

PERALTA ADOBE - FALLON HOUSE



Photo: V. Batchelor

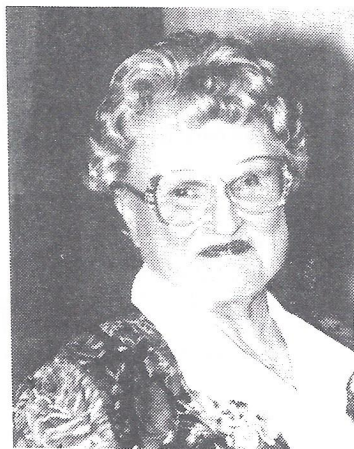
PERALTA ADOBE

By Ruth Patton

(Reprinted from June, 1994 TRAIL TALK)

It has been a number of years since I was a docent at the San Jose Historical Museum. During that period of time (seven years) I conducted quite a few tours of the Peralta Adobe. It was sometimes difficult to keep a group interested because after the historical facts were presented and the exterior viewed, there wasn't much more to see. True, there was a kiosk with a diorama and a message but the interior of the adobe consisted of two earth-floored rooms without any furnishings.

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Miriam Clark



President's Message

As the new fiscal year begins, it is time to thank those who have ably served on the Pioneers Board and decided to take their leave to pursue other activities begging for their attention. It appears to me that when people retire they either find a rocking chair and vegetate

their life away, become so involved in ALL the activities they put off to participate in "when they retired" and suddenly discover that they have less time for themselves than they had when they were working, or else their health begins to fail.

MANY THANKS TO:

--JAMES REID who did much to streamline the treasurer's activities; checked into and put our money into the highest possible interest-earning accounts, and generally watched over our income and outgo. He wrote down a detailed set of procedures for future treasurers to make the job easier. We are most appreciate of his efforts. The Burbanks had enthusiastically volunteered to take over this position but have now resigned due to ill health.

--TOMMY WARREN Financial Secretary/Membership Chairman and helpmate LEAH who have kept our membership records up-to-date. Leah resigned from the Board last year so she could help Tommy and have only one job instead of two. Membership Chairman/Financial Secretary keeps track of our membership, reminds people to keep their dues up-to-date, and makes sure addresses are current so we do not have to pay double postage for the TRAILBLAZER. It is a two-person job that lends itself nicely to a couple who like to work together on a project. The Johnsons will assume this position.

--ROBERT OLIVER retiring 2nd Vice President who made sure our quarterly luncheons ran smoothly, we had good food to eat, and theyre was enough of it. Robert also

helped Richard Hill with the Hacienda Cemetery renovation and upkeep. James Arbuckle will be assuming this position.

--MAXINE DIXON Recording Secretary who took the Board meeting minutes, typed and duplicated them. Doris Herschbach has consented to handle this position along with her extensive project of organizing old family pictures and history.

Each person on the Pioneer Board is expected to take an organizational job if they are going to serve on the Board. Unfortunately this sometimes comes as rather a shock to new members; I know it was for me; but somehow you learn to reorganize, squeeze, and eliminate. As I have mentioned, it is extremely important to each organization a person belongs to, for that person to set aside a minimum of one year to take an active, governing part in that organization, in spite of being extremely busy with other activities and organizations. If each person were an active participant on one board for a one-year period, or longer if they happened to enjoy that particular job, then all organizations would have less of a problem carrying on their activities. I would hope that this is not too much to ask, and you will consider "helping out" next year when, of if, you are asked to serve; or better yet, volunteer.

DEFINITIONS--EDITOR: One who edits. EDIT: To prepare an edition of...; to assemble, cut, rearrange, adapt; to DIRECT the publication of...

Once again we apologize for the late TRAILBLAZER last quarter. We have revised our calendar to hopefully assure its timely arrival. The TRAILBLAZER is another area in which YOU can be of help. Many of you have or know of someone who has a story to tell. It will simplify our editor's job if you could make sure the story reach our editor on or before the 15th of July, October, January, or April. It does not need to be "perfect," just a detailed outline or a recollection on audio tape. Our editor can then mold it into a readable story or article. Our editor needs your support. She will be waiting to hear from you SOON.

Maxine Dixon

TRAVELIN' ROSE VISITS ST. AUGUSTINE

By Rose Crimi

A recent visit to St. Augustine brought home interesting parallels between Florida and California history. St. Augustine, on the Atlantic coast of north Florida, is the first landing place of European explorers on what is now the United States.

When Ponce de Leon and his party went ashore on Easter Sunday, 1512, they were amazed to find six-foot tall native peoples who towered over the five-foot tall Spaniards. Old Ponce probably concluded "It must be the water!" Had he found the Fountain of Youth?

The Indians indeed drank from natural mineral springs similar to the ones we have at Alum Rock Park and just as odiferous. However, the real reason the Indians were so tall was that they practiced the custom of have the tallest men marry the tallest women, thereby affecting the gene pool. Coincidentally, Ponce de Leon lived to the ripe old age of 61, way past the life expectancy of the time especially for his hazardous occupation. He died in Cuba from the wound of a poisoned arrow.

A later follower, Pedro Menendez, established a permanent settlement at St. Augustine in 1565, preceding the English settlement in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.

Like the California explorers, the Spaniards were accompanied by padres who established a mission. Another essential was the building of a fort. Today's Castillo de San Marcos is the direct successor of that fort, albeit much modified by English occupiers and the U.S. military. It is now operated by the National Park Service.

Speeding ahead to the 19th century, Florida became a U.S. territory and later a state in 1845, just five years before California statehood.

Just as the railroad barons opened up California to development, Florida had its own railroad baron, Henry Flagler. Flagler visited St. Augustine in the 1880's and immediately saw the business possibilities. This could be a haven for the shivering East coast elite to escape the cold northern winters. Needed were luxurious resort hotels and a railroad line to get people there. Flagler provided both. One of his hotels is now

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What Can You Do?

Buildings to the left of them,
Buildings to the right of them,
Half a league, half a league onwards
charged the San Jose bulldozers

The city council has pretty well made the Scheller House history even though the Preservation Action Council listed resources available to save it. Now the civic people are pointed towards old River Street (not to mention Costa Hall, the Native Sons and Daughters old place) where about 40 houses are slated to go for reasons of flood control (!?) and general Arena tidying up. The old Torino Hotel (Henry's Hi-life) will stay due to its popularity. San Jose's history groups better hang together, otherwise they'll face Ben Franklin's alternative.

If you have an interest in preserving old San Jose, call Jim Arbuckle at 265-9722.



Continued from page 4 TRAVELIN' ROSE

Flagler College, featuring a classic columned rotunda entrance hall and a huge dining room with original Tiffany glass windows and heavy wood tables and chairs. Contrary to what one might think, the modern-day college students treat the priceless furniture with care and respect.

Another of Flagler's hotels now houses the St. Augustine City Hall and the reknown Lightner Museum filled with American furniture, cut crystal and Tiffany glass.

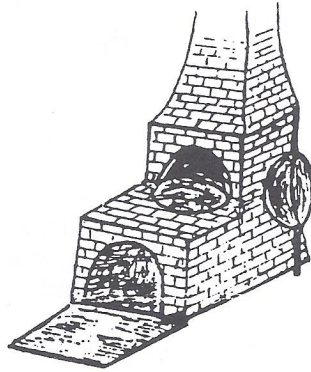
It was gratifying to see how St. Augustine has preserved its historical heritage by strict building codes and loving preservation of its treasures.

St. Augustine is well worth a visit, and it is a welcome contract to the Orlando and Miami Beach tourist meccas.



Peralta Adobe

Illustrator- Jack Clough



Continued from page 1

On April 16, 1994, when the CANV-HI chapter of OCTA (Oregon-California Trails Association) held its conference in San Jose I had an opportunity to re-visit Peralta Adobe. What a transformation! The two rooms are now furnished with chests, chairs, a bed, a crib, tables and many other items. The young man acting as docent was also the creator of most of these furnishings. Much careful research and skillful handiwork has resulted in giving present-day visitors a quite authentic glimpse of the adobe and its inhabitants.

It is still two rooms but the bedroom has been furnished in the style of the early 1800's Spanish period and the living room reflects the Mexican period of about 1840. In the bedroom is a bed whose "mattress" is made of leather straps, and a crib hanging by strips of deerskin. There are also chests, tables and lamps appropriate to the period.

In the living room, among many other pieces, is an ornate saddle displayed on a stand, and some decorated cloaks. We were told that wealth and prestige in those days was not determined by your home but by your personal accoutrements. The persons responsible for the restoration have wisely left the scarred walls as they were years ago. Altogether - a job well done!

During my docent days the Fallon House directly across the street from the Peralta Adobe, was not a place open to the public. Its elegant front door was then a side door facing another building. I remember seeing men curled up on the porch - their wine bottles beside them.

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Again - what a transformation! This mid-1850's house was built by Thoms Fallon and his wife. They lived here from 1858 to 1878. It is not my intent to delve into the history of this man, but to say something about his home as it has been restored and reconstructed. In those days it was definitely considered a mansion. Some of the items in the house did belong to the Fallons, but most of the furnishings were carefully chosen to augment the originals and were meticulously restored.

In the kitchen is a marvelously different cookstove. I have never seen anythings like it before and it was probably not the type used by the Fallons, but I suspect the restoration staff could not resist using it. The parlors, the bedrooms, the dining room, everything is so well done that one cannot help but feel a sense of the history of that period.

When I stood in the attractive front gardens of the two-story Fallon House and looked across the street at the squat Peralta Adobe, I was proud to have been and to still be a part of the organization responsible for these two "transformations". To all those hard-working people - you have accomplished much and deserve our accolades. And, to all of you who have not seen these two buildings - go, see - you will like it.



Photo: V. Batchelor

Front entrance - Fallon House

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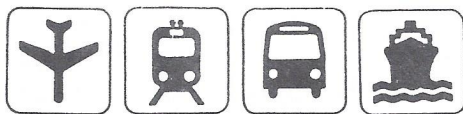
On behalf of the members of the California Pioneer Society of Santa Clara County, the TRAILBLAZER extends sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of our departed members.

Welcome New Members

Joseph H. Burch
Kristiane M. Maas
Martha Ann Maggini
Hannah Quain

PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR NEXT LUNCHEON





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HISTORIC SANTA CLARA with AUSTEN WARBURTON. Who knows Santa Clara better than its favorite son? Austen will "show and tell" us in his own inimitable style, about some of the historic buildings and people who are part of the rich history of Santa Clara. Hosted lunch served in the Adobe on the University of Santa Clara campus, plus a special celebration! Don't miss it! Saturday, November 12th 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. \$27.00 per person.



*Austen
Warburton*



THE HAYES MANSION AND CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK. The "Gem of Edenvale" will be dressed in Christmas finery for our guided tour of this 64-room Mediterranean Revival mansion. Now restored to its former grandeur, it will be the setting for a Christmas luncheon (included). "Christmas in the Park" in downtown San Jose will add to our joyous spirit of the holiday season. Tuesday, December 13th 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. \$31.00 per person.

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