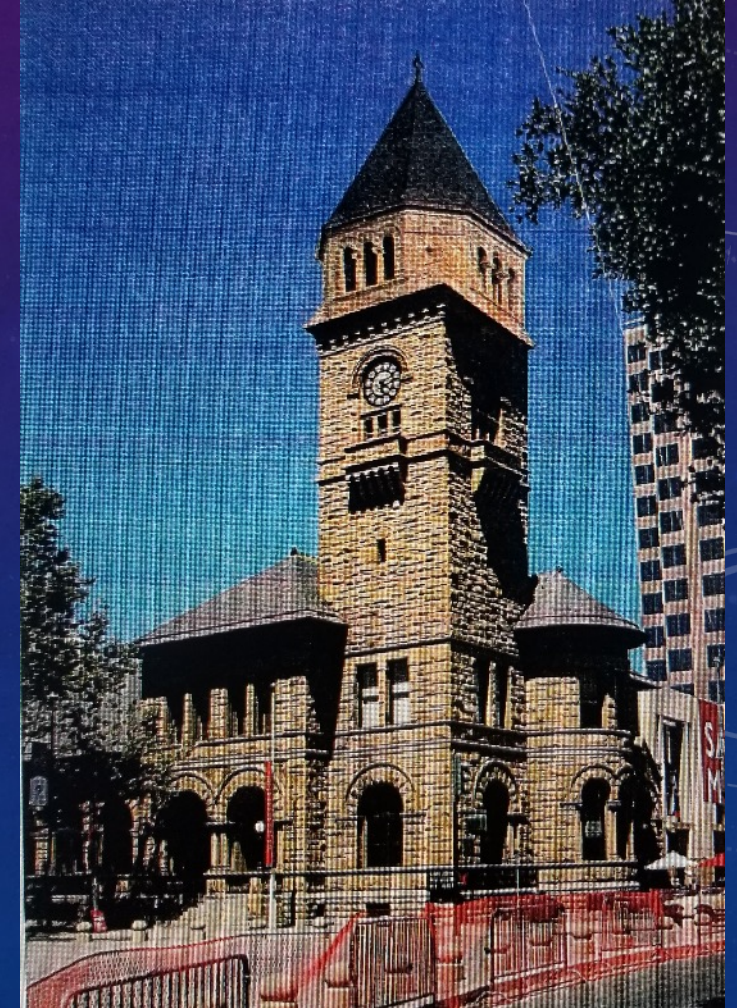
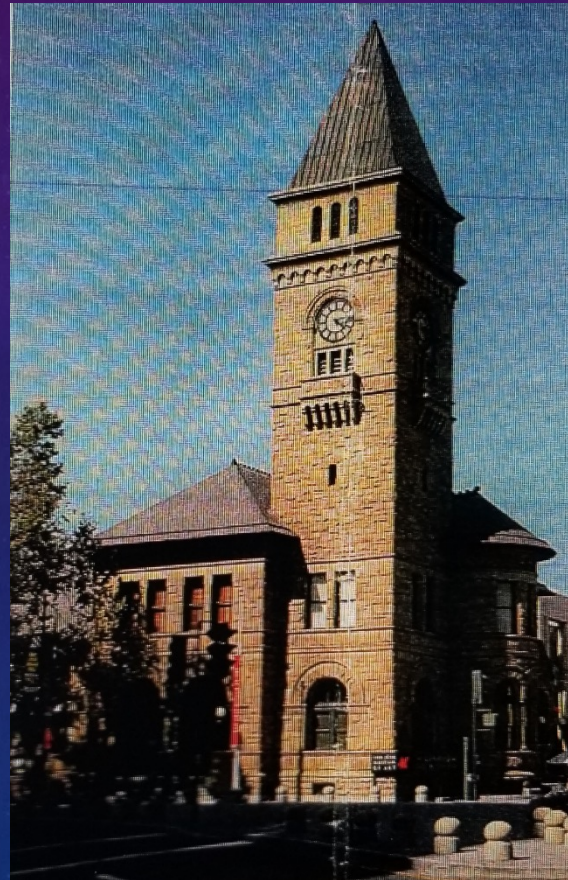
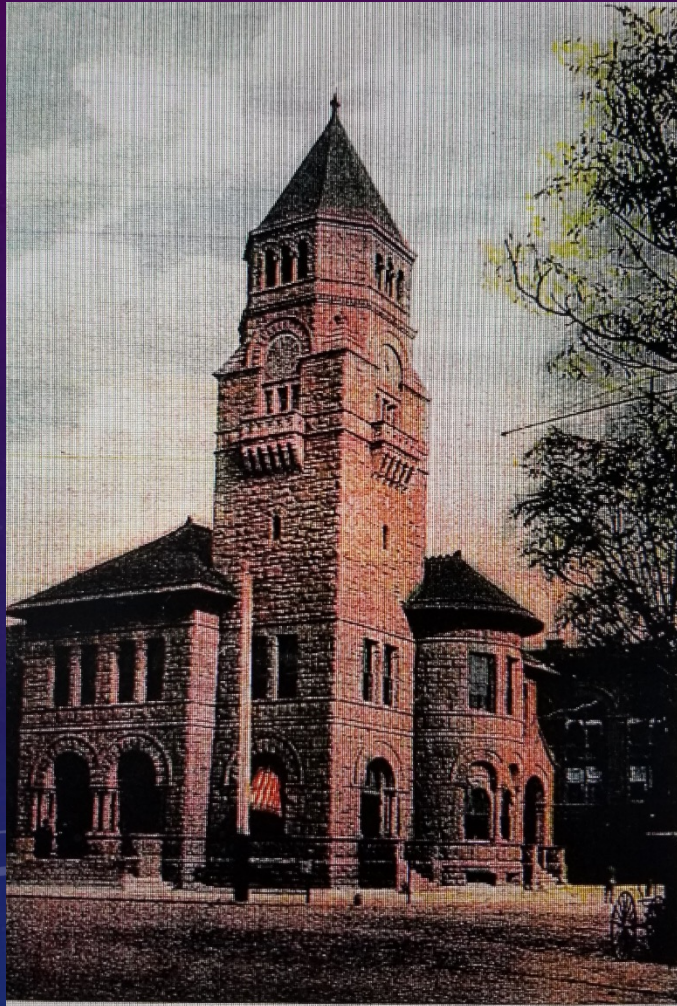
Self taught in mathematics, trigonometry, and astronomy, Johnson created the finest mechanical clocks of the day.



Adding a belfry to the top of the current tower, will enable the bell to be heard and appreciated by the local and visiting public.



Currently the PACSJ Clock Tower Committee is reviewing design options.



Design Objectives

- Add a belfry for the Clock Tower bell that is sympathetic to current architecture, materials, etc.
- Enable the Clock to ring its historic bell
- Avoid damage to existing structure
- Avoid impact to tenant operations
- Bring prominence to San Jose's technical reputation

Why Do This Now?

- The State has funding for history projects like this one (but time is of the essence)
- The idea is backed by State, County and City officials
- This project features a telling of a key story of who we are. (San Jose has been making history, every day, for a long time)

