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San Jose During Spanish Influenza



Native Sons of Golden West wore mandatory masks for their open air meeting at St. James Park, Nov. 1, 1918. (Photo: History San Jose)

In September, 1918, Dr. W. C. Bailey, the Health Officer from the San Jose City Health Department, announced that the flu was travelling through the country but hoped, "San Jose will not be visited by the Spanish Influenza, especially the army posts" (*Evening News*, 9/28/1918).

But by October 9, Dr. Bailey was sorry to report the city now had 70 cases of flu and Camp Fremont¹ had about 200 quarantined sick. He requested that all cases be reported and isolated, and that the city must begin an education campaign.

By October 14, 1918, the Spanish Influenza in San Jose was raging. Schools had closed four days earlier. Teachers began sewing masks which could be boiled to sterilize and then ironed. Libraries and churches were closed. There were about 100 new cases each day and increasing. All sports games and other gatherings were cancelled and the *Evening News* (10/17/18) reported that the influenza epidemic was at its height. News for that day described one of many deaths—a man caring for a sick neighbor who had himself later died leaving a wife and six children, all sick

with the flu. The first of the nurses in the city had died on Oct. 18. The city's death list was mounting by October 23.

At that time, Dr. Bailey, stated that O'Connor's Sanitarium was equipped to care for some additional patients. All medical facilities were desperate for more nurses, even calling for those nursing students

who had not yet graduated. In fact, calls went out for "all sensible women" volunteers to care for the sick "that only women can give." Garden City Sanitarium advertised for volunteers to wash dishes and set out food trays.

Days later, Dr. Bailey reported that there were now on average 50-60 new influenza cases each day, some suffering from pneumonia. A prominent local doctor, Dr. Joseph Regil worked tirelessly day and night aiding flu sufferers but he died on Oct. 24. Another doctor reported he was caring for 35 patients with the flu, some with pneumonia that often attacked the flu victim after the patient appeared to recover. Many policemen were ill. The nearby WWI Army facility, Camp Fremont in Palo Alto, was infected with frightening case numbers of flu, pneumonia and deaths. More than 100 Stanford students were also cared for at the base hospital.

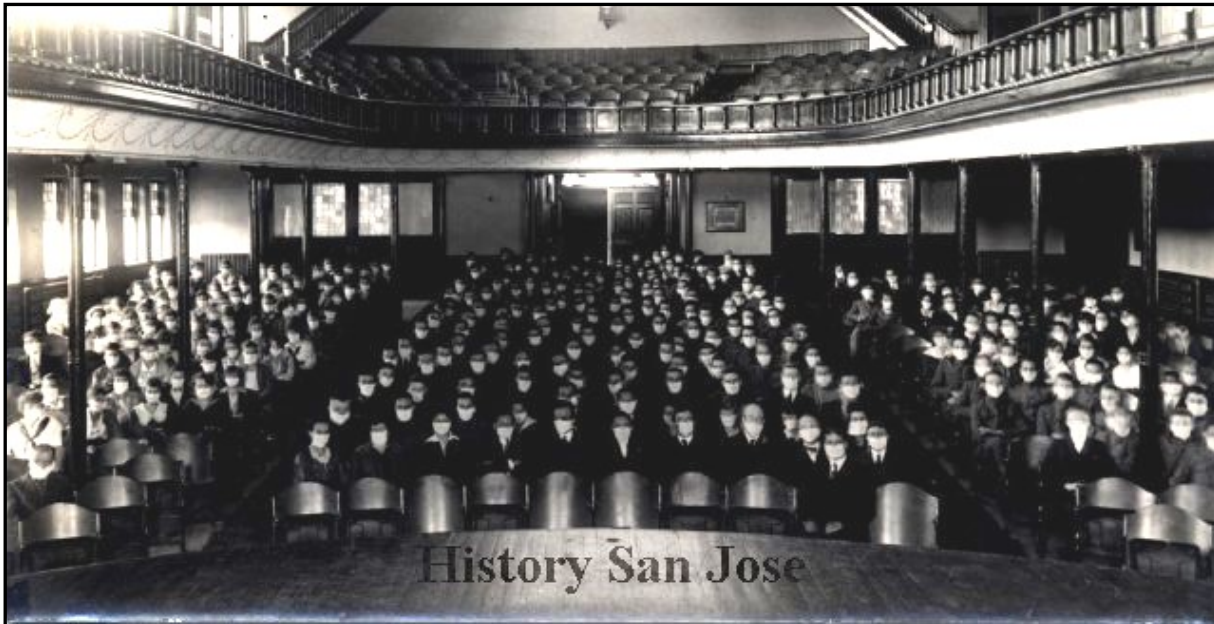
The San Jose community rose to the crisis. For example, the Christian Scientists served

(Text Continued page 3)

No Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

The normally scheduled Pioneers quarterly luncheon will not be held in June due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The California Pioneers hope you and your family are doing well during our county's shelter-in-place. Staying connected is especially important now and without our quarterly luncheons or events, we miss seeing and talking to you. Keep in touch with our Facebook page and other social media. We will soon be back together again, hopefully toward the end of this year.

Spanish Influenza (Continued)



College of Pacific students in San Jose celebrating the day they were allowed to remove their masks on Nov. 15, 1918.



Office crew at U.S. Rubber Works in San Jose wearing the required masks in 1918.

(Photos: History San Jose)

(Continued page 3)

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Spanish Influenza (Continued)

the sick and furnished two gallons of broth every day to the needy. The poorest families suffered the most, with too little food or warm clothes and blankets. Residents were urged not to use the phone for visiting since it could clog the lines for those who needed help.

In the *Evening News* (Oct. 28, 1918), the W.C.T.U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union) President, Josephine Rogers, urged every member to help nurse the sick if able, saying, "Shall women in this community be less courageous in the hour of need than the boys they delight to honor in France?" She referred to the U.S. soldiers fighting in WWI. It was "a time to go over the top in service." Further, the W.C.T.U. President stated that, "The need is shockingly greater than the community realizes."

On Oct. 28, the San Jose City Council passed an emergency ordinance requiring all residents to wear a mask in public or be charged with a misdemeanor resulting in a fine (\$5-\$100) or jail time up to 10 days (*Evening News*, Oct. 30). Now masks were worn by all those walking along the streets and by the jitney drivers. About 1000 masks per day were made of 5" x 7" layers of gauze or butter cloth at the high school.

News articles promoted Dobell's Solu-

tion² as a gargle to fight off the influenza, suggesting that men carry a flask in their vest pocket to use after any exposure. Another recommendation along with wearing masks was to avoid drafts. Ads touted medical sponges to insert in nostrils or "Magic Ointment" for a cure-all. Another home remedy described boiling down 12 large onions in four cups of water until reduced to two cups, drinking, going to bed with a hot flat iron and heavy blankets and sweating it out. After that, directions said to drink one tablespoon of Epsom salts in warm water.

On October 29, Dr. Bailey stated in the *Mercury News* after the slight lull in flu cases, "It is high time the public at large got out of the idea that the crest of the epidemic has passed, or that there is no particular danger. The situation is very serious and masks are compelled to wear." Six days later he warned: expect the return of the flu later in December.

On Nov. 11, churches and other establishments re-opened and masks were not now required to be worn.

By Nov. 15, (*Evening News*) the President of the Agnew State Hospital Board, T. S. Montgomery, proudly reported that there were no cases of influenza at Agnew though other institutions had hundreds of cases. Agnew housed 1800 patients at that time.

Toward the end of November the cases and deaths seemed to be still falling and on 11/27/18 headlines in the *Evening News* shouted out, "Flu Epidemic Now Fully Knocked Out."

As case numbers slowly decreased, on December 4, doctors warned the public that the flu

would return in 1919. The flu hit in waves so when new cases and death counts dipped, residents concluded San Jose was over the crest. Doctors warned not to become complacent.

On Dec. 11, Dr. Bailey appointed Dr. James B. Bullitt as the acting Health Officer since Bailey was also serving as the City Manager. Flu cases were on the upswing so masks were again required and schools closed until Jan. 6. Many students had become sick although their cases were said to be less virulent. However, two teenagers had just died. If there was no improvement in the number of cases, Dr. Bullitt said amusement and retail establishments would have to close again. Previous elimination of public gatherings had improved the San Jose case load in October (*Mercury News*, 12/11/18).

Placards on homes where the flu was present were more strongly enforced by Dec. 14, preventing any entrance or exit without authorization. An alarming increase in flu cases caused the theaters, churches, poolrooms, lounges and dance halls to close by Dec. 18. The *Mercury News* stated on that day that, "Every person should feel a moral responsibility to abide by the new orders." But the day before Christmas the ban was lifted on churches so residents attended services for the holiday.

By Jan. 1, 1919, Dr. Bullitt reported that the flu cases had become more serious and increasing in numbers. He pleaded for cooperation and stressed that patients must be isolated.

In a Jan. 9, 1919 (*Mercury News*) report, San Jose still had 55 new cases and 5 deaths from the previous few days. When influenza cases were identified, placards were still placed on houses where residents were infected. Twenty-seven additional placards were placed on homes that day. Seventeen placards were removed, releasing the recovered residents from restrictions, leaving 331 remaining placards on houses.

(Continued page 4)



Native Sons without their masks at St. James Park, McKinley Statue, Nov. 1, 1918 (Photo: History San Jose)

Influenza (Continued)

Influenza cases through mid-January averaged from 20-70 new cases with 0-6 deaths each day. New instructions were emphasized to the public: avoid crowds, wash hands and stay home if sick. Schools slated to open the first week in January were still closed (except College of Pacific, still in San Jose). The flu prevented relatives from holding funeral services. Public dances were again banned. Then numbers slowly decreased through the end of the month.

On January 28, 1919 (*Mercury News*), Dr. Bullitt expressed his fear that people were relaxing their vigilance for personal and family protection. Again, he urged taking precautions and remaining vigilant saying, "The burden of responsibility rests with the people themselves. Flu patients must isolate themselves six days after their fever was gone." Yet, the next day it was reported there were no new cases or deaths. By February, the Spanish Flu had subsided and Dr. Bullitt reported that San Jose cases totaled 3,785 between October until Feb. 1. The death total was 239, a fatality rate of 6.3% (*Evening News*, 2/6/1919). A day later, Dr. Bullitt announced that there had been no new cases or deaths for the last few days. On March 21, Camp Fremont declared it was free from the disease.

News or death notices about the flu were rare in the newspapers after February 10. Toward the end of 1919 there was scant news of the flu recurring but in January and February, 1920, the flu returned to San Jose in much lower numbers of cases and deaths. San Francisco, Oakland and Stockton had higher numbers, but the flu virus seemed less virulent.

According to the present-day CDC information³, the new H1N1 influenza virus emerged in Spring of 1918, accelerated by WWI conditions (overcrowding, global



Children's Ward at San Jose Convalescent Hospital, 1918 Flu Epidemic. Beds, blankets, bedding, clothes, flowers and toys were donated by the townspeople.

troop movement, poor nutrition/sanitation during wartime). The first flu-like cases in the U.S. were documented at Fort Riley and Haskell County in Kansas in March 1918, but by September 1918, a second wave of influenza, appearing the most lethal, developed near Boston, both at Camp Devens and a naval facility.

Cases peaked in the U.S. between September and November with a majority of deaths occurring at that time, exacerbated due to a serious shortage of nurses. Although the elderly and young were the most vulnerable, there were a substantial number of young adults who also succumbed. A third wave of influenza arrived in the winter and spring of 1919 with lower death rates and subsiding by summer.

The major public health crisis in 1918-1919 infected about 500 million people and caused between 50-100 million deaths worldwide, approximately

675,000 of them in the United States.

Apparently the geographic origin of the 1918 influenza virus is debated to this day, though hypotheses have suggested that

East Asia, Europe or even Kansas could have been the origin point.⁴ The epidemic virus was most likely labeled the Spanish flu because that country remained neutral in WWI and did not censor their news to the world about the dangerous, spreading disease.

In 2005, researchers reported the successful DNA sequencing of the 1918 influenza virus.⁴ The Institute for Disease Modeling has calculated that the transmission rate of COVID-19 is similar to the 1918-19 influenza virus. ❖

--Gayle Frank

¹ Camp Fremont was a World War I-era military base located near Palo Alto, California. Construction started in July 1917 and the post closed in September 1919. The U.S. West Coast post trained National Guard units, the 41st Infantry Division, and by August, 1918, was home to the 12th Infantry and the Army Veterinary Corps. The base hospital became the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital No. 24 in 1919. Eventually the post hospital became the site of the Veterans Administration hospital.

² An aqueous solution used as a spray of sodium borate, sodium bicarbonate, glycerin, and phenol as an antiseptic and astringent for the nose and throat.

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-commemoration/pandemic-timeline-1918.htm>

⁴ <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/ten-myths-about-1918-flu-pandemic-180967810/>

Help Blot Out the "Spanish Flu" Epidemic! WEAR A MASK!

—Every precaution should be taken to stop the wide spread of Spanish influenza—the most efficient way is wearing a mask—it protects the nose, throat and lungs—it keeps the germ from doing its deadly work. Our masks are made of fine heavy material that makes them doubly valuable. Everyone should wear a mask—ask for them at our Notion Section, 1st floor 1-price

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“When San Jose Was Young: The First San Jose House, Part I”

This is a reprint of a 1916 series about local history written for San Jose's *Evening News* and attributed to Cora Older.

“The first frame house in San Jose was built in 1817 by Don Pedro Regelado Chaboya on the Rancho de la Posa de San Juan Bautista.

Today the house stands on the Tully road not far back from Oak Hill Cemetery only a few rods from the car track. It is some distance from the road on the right and is surrounded by cypress and pepper trees set out by Don Pedro in 1847. Unless you look hard you are likely to miss the half-hidden house. The state highway used to pass directly before Don Pedro's residence, but the highway moved farther to the south and left the house standing facing the railway track, its side to the Tully road.

The old house is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Louisa Long, daughter of Don Pedro Chaboya. Mrs. Long's mother was Miss Gertrude Ortega, daughter of Ignacio Ortega of Gilroy, who had a Spanish grant 33 miles square. John Gilroy, for whom Gilroy was named, was an uncle to Mrs. Long. Gilroy's name was really Cameron. He changed it when he left his ship and came to California. Although Mrs. Long's grandfather, Ortega, had one of the largest ranchos ever known in California, and her father's own grant was six miles square, all that remains to her are two and a half acres of land on which now stands the first frame house of San Jose.

Mrs. Long is seventy years of age, but she hasn't a gray hair and her dark eyes are still brilliant. She has a trim, neat figure, and energy that keeps her house and garden in delightful order.

She received me on the steps of the old green shuttered house which is still good for thirty or forty years. It is the usual residence of the well-to-do New Englander, but doubtless in 1817, to the

Chaboyas, it had the same exotic charm which Spanish houses today possess for Californians.

“My father had a very hard time to build this house,” said Mrs. Long, who speaks English fluently, but with an intonation betraying Spanish as her mother tongue. “Lumber all came around the Horn. My father brought it bit by bit from San Francisco. The house was built by a Spanish carpenter named Sunol, no relative of Don Antonio Sunol. It took a long time.”

Mrs. Long then pointed out where the old adobe Chaboya ranch buildings had stood in the field opposite where now is an orchard. Nothing remains of the house, the log corral, the lime kiln, the soap factory, the saddlery, the blacksmith shop, which made up the buildings of the Rancho de la Posa de San Juan Bautista. The new frame house was placed on ground several feet higher than the original site of the ranch buildings.

Mrs. Long has been more fortunate than most Spanish people in retaining mementoes of the old days. She has lacquered trunks and boxes, a plaid silk dress, and one of the first pianos that ever came to San Jose. It arrived in the 1850s, but its tone is still sweet. Its case is mahogany and it cost a thousand dollars. It bears the name of its manufacturer, “Collard & Collard, late Clementi, Collard & Collard, London.”

Mrs. Long's old photograph album contains pictures of persons famous in the Golden Age of the Dons. There is Josefa Pico, one of the belles of long ago. She was the daughter of Don Mariano Pico. The Picos lived where the Post Office now stands. Josefa Pico had a piquant, coquettish face. The carefully waved hair, the angle at which the toque [small hat] is worn, the elaborately trimmed gown, the jewels, the bow, all show her

to have been the woman of fashion of her time.

Then there is Mercedes Ortega, aunt of Mrs. Long, who married a Castro of Monterey. Mrs. Ortega de Castro was a severe commanding Roman matron, born more than a hundred years ago at the rancho San Ysidro near Gilroy. She was the mother of twenty-five children. Four of them were twins. Two of the twins, a spinster and a bachelor, still live at Monterey.

There is a photograph of Mrs. Arguello, a strong capable woman, grandmother of Concepcion Arguello of Santa Clara, and mother of Don Luis.

Among the interesting documents possessed by Mrs. Long is a copy of the baptismal certificate of her father., Don Pedro Chaboya. He was the son of Marcos Chaboya who came to San Jose in the latter part of the eighteenth century and married Teresa Bernal. At one time he was the *juez* or judge of the Pueblo, and he was one of the founders of St. Joseph's church. Marcos Chaboya's house stood on the site of the Auzeais building [Santa Clara St.] today. Don Pedro was baptized May 23, 1790, at Mission Dolores, San Francisco. The baptismal certificate reads as follows:

“Dida 23 de Mayo de 1790, en la Iglesia de estra Mision de N.S.P. San Francisco, bautize solemnemente a un nino de dos dias da nacido, a quien puse por nombre Pedro Regelado, higo legitimo del cabo de escaudra de la escolta del Real Presidio. Marcos Chaboya y de Teresa Bernal; fueron aus padrinos el alfez Don Ramon Lazo de la Vega y Certrudis Higuera, muger de soldado Manuel Boronda, a quienes avise lo acostumbrado; y para que consta lo firme.

[Signed] FRAY DIEGO GARCIA”

—Evening News, Oct. 14, 1916

Celebrating 100 years of Women's Suffrage

After a very long battle for the women's right to vote, the U.S. Congress finally approved the 19th Amendment in June of 1919. Three-fourths of the then-48 states ratified the Constitutional Amendment by August, 1920. To celebrate the 100th Anniversary, the Trailblazer will print a brief summary of one of our local suffragists in each issue through 2020.



Elizabeth Lowe Watson

(San Francisco Main Library)

Elizabeth Lowe Watson (1843-1927), was an important contributor to the women's suffrage movement during her life in Santa Clara, CA. She was born in Ohio but lived in New York during her early years. At a young age of 14, she blossomed into an excellent public speaker, soon to inspire crowds about religion, social ethics, abolitionism, peace, temperance and women's rights. She was also adept at answering spontaneous questions from her audience. It was reported that Elizabeth at an even younger age, demonstrated remarkable psychic phenomena.

Elizabeth became a preacher in Leon, New York until she married a wealthy oil man, Jonathan Watson. The couple lived in Rochester, New York and Elizabeth's career was primarily put on hold while bearing four children and taking care of five step-children.

The Watson family relocated to Santa Clara County, CA to a 24-acre fruit

farm called Sunny Brae around 1880, which was located east of what is now Bubb Road. The farm's crops were primarily French prunes and apricots. Here Elizabeth spent her full energy on her speaking career. A successful speaking tour in Australia in 1882 cemented her reputation as a talented orator of importance. Other speaking engagements took her to Chicago and the East Coast. She became a preacher for the First Spiritual Union of San Francisco in 1896 in addition to publishing poetry and sermons (*Songs and Sermon*) and serving as pastor for the Religious and Philosophical Society in San Francisco.

By 1892, Elizabeth's husband died so she more earnestly pursued the work of promoting women's suffrage. She still maintained her suffragist friends in New York and even entertained Susan B. Anthony at her Sunny Brae Farm along with other active suffragists.

Elizabeth and her daughter Lucretia joined the Cupertino Political Equality Club in 1900. Elizabeth became President of the Club by 1907 and held its gatherings at Sunny Brae.

In 1910, Elizabeth was chosen as President of the California Equal Suffrage Association and delivered many speeches persuading the public that women must have the right to vote. In 1910, to hundreds of delegates, she gave the opening remarks at the CA Women's Suffrage convention in San Francisco (*Evening News*, Oct. 1, 1910). She was well-known throughout the state as one of the most militant fighters for the women's vote. By that time Clara Foltz, another well-known speaker and lady lawyer, called Elizabeth Watson the "leading woman orator of the day." Elizabeth captivated her audiences saying, "The women who want the ballot, and will not rest until they have it, are the women who have felt the heartthrobs of the world's deep misery... There was never laid a stone in the foundation of this republic, but that woman had a part in it." She was confident that equality for women would eventually become a reality.



In 1912, Elizabeth also participated in political rallies for the Progressive Republican Party, sometimes advocating for a particular candidate, such as L.D. Bohnett (*Mercury News*, Oct. 25, 1912.). During 1914 and 1915 Elizabeth was granted permission to give Sunday lectures at St. James Park on subjects such as prohibition, Christian citizenship, and the "European War," which she was against. The City's stipulation insisted that she must ensure the grass was not trampled upon (*Evening News*, July 21, 1914).

After the women of California won the right to vote on October 10, 1911, Elizabeth enjoyed that right but cautioned that the fight must continue until every woman in the United States was granted voting rights.

Locally, Elizabeth was one of the founding members of the Cupertino De Oro Club, which to this day still resides in the historic former Collins Elementary School.

Elizabeth died in 1927 in Santa Clara County, CA. ❖ —Gayle Frank

Sources:

—*Biographical Database of NAWWSA Suffragists, 1890-1920; Biographical Sketch of Elizabeth Lowe Watson by Sophia Stewart*; <https://documents.alexanderstreet.com/d/1009638354>
—https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Woman_of_the_Century/Elizabeth_Lowe_Watson

A New “Miss Careful” Sign

The longtime Diamond Laundry on the SE corner of W. San Carlos and Delmas Streets commissioned a much needed new sign this year. CA Pioneers of Santa Clara County life member and docent Rosaleen Burton Zisch tells us she is part of the family who operates the Diamond Laundry. Rosaleen never worked at the laundry but her daughter Rebecca did and her son Alex has worked there as a part-time bookkeeper for the last 20 years.

The laundry was first established in 1931 by Harold H. Hulbert and moved to its present location in 1950. In 1963, Hulbert, who was a widower, married Mary Jane Burton and also gained two step-children, Rosaleen and Gary. Together, Harold and Mary ran the laundry for many years but he passed in 1997. He was happy that Mary was the face of the business since he was rather shy. Mary worked at the laundry into her early 90s along with her son Gary Burton (present owner) who managed it.

Rosaleen remembers that Harold was great at fixing things. He even showed her how to replace buttons on shirts with a small machine. Harold was known for his expert cleaning of stuffed animals. Rosaleen said, “Watching him hand wash stuffed animals was a delight.”



The new updated “Miss Careful” Sign for Diamond Laundry.

Her daughter trusted only Harold with her cuddly creatures. Once there was a large collection of stuffed toys from a fire and after being washed, they were lined up ready for new ribbons before delivery. The family wrote a nice thank you letter to Harold.

For decades the laundry’s bright aqua/yellow sign with black diamonds advertised the business. One unique feature of the sign was “Miss Careful,” a likeness that resembled Harold’s wife, Mary. Over the years the sign was updated three times but during the last few decades it had faded and deteriorated. Finally, a new sign, paid for by Mary

Hulbert, has been installed and hand painted by Mesngr (Z DIC Sign Artist) with the same colors, design and a new updated “Miss Careful.”

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Mary Hulbert stands in front of the new “Miss Careful” image.



Mary Burton Hulbert with driver Mike Palerlmo in front of sign in earlier days.



Miss Careful from the earlier Diamond Laundry sign, a symbol of Mary, who was the face of the laundry.



Member Spotlight—Stan Bellow By Paul Bernal

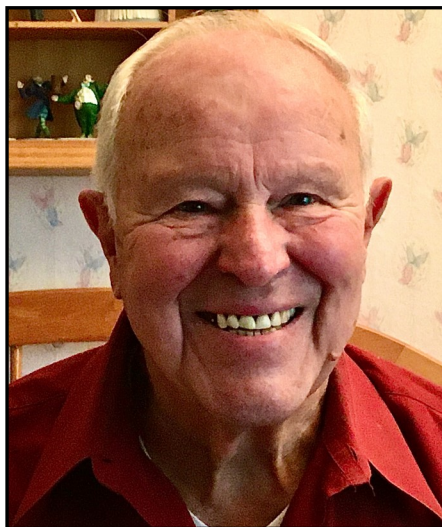
Stan Bellow was integral to the operation of Richmond-Chase Cannery when fruit and vegetable canning dominated Santa Clara County's economy. He was their weighmaster for 40 years.

Stan is a descendant of John Michel Bellow (pronounced beh LOO) (1830-1879) and Maria Juana de Jesus Juarez (1843-1892). John Michel was of French descent from New Orleans and went by "Mitch." Juana was a Californio who went by "Juanita." They were married in Saint Patrick Church, downtown San Jose, on November 17, 1872. Mitch Bellow became a constable.

In his 1922 *History of Santa Clara County*, Eugene Sawyers wrote: "The best known of all the police officers of the early days was Mitchell Bellow, called by everybody "Mitch Belloo." He was a terror to evil-doers and old timers will never forget him. Of medium height, tough as a wildcat, with snappy black eyes and a ferocious scowl, he swaggered along the streets, "seeking whom he might devour." He never wore suspenders, a leather belt serving to keep up his trousers which wouldn't stay kept up, so that Mitch was engaged the greater part of his time in giving them a sailor hitch. He was as courageous as a crusader, but his methods were rough. If a law breaker, petty or otherwise, failed to respond to a command, out would come Mitch's club. He kept his club suspended from one side of his belt, his pistol on the other side, and the offender would receive a series of whacks, the echoes of which could be heard a block away. Sometimes the club would fail of effect on account of the thickness of the victim's head and then the butt of the revolver would get into play. So terror-inspiring was his



Juanita Juarez Bellow/Constable Mitch Bellow



Stan Bellow

reputation that San Jose mothers would only have to say, "Now you be good or I'll send Mitch Belloo after you," to compel instant obedience."

Mitch and Juanita Bellow had a son John Francisco Bellow, who went by "Frank." He married Bertha Stone. Frank (Stan's grandfather) ran a very early portable carpet-cleaning business out of his company at 424 South Market Street, near San Salvador Street, San Jose. Stan explains, "It was a novel concept to have the carpet cleaning equipment put on a wagon and brought to customers' homes, rather than have the customers bringing their carpets downtown to the steam cleaning equipment in a warehouse."

Frank and Bertha had a son Eugene, who married Edith Edmonds from Ohio. Eugene was employed in Public Works for the City of San Jose.

Eugene and Edith had a son, Stan Bellow, a long-time member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. Stan Bellow married Florence Martin, a descendant of miner William Martin who travelled from Wales to the New Almaden Mine.

When Stan ended his service with the Marines at 23 years old, he planned to be a musician, so he

attended the music program at San Jose State College. To make quick money during two summers, he and three or four school friends took seasonal jobs at Richmond-Chase Cannery. Assistant Superintendent Vic Walmut sent them to the pear grading warehouse at 4th and Julian Streets. After performing admirably for two summers with Richmond-Chase, Stan was asked to work in the receiving department of the main cannery at 380 Stockton Avenue (now a PG&E yard) to help out Bill the Weighmaster. Bill had had a heart attack, so Superintendent Tom "Mack" MacKenzie asked Stan to temporarily fill in for the weighmaster.

Stan said, "It was a desk job with no labor, so I was thrilled to have it. I told them I did not know all of what Bill did, but I would figure it out." At the end of the season, MacKenzie told Stan, "You have done a great job, why don't you stay with us through the winter to do the prunes." Stan recalls, "I had one year of college left and was not sure I wanted to stay on. MacKenzie asked me to go home and talk it over with my wife, which I did. I took the position and stayed on for 40 years."

"I was there on the last day and last minute of Richmond-Chase when they went bankrupt in 1982. They went bankrupt because the new Mayor, Janet Gray Hayes, wanted to drive all the canneries out of the valley. She claimed we were all dumping too much peach and tomato waste into Alviso. I know for a fact that Richmond-Chase was already spending \$1 million a year to keep the sewers clean. Hayes could not prove the volume of waste that she claimed was ruining the environment, but she was fixed on closing us anyway. When we went bankrupt, I lost out on \$30,000 in back pay."

Stan continued, "I worked a lot of hours there. During the high season from May to November of every year I worked 7 days a week, 10 hours a day. I took no

(Continued page 9)

Stan Bellow (Cont'd)

vacations and I worked every holiday. I would be there even on Sundays to weigh the incoming fruit, and even drive our lift truck to move the produce around. In fact, I worked so much that my supervisor Herm Zetterquist (Jim's father) said to me, "With your overtime, double time, and triple time, you are making almost as much as me, and we can't have that, so I am going to limit your days and hours." I was happy to reduce my time because I never took a vacation."

"We had a very busy operation and one of the largest in the area. At the receiving dock I was the foreman of incoming green fruit, and the weighmaster. There was a rhythm to the whole thing. First we canned cherries, and when that run was over, we canned apricots. We had a huge apricot production every year. One of our highest selling products was Apricot nectar. We sold so much of it worldwide that we needed to get our Apricots shipped in from Oregon, which provided a lesser quality apricot, but we needed those apricots to keep up with demand. Then when apricot production was over we canned fruit cocktail, pears and grapes. We ran the production of pears, grapes and fruit cocktail all at the same time through about Labor Day. Then when the grapes and fruit cocktail run was completed, we continued with just peaches for a little longer. As peach canning trailed off, we would reduce hours and employees for the rest of the year."



Frank Bellow (Stan's grandfather) owned J.F. Bellow Carpet Cleaning Works at 424 S. Market St. in San Jose. Frank is on the far left.

"I loved my job. It was a good job," said Bellow. "I was in charge of what I did and nobody bothered me. They would ask me once in a while, "How is it going?" I would say, "Fine." Then they would ask, "Do you need extra men for the weekend?" and I would say, "No." And that was that."

"Italians and Portuguese ran our canneries," said Bellow. "All great people. We had many seasonal Mexicans working the lines—some of the finest young men I

ever worked with. On Monday mornings there would be three gifts of burritos on my desk from three of their homes. And when immigration agents occasionally showed up, the Mexican men, who were off-loading peaches onto the conveyor belts that ran alongside the exterior of the cannery, would scatter. We would have to hire replacements. The next year the Mexican employees would show up again. We could not run the canneries without them."

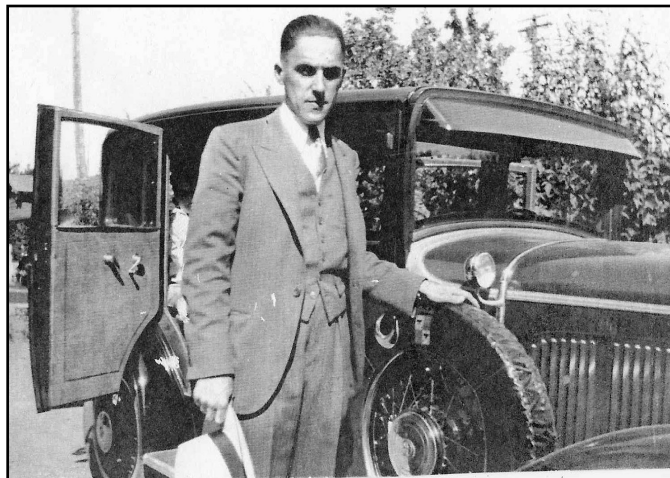
(Continued pg. 10)



Richmond-Chase Cannery Preparation Room, c.1920 . (Photo: San Jose State University Library Special Collections & Archives)

Miss Careful (Continued)

Early this year, the present manager of the laundry, Jason Burton, brought his 97-year-old grandmother, Mary Burton Hulbert, also a Pioneers life member, to see the new sign. She was thrilled to see her likeness back in good condition. Rosaleen, Jason's aunt, accompanied her mother Mary to admire "Miss Careful" and the fresh new sign. ❖ —Gayle Frank



Harold H. Hulbert with his first car, c. 1924.

Left, present laundry manager Jason Burton points out the new sign to his grandmother, Mary Burton Hulbert and his aunt, Rosaleen Zisch, both CA Pioneers of SCC life members.



Left, previous decades-old Diamond Laundry sign that has been copied for a fresh new sign.

(Photos: Rosaleen Zisch and Burton Family)

Stan Bellow (Continued)

Stan Bellow remembers the canneries in Santa Clara County: Filice & Perelli Packing House on South Fair Oaks Avenue in Sunnyvale; San Jose Canning, near Minnesota Avenue in San Jose (they did mostly vegetables, like string beans); Del Monte off San Carlos Street in San Jose; Richmond-Chase on Stockton Avenue & Julian Street in San Jose (their greatest production was apricots); Mission Cannery at Fourth and Julian Streets, San Jose; and Barron & Gray at Fifth & Virginia Streets and in South San Jose.

Stan Bellow is not the kind of person who stands still. After being in canning for 40 years, Stan worked for Brown & Bigelow, selling promotional pens and pencils for 15 years, until it, too, went bankrupt. Stan took a job with a similar specialty advertising sales company named Geiger Brothers, selling pens, calendars and other items until his retirement. Stan remains very active—at age 95! He swims every morning and is a consistent attendee at the Pioneers luncheons to which he always brings his warm smile and bright spark. ❖

New Members—Welcome!

Mary Margaret Diridon, Santa Clara
Rod Didridon , Jr., Santa Clara

Catherine Marlatt, San Jose
Scot Hayes, San Jose

Member Dues Paid* for 2020—Thank You!

Beckman, Jane & Crockett, Andrew
(*Family membership*)

Bellow, Stan

Diridon Jr., Rod (*New, Life member*)

Diridon, Mary Margaret (*New, Life Member*)

Gil, Lois

Gonzales, Augustine

Hayes, Scot (*New member*)

Hettler-Smith, Lisa

Hew, Sylvia

Holman, Charles

Jordan, Veronica

Marlatt, Catherine (*New, Loomis Level*)

Mena, Dennis

Nunes, Theodore

Pappinastos, Lisa

Renk, Jo Ann

Smith, Adel

Toeniskoetter, Charles

Verbica, Peter

**Paid between Jan. 22-Apr 38, 2020*

Workdays Cancelled

In light of the recent virus pandemic, the Pioneers have postponed our workdays at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House and the Hacienda Cemetery that were scheduled for this Spring.

**Dues for Membership in
CA Pioneers of Santa Clara County
were due on January 1st**

**Regular membership is still only \$35 (Family \$60)
IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED YET —**

**Please Mail to: CA Pioneers of SCC.
Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208
San Jose, CA, 95155**

Docent or Greeter Opportunity (after shelter in place)

Roberto Adobe & Suñol House
Contact Sylvia Hew at 408-265-5371
or hewmum@gmail.com

Paulson House at History San Jose
Contact Jonna Baker at (408) 533-3256
or J234belle@yahoo.com

Roberto Adobe & Suñol House

770 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose

**Saturday Free Tours
suspended until
further notice**

CaliforniaPioneers.com

Remembering Joan Bohnett

Joan Bohnett was a consummate historian in every part of her personality. Her love of history and her personal heritage was her avocation and touched every aspect of her being.

Joan the school teacher delighted in introducing her young students to California history. She once said it was her favorite part of her job.

Joan's interest in history came naturally, coming from both sides of her family. One of her ongoing interests was organizing the family records and documents, no easy task.

Joan the archivist spent months sorting out the enormous treasure of scrapbooks, photos and personal papers. Her grandfather, attorney L. D. Bohnett, was a Progressive Republican and Assemblyman, serving the 44th District. Her grandmother Ivadelle was a member of the San Jose Woman's Club, To Kalon Club, and served on the board of the San Jose Day Nursery.

Joan's lovely Palm Haven home was built by her grandfather but suffered from extreme neglect over the years. Her grandparents both died in 1970. Joan acquired the structure and began the massive job of restoration on a teacher's salary. The roof had caved in over the living room, leaving a gaping hole that allowed significant damage to the interior. Joan the preservationist took it on and managed a magnificent reconstruction job.

Joan had one more delightful trait--she had a curator's eye for historic objects. Her home was filled with lovely artifacts; books, pottery, textiles and art, all with a story. She enjoyed color and texture, and her home was always delightful.

Joan was helpful, thoughtful and



Joan E. Bohnett

6/13/1942—2/21/2020

affectionate. You could not ask for a better friend, or bridge partner. ❖

—April Halberstadt



Joan's passing is a sad loss for her family, friends and the many organizations she was involved with, including the CA Pioneers of Santa Clara County.

I enjoyed working with Joan on many history-based events and operations over the last 15 years. She and I knew each other when we were young girls living on Camino Pablo in Willow Glen.

About twenty years ago my mother and I attended a Palm Haven celebration and we reconnected with Joan. It was great fun to get to know her again after about forty years. Then we discovered we were both passionate about local history and preserving historic structures.

About nine years ago, Joan and I, both on the Pioneers Board, worked on the Helen Stevens estate for the CA Pioneers of Santa Clara County. We sorted through an amazing number of treasures and collectables for many weeks. It was dusty and overwhelming but we, along with others, categorized all of the important objects. We then held a tea at the Pioneers' Paulson House at History San Jose using the Stevens' dishes, linens and

silver. Joan and I and Robb Moore were the tea and food servers, wearing vintage aprons from the Stevens' estate. Later we held a hat sale at her beautiful home. Hats were everywhere: the porch, living room, dining room, bedrooms and hall. Many of the visitors were more interested in her historic home than all the hats. Her house was always filled with lush plants that were well-taken care of. Joan secured city landmark status for her beautiful home in 2008 to ensure its historic integrity.

Joan was proud of her extensive Bohnett family history in San Jose and their contributions to the area. She inherited many documents from her grandfather, L.D. Bohnett, an attorney and Assemblyman who fought the Southern Pacific route through Willow Glen in the 1920s and worked toward the incorporation of Willow Glen as its own city.

She also talked about her Uncle Lew who owned Trader Lew's on Monterey Rd. Many of his antiques and collectables were donated to History San Jose.

Joan graduated from SJSU with a teaching degree and enjoyed a long career with the Fremont School District. Other organizations in which she was active were: the San Jose Woman's Club, Preservation Action Council of San Jose, the Willow Glen Neighborhood Association and the Master Gardeners.

Joan was the Chair of the project to create "Touring Historic Willow Glen: Ten Walking Loops." She, along with the 15-member team, worked many long hours that resulted in the historic tour book published in 2007.

We will dearly miss her. She was a great lady. ❖ —Gayle Frank

(Continued page 13)

Returning and Extended Submittal Date!

2020/2021 History Essay Contest

Prizes Awarded for Best Essays

Essay Subject: Any person, place or event concerning Santa Clara County from its beginning to the recent past.

For Details and Rules go to: www.CaliforniaPioneers.com

New Submittal Deadline: May 31, 2021

For more information contact CaliforniaPioneers@gmail.com

Remembering Joan (Continued)

Joan Bohnett

When I learned of Joan's passing, I was deeply saddened. I had known of her most of my life, and we had been good friends for the past two decades. She grew up in the older section of Willow Glen, where she attended Willow Glen Elementary School. She moved with her parents to a new home on Dry Creek Road in the late 1950s, not far from where my family lived. She attended Del Mar High School with my older sister and was very active in student affairs. She was a member of the first class to graduate Del Mar (1960). She served on the new school's fashion board, drama and student body commissions, and was Senior Class President. She was also voted Del Mar's first Christmas Dance Queen.

Joan attended San José State College in the early 60s, where she joined a sorority and earned a degree in education. She loved children and teaching history. She passionately fought for teachers' rights and eventually became an outspoken leader for the teacher's union.

She married briefly after college but never had any children of her own.

We became close friends in 2005, when she asked me to join her team of historians, who were writing *Touring Historic Willow Glen, Ten Walking Loops*. By then, Joan was retired and wanted to preserve the rich history of her neighborhood. Her grandfather L.D. Bohnett, who served as a state assemblyman from 1909 to 1914, was instrumental in Willow Glen becoming a city in 1927. L. D. served as a Palm Haven Tract Association Director and was Willow Glen's first city attorney. Joan respected and admired her grandfather. She eventually acquired her grandparents' Palm Haven home (a San José City landmark) and lovingly restored it in the 1990s.

I asked Joan to join the Pioneers' board during my first term as president. During her tenure, she played a vital role helping us manage the acquisition of the Helen Stevens' Estate and oversaw the placement of the Stevens' furnishings into our Paulson House Museum.



One of my favorite memories of Joan is watching her adoringly interact with the small children in her neighborhood. She loved to give them treats, take them on tours of her beautiful home and gardens, and share her passion for history, architecture, and nature.

Just before Joan passed, the Pioneers acquired a late 1800s big wheel bicycle that had once belonged to her uncle. I was looking forward to taking her on a tour of our bicycle exhibit at the Roberto Adobe and Suñol House once all our signage was finished. I now regret having waited.

God bless you Joan, you will be missed.



—Jim Zetterquist

Docents Visit SJ Fire Museum

Just before we all had to shelter in place, the CA Pioneers of Santa Clara County docents were treated to a tour of the San Jose Fire Museum on Market and Devine Streets. The former Station #1, which is 70 years old, was in tip-top shape with a multitude of exhibits and firefighting vehicles from the past. John McMillan (President of the Museum), along with Jim Carter (V.P.) and Dave Wood (Director of Facilities), were excellent hosts and gave us an overall history and status of the new museum, soon to open to the public later this year.

The Museum building at 201 N. Market, which was almost lost to city development, was purchased in 2016, thanks to a very generous donation from the Brandenburg family. Soon the building was designated a San Jose City Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The San Jose Fire Museum evolved from the San Jose Firefighters Muster Team and now owns the largest collection of historic vehicles, apparatus and artifacts in the United States. John McMillan said of the building, "It looks better now that it did when we worked here 30 years ago!" The new San Jose Fire Station #1 sits right next door to the Museum and opened in 2000.

Exhibits include vintage artifacts and ephemera, including two logbooks from San Jose's Empire Station #1 from the 1800s. We were surprised at the elegant handwriting in those logs. In the Museum's Senter Rd. warehouse there are over 60 years of journals and 2,000 logbooks from 1955 until around 2005.

The Museum is meant for all ages. Originally there were four brass poles for firefighters to quickly slide down from the second floor. Now two poles have been removed and two have been retrofitted with stairs close by, allowing small children to reach the pole about four feet high and slide down.

Vehicles on site include a 1906 white Cadillac Chief's car (one cylinder, 9 horsepower), an 1808 hand pumper, and an 1890 Amoskeag Steam Pumper that served the SJFD's Franklin Engine Co. No. 3. The Knox Hose Cart, from 1910, is nicknamed "Sheila" after the wife of Sam Siebert, a long-time San Jose firefighter. Sam knows more local fire department history than most firefighters in the area since he just turned 100 years young last year.

Also sitting on the floor is a newer Engine #1, built in 1958. John McMillan and Jim Carter remember sitting on the open tailboard and bouncing dangerously along rough roads. In bad weather they would hide under a tarp but then the exhaust fumes became a breathing problem.

We toured the kitchen, dining room (with a gorgeous table



The 1890 Amoskeag Steam Pumper that served the Franklin Engine Co. #3 is one of the SJ Fire Museum's oldest pieces. It was used here in the 1906 earthquake.

made of wood from a bowling alley floor and church pews), the office and front lobby, which is dedicated to Sam Siebert.

The Museum still needs donations for completing the renovations on the second floor and would like to develop additional exhibit space behind the building. Eventually the second floor of the original building will include a library, conference room, a kids' room, a dormitory/bath/locker room display, an elevator and a second floor outside patio looking over San Pedro Street. The building itself contains 8" thick concrete walls and huge I-beams, built to last through the biggest earthquakes. McMillan, Carter and Wood think this facility will become one of the premier fire museums in the U.S.

The San Jose Fire Museum mission is "Preserving Firefighter Traditions to Inspire a Sense of Community." The Museum Association has about 3,000 members and 400 donors. For more information visit SJFireMuseum.org.

We all enjoyed the tour very much and it was one of the last fun things to do before we all sheltered in place. Thanks to John, Jim and Dave! ❖
— Gayle Frank

Membership Report

The membership dues for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are **due on January 1st every year**. Basic dues are only \$35.

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2020 please do so. Dues for 2020 can be mailed to CA Pioneers of SCC, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA, 95155.

Check your mailing label on your Trailblazer and it will indicate when your dues expire.

For example, if after your name it says, Dec-2020, your Pioneers membership is up-to-date until the end of 2020.

Additional donations or higher membership levels are always appreciated. Visit www.CaliforniaPioneers.com for more details. And please, don't forget the Pioneers in your estate planning and consider donating from your IRA's required minimum distribution to lessen your taxes. ❖

**For Questions
contact
Membership Chair
Walt Gil
at
wgil@cpi-re.com
or 408-978-1090.**

Time Travel (*Past News from Newspaper Archives*)

San Jose, May 11, 1851: The San Jose City Council stated: "Resolved that hereafter carpenters are commanded to take all shavings, chips and other combustibles to the street and burn them every night. Violations are to be not less than \$5.00 or more than \$20.00."

June 1, 1878, San Jose Daily Herald: "A new rail track is apparently being built on Santa Clara St. with an eye for the good of carriage builders. We never saw any contrivance that looked so well adapted for the smashing and twisting of buggy wheels. Some preventive efforts should be made against this costly hazard."

July 1, 1878, San Jose Daily Herald: "Alum Rock is the place for recreations, everybody goes there. One hundred seventy buggies were at the resort Sunday."

San Jose, 1895: The handsome Park Hotel was completed after lingering

for two years. It was situated on the west side of South Market Street, where the Civic Auditorium stands today. This well-built three-story hotel with its iron embellished store fronts was designed and built by Antone Zivovich and his crew of forty careful Slavic stone and wood artisans. Somehow the craftsmen were inclined to follow agricultural pursuits. It was only during the off-season when they applied their skills to the eventual completion of the hotel. The hotel was razed in 1933. Prior to the hotel a kindergarten stood on the property directed by the McKenzie sisters. All the nice little boys and girls from the nice families went to McKenzie's.

San Jose, Oct. 1908: Prunes Barred!! "Prunes have been side-tracked in favor of peaches, apples, butter, syrup, griddle cakes and muffins, which have been given an important place on the menu of the soldiers of the U.S. Army, but not the prune!" This was the angry

outcry of Mr. E. Schillingsburg, District Passenger and Freight Agent of the Southern Pacific Co.

San Jose, April 1926: Flowers from 100,000 young rose bushes were being pampered by Ruehl and Wheeler, local nurserymen, for the first Fiesta de las Rosas. The bushes produced some 400,000 flowers for decorative uses for this first annual rose parade. Officials said roses produced were sufficient for a rose rope nineteen miles long or for decoration of one hundred floats. Even with this assemblage of flowers, Fiesta committee people still negotiated with other nurserymen for additional roses for Fiesta adornment. ❖

Sunshine Chair

If a Pioneers member is ill or needs cheering up notify,
Madeline Streight: 408-259-4422
or madeline.streight@att.net

Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills



JOAN E. BOHNETT (2020)
MARILYN I. GARDNER (2017)
KENNETH E. MCMURRAY (2019)
GERTRUDE ANN WRIGHT (2020)



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Our Mission is to promote, preserve, and celebrate
the history of Santa Clara County and the heritage
of its past generations. We collect, archive, educate
and encourage research and scholarship.