

Volume ⁴⁵~~43~~, Number 2

June, 2004

The Future of the Pioneers?

Jim Arbuckle

The wagon, metaphorically speaking, of our Pioneers Society is breaking down. For the lack of preventive maintenance over the years, the wheels are about to fall off. We need volunteers for the growing string of vacancies on the board, most importantly Secretary and Treasurer. Please review the officer list inside the back cover.

According to our Bylaws, all offices become open in June, and we vote upon a slate proposed by a Nominating Committee. Getting such a committee going has not been successful in recent years. Nominations from the luncheon floor are possible. Much of our board, after many years of service, has been resigning. In June we will not have a quorum. We need volunteers, for perhaps two to three hours' work per month.

This neglect of officer development has gone on for years, years during which the group has evolved into a tour group, as our list of open positions for the board has grown ever longer. The participation rate is about 1 member for every 100. Recognizing this problem, my highest priority was relaxing the membership requirements so as to make it possible to bring in younger members. Some progress is being made, but we need help right now.

Carol Arnoldy's eloquent plea at the last luncheon brought us, from an attendance of 138, one volunteer, mimicking the above 1 per 100 figure. I am doing too many tasks, some of them (again) long neglected. At this rate, the group cannot last much longer. A workshop for interested members has been proposed for the summer. Let's talk about this at the June luncheon.

Web Site

You can now visit the Pioneers at

www.californiapioneers.com

Our site now needs content. In the last Trailblazer, we noted that Rick Helin, as a first step, had reserved only the name. The service has a format that calls for pictures to be placed at certain spots. Because the Pioneers have so few digital images, a few of the spots have been filled with Rick's family photos. Some digital images have been provided by Bob Johnson with his new digital camera. Do you have something that we might scan to digital form and then place in the site?

June Program: Essay Contest Winners

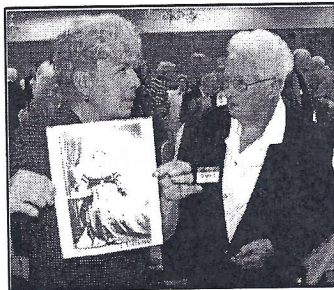
This year the essay contest received only three submissions. High school student submissions have vanished as the teaching of California history has gone down to the 4th grade level.

Antiques and Jackson Ranch

On March 26, six of us went down to the Jackson Ranch to check on just the household items described in the Loan Agreement of 1995. This was the first check since the agreement was signed. We are looking for space to store the piano that came around the "Horn."

March Luncheon

At the March luncheon, the Santa Clara historian Lorie García spoke on Mary Bennett Love, the wife of Sheriff Harry Love. They were both big people, as the photo that Lorie's hold below attests.



Lorie García and Pat Loomis with Mary Bennett Love Photo

A Message from Financial Secretary/Membership Chairman Melita Kelly

Well, my last message certainly got your attention. I learned that the members really read, and I had many telephone calls since my computer had a major "burp" so that the information on your labels was not up to date. I hope that this time everything will work out, and the information on your labels will be fine. My very computer literate son had to come down from Castro Valley to fix the problem.

Letters to those members who have not remitted payment for 2004 have gone out. Please send your dues checks in the amount of \$15.00 to: Melita Kelly, Membership Chairman, 460 North 15th Street, San Jose, CA 95112-1725. Be sure your check is made payable to the California Pioneers and to include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish to receive your membership card in the mail. Call me if you have a question at (408) 292-2385)

A big thank you goes to all of those who have already sent you payment. THANK YOU!

Gone to the Golden Hills (a few back to last year)

3/2	Mimi Wells	11/2	Carroll Greathead
3/31	Adelaide Ehle	12/3	Florence Stegeman
9/1	George Stubbe	1/23	Avis Burr
9/8	Nino Conway	1/23	Edith Steiner

Calendar

May 10	Directors' Meeting	2:00 PM
May 13	San Jose Archeology	7:00 PM
	Almaden Barnes & Noble	
May 21	Trip: Santa Cruz Mountains	9:00 AM
May 27	Valley of Heart's Delight	See below
June 23	Trip: Tiburon – Belvedere	9:30 AM
June 4	Luncheon	12:00
June 14	Directors' Meeting	2:00 PM

The Valley of Heart's Delight: a showing of the film

Come and enjoy the 1922 short documentary film *The Valley of Heart's Delight*, followed by other short films on the Valley's agricultural past. Refreshments will be provided, including dishes using the fruits that made the Valley famous.

Free admission: Donations to the Preservation Action Council of San Jose gratefully accepted.

When: May 27 – from: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Where: Le Petit Trianon

72 N 5th St.

San Jose, CA 95112.

The Vichy Spring Water from New Almadén was Shipped 'round the World

[This was written for the Almaden Times by member and last year's essay contest winner Jeanne Lewis]

In the late 1800s, many people all over the world swore by the 'magic' powers of the famed Vichy Water of New Almadén as a cure to myriad ills. On a tranquil day, carbonated bubbles still rise from Los Alamitos Creek's crevices below the concrete bridge on Almadén Way, a few steps north of the La Forêt Restaurant.

An original document dated August 1863 lists one frame building 20 feet by 24 feet as the water company. In December 1867, the mine leased two acres at the site to F. A. L. Pioche, an ex-patriot French millionaire turned San Francisco banker. Santa Clara County shows the property leased to him for 10 years at the cost of \$175 in gold coins to be paid annually. The lease also stipulated that Pioche could use it for personal use but not for sale. No document has been found to show the termination of this agreement. He built the bottling works known as New Almadén Vichy Water and shipped hundreds of gallons of the mineral spring water all over the world.

Pioche advertised the tonic water as a panacea for an assortment of diseases and conditions. Diabetes, inflammation or obstruction of the liver and spleen, weak blood, gout and weakness of the nervous system would

be eliminated. The bubbly elixir restored strength weakened by too much labor or lack of exercise. It claimed to prevent fever, rheumatism, scrofula and night sweats. A cure-all remedy for excesses of smoking or chewing, hard work and too much play was promised. Eat or drink too much? New Almadén Vichy Water was the answer. The tonic from the Hacienda, shipped out of San Francisco and sold worldwide, benefited from the promotion claims on the label and advertisements in newsprint. The cost for the miraculous cure was \$4 for 12 bottles and \$5 for 24 half bottles. The label recommended that since the water was so powerful, one should seek the advice of a physician before imbibing.

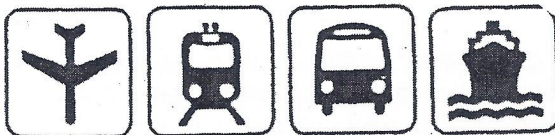
In a mineral analysis by Pioche, the water showed a high content of carbonic acid, bi-carbonate of soda and lime, oxide of iron, sulphate of magnesia and sodium chloride. Our modern day baking soda contains sodium bicarbonate used for heartburn, acid indigestion and sour stomach. Milk of magnesium is taken for acid indigestion and constipation. So there was some truth in the claim Vichy cured dyspepsia [indigestion].

The water could be taken pure or mixed with water, beef broth, red wine, white wine, brandy, sherry, syrup, champagne or milk.

The company had a lucrative market for many years until 1882 when the Buena Vista shaft of the mine penetrated the 2,100-foot level and the spring ceased flowing. The miners in the shaft were overcome by gas, which resulted in the area being filled and sealed off after the men exited. As a result, the water lost its carbonation and the venture went financially flat as well.

In 1915, Mr. Nichols, an employee of the mining company, turned down a plan to redevelop Vichy Water, saying the \$10,000 should go to further mining operations.

The monument of Vichy Springs is located on Bertram Road near the concrete bridge where the company was built. For a walking tour of New Almadén stop by the Almadén Quicksilver Mining Museum, 21350 Almadén Road, San Jose or call (408) 323-1107 for further information.



Touring with the Californians

June, 2004

Tour Director Rose Crimi Muench

Reservations Marie Rider
(408) 251-7887 Mon to Fri, A.M

Treasurer Beverly Fisher
3435 Yuba Avenue, San José, 95117-2966

Luncheon Pauline Hawkins
Registrations

Registration and Pickup Point

Registration begins at the June 5 luncheon. Checks are preferred, or exact cash. Preference is given to Pioneers members to register at the luncheon and through the following week. Non-members and guests may sign up starting June 14. If you do not get a Trip Flyer at the luncheon meeting, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to our Treasurer.

The Pickup Point (unless otherwise noted) is at Valley Village, 390 N. Winchester, Santa Clara, at the Dolores Street side.

DAY TRIPS

June 23, Wednesday — Tiburon and Belvedere

The Tiburon peninsula in Marin County was hilly pasture land, part of Rancho Corte Madera del Presidio granted in 1834 to John Thomas Reed and Hilarita Sánchez to provide lumber for the San Francisco Presidio. In 1872 their daughter, Hilarita, married Dr. Benjamin Lyford, a Civil War surgeon and embalmer. We will visit their mansion, a towered, three-story, yellow Victorian with furnishings over 120 years old. We will stop at the Richardson Bay Audubon Visitor Center to see their bird life displays and bookstore. We will return to downtown Tiburon for lunch, on your own, at one of the many restaurants on Main Street. You will get a listing and map of the Main Street area. Afterward, we will view Old St. Hilary's Catholic Church, a redwood carpenter style church built in

1886 on a hill surrounded by a wildflower preserve. Visits include the Train and Ferry Terminal built in 1884, and "China Cabin", the ornate grand saloon of the S. S. China side-wheel steamer. We will have free time to stroll along Main Street, preserved as a gold rush train and lumber town, and "Ark Row," buildings converted from 1890s houseboats.
Leave: 9:30 AM Return: 6:00 PM. Cost: \$ 24

July 15, Thursday — Island Hopping: Angel Island to Alcatraz

Leave from Pier 41 for Angel Island, the Ellis Island of the West, where mostly Asian immigrants were processed and quarantined before being allowed to enter the U.S. We then board an open-air tram for a guided tour. Lunch is on your own. Bring a picnic lunch or buy something at the Island

hop the
another
Our self-
take us
when
the first
security



Cove Café. We
ferry again for
ride to Alcatraz.
guided tour will
back to the time
Alcatraz became
maximum-
federal prison

seventy years ago. We'll hear stories of attempted escapes and famous inmates such as Al Capone, Machine Gun Kelly, and the Birdman of Alcatraz, who have inspired Hollywood movies. We then ferry back to Pier 41 and board our bus for our return to San Jose. Wear comfortable shoes.

Leave: 8:15 AM Return: 5:00 PM Cost: \$ 58

August 19, Thursday — Paramount Theatre and the Henry J. Kaiser Exhibit at the Oakland Museum

The Oakland Museum has mounted a special exhibit on "Henry J. Kaiser: Think Big." Our docent-guided tour will highlight Kaiser's historic influence in the Bay area with ship building during World War II, cement plants, post-war housing projects, and the Kaiser non-profit health plan. In addition we will learn about his innovative ideas in manufacturing, building dams, and automobile production. Two Kaiser automobiles are

on display. Our included luncheon will be family-style at Le Cheval Restaurant. (Maybe we'll see Mayor Jerry Brown there again.) After lunch we will have a guided tour of the outstanding Art Deco style Paramount Theatre -- an appropriate follow-up to our April 6 visit to the Art Deco Exhibit at the Legion of Honor.

Leave: 9:00 a.m. Return: 4:00 p.m. Cost: \$ 36

September Day Trip Plans

We hope to have a tour here of the newly refurbished California Fox Theatre, scheduled to open in mid-September, followed by an old-time movie night and organ concert at Palo Alto's Stanford Theater. Registration will be taken at the September 4 luncheon.

EXTENDED TRIPS

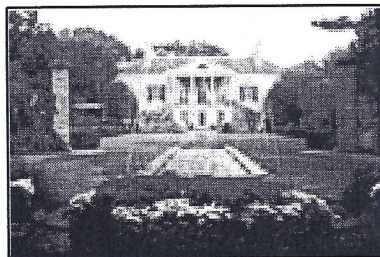
October 2 to 12 — Mexican Riviera Cruise on the new *Sapphire Princess*

Agency: Golden Gates Tours. New 2004 ship! San Francisco round trip -- no flights!. Ports: Catalina, San Diego, Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta, and Mazatlán. Cost includes: round trip transfer from San Jose to the San Francisco pier, port charges and fees, baggage handling, cocktail party onboard. Deposit is \$450. Brochures are available. Registrants will receive a billing for the final payment due July 13.

Cost: Inside \$1090, Outside \$1375, Balcony \$1415, Balcony Suite \$1695.

December 30 to January 2, 2005 – New Orleans on New Year's Day

Agency: Golden Gates Tours. We fly to New Orleans and board the *River Explorer*, our barge/hotel, docked by the French Quarter. Staterooms and bathrooms are spacious, with lots of storage cabinets. That evening, you might try your luck at the Casino nearby. Next day we tour the French Quarter, the newly opened D-day Museum, commemorating the 1944 Normandy War II, then the the and Gardens the evening, our Party with champagne is incredible from the middle River! New



invasion of World Longue Vue House (shown here). In New Year's Eve music and climaxed with an fireworks show of the Mississippi Year's Day we

have brunch while our barge cruises the Mississippi River. On our final day, we will take a city tour of New Orleans en route to the airport for our flight home. Space is limited. Sign up early. Brochures will be available at the June luncheon.

Cost: \$1215 or \$1290 for a balcony cabin

2005 Extended Trips – Japan

Rose has just returned from a wonderful trip to Japan and highly recommends it. If there is enough interest, we can offer it April 28 -- May 9, 2005. We need only a minimum of 15 people to have our own bus and guide. Highlights include: Tokyo tour, Mt. Fuji and Hakone Garden, Kobe sake museum, Kyoto temples, Korakuen Garden in Okayama (San Jose's Sister City), the moving Hiroshima Memorial Park, medieval castles, a kimono fashion show, tea ceremony, and many other fascinating sights. An extra bonus is the azalea blooming season in May. The non-stop flight to Japan is actually shorter than flying to London, so it is not too tiring. Brochures will be available for our September luncheon.

Presentation: You are invited to a presentation for the New Orleans New Year's trip and the Japan trip on Friday, July 16, 3:00 p.m. at Mama Mia's Restaurant, 200 E. Hamilton Avenue at Third Street, Campbell. We will also talk about itineraries for a river barge trip in late summer or early fall. Please sign up at the June luncheon, or call Rose at 293-0896.

Quarterly Luncheon at Lou's Village
June 4, 2004 at Noon
Price: \$16.50

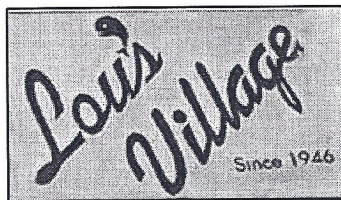
Topic: Essay Contest

Reserve by Wednesday, June 1
Telephone: 554-7587

Menu

Green Salad
Rolls and Butter
Grilled Chicken Breast with Mushrooms
Dessert: Chef's Choice

If you would like a vegetarian meal, please contact Carol Arnoldy at 298-9043.



Officers & Directors

President	Jim Arbuckle	265-9722 jarbuck@attglobal.net
1 st VP	Open	
2 nd VP	Carol Arnoldy	298-9043
Corresp Sect	Open	
Record. Sect	Open	
Treasurer	Open	241-0224
Archivist	Helen MacCarthy	578-4485
Legal	Kenneth Machado	723-4056
Historian	Leonard McKay	298-5711
Audit	Open	
	Open	
Parl'tarian	Open	
Sunshine	Virginia Bittle	736-3772
Marshal	Rick Helin	266-1907
Trailblazer	Jim Arbuckle	265-9722
Mem'ship	Melita Kelly	292-2385 melikel@pacbell.net 460 No. 15 th Street San José 95112

Californians

Leader	Rose Crimi Muench	293-0896
Reserv.	Marie Rider	251-7887
Treasurer	Beverly Fisher	241-0224

Hacienda Cemetery & Jackson Ranch

Richard Hill	258-3449
Bud Amaral	268-4078
Bob Fisher	241-0224
Ralph Perez	377-1641
Manny Carvalho	(831) 335-9203
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