

QUARTERLY BULLETIN
OF THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

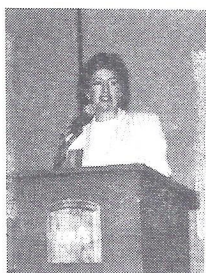
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PRIZES AWARDED IN ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST



*Mary Jo
Ignoffo*

The first and second prize winners of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County annual essay contest presented their papers at our quarterly luncheon in June.

The first prize of \$500.00 was awarded to Mary Jo Ignoffo of Santa Clara, for her essay "Laura Thane Whipple: A Real Estate Agent Who Changed the Course of Santa Clara County's History".

From Ms. Ignoffo's introduction:

"Whipple was a real estate agent from Alameda County and it was her idea to convince the United States Navy to build their dirigible air base on the site of the former Ranch Ynigo, present-day Moffett Field. She helped broker the sale and option of properties and thus transformed her idea into action which culminated in the transfer of 1,000 acres to the Navy in 1931. This paper discusses Laura Thane Whipple and her participation in the establishment of Moffett Field, thereby giving her the status she deserves in Santa Clara County's history. In addition, aspects of the complicated real estate transaction will be discussed, naming property owners and others important to the overall plan. The establishment of Naval Air Station Sunnyvale, subsequently named Moffett Field Naval Air Station, was a pivotal point in the county's history where the economy turned away from agriculture toward military procurement, defense department contracts and high technology development. Laura Whipple's role at this crucial juncture deems her worthy of consideration by Santa Clara County historians."

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The second prize of \$250.00 was awarded to Juliette W. Noh from San J

The second prize of \$250.00 was awarded to Juliette W. Noh from San Jose, who is a student at Leland High School. Ms Noh's essay was "the Fallon Controversy, San Jose, California".



Juliette W. Noh

From Ms. Noh's introduction: "I am hapy (sic) to inform you that we have (according to your wishes: hoisted the star spangled banner (sic) on the fourteenth instant, and we hope it may wave and dispense its blessings throughout this country' wrote Captain Thomas Fallon in his dispatch to his superior after he and his band of American volunteers hoisted the flag on the Juzado (courthouse) flag staff, thereby claiming San Jose for America during the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). How could Captain Fallon have foreseen the controversy that would later erupt, some 150 years later, over a bronze, one and one-half times life size statue bearing his likeness?

"From roughly January 1990 to December 1990, the City of San Jose witnessed both the manifestation of San Jose's political polarization and the awakening of the Hispanic community over the issue of the Fallon statue. According to the Mayor of San Jose at the time, Thomas McEnery, the statue was not intended to be a divisive issue. But somehow, it was construed as such by certain people including members of the Hispanic community and other groups who came together in opposition to what some deemed a 'slap in the face'.

"It is the goal of this paper to delve into the history of the conflict and to reach an understanding of this controversy", wrote Ms. Noh.

The third prize of \$125.00 was awarded to Chuck Myer for his essay "Pacheco Past: A History of the Gateway to Santa Clara County".

All of the essays submitted in the annual contests are available in the California Room of the San Jose Public Library. Excellent reading! Congratulations!



Ruth Patton



President's Message

The first thing I want to mention is the change for our September Quarterly Luncheon meeting. Because of several circumstances and conflicts, we will meet at Lou's Village on Saturday, September 12, 1992, instead of September 5. At least, this way those of you planning a Labor Day Holiday weekend will now be able to be with us.

At our July Board meeting, we welcomed four new members. Mr. James Reid will serve as Chairman of the Audit Committee, Mrs. Maxine Dixon will take on the responsibility of Recording Secretary, and Mr. Richard McGlynn and Mr. Kenneth Clark will be on the Audit Committee. We need one more member on our Board of Directors, and I would be interested in hearing from anyone who might like to be considered as a possible nominee.

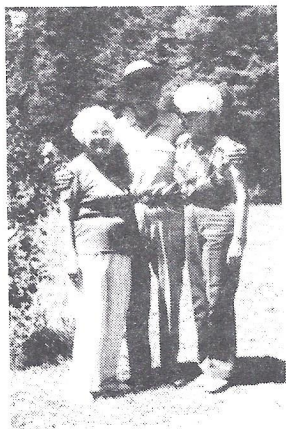
At the last luncheon, it was suggested that we have "one-time" name tags available at these meetings. If anyone would care to volunteer to distribute them, the Board would be interested in hearing from you.

As I begin my second term as your President, I hope we can become better acquainted, renew old friendships, take wonderful trips and continue to advance the purposes of this organization. I hope to see you on September 12th!

LUNCHEON MEETING IN SEPTEMBER IS ON
THE SECOND SATURDAY--SEPTEMBER 12TH

HELEN LEADS PIONEERS TO NORTH DAKOTA

By Helen Arbuckle



*Helen Arbuckle
Clyde Arbuckle
Barbara Johnsen*

Those of us who joined the North Dakota tour July 8th to the 16th, discovered that there is beauty in distance and planted fields spread to the horizon. The urge possesses one to close one's eyes, breathe deeply of the crystal pure air and forget the hustle and bustle of life in Silicon Valley.

Our first taste of North Dakota's varied ethnicity was a visit to the Mandan Indian village site and a tour of the Custer house replica furnished with original belongings and trophies used by Mr. and

Mrs. Custer during their residence prior to the incident at the Little Big Horn.

Traveling westward we passed through area where once thousands of buffalo roamed. The highway bypassed small towns founded by Germans from Russia, Norwegians, Czechs, and German-Hungarians who sought to escape the grinding poverty of their homeland. Soon the twin spires of the Assumption Abbey at Richardton, a familiar landmark appeared above the rolling prairie. There we were given a tour of the beautiful sanctuary and a brief history of the Benedictine Order plus a visit to the wine cellar where wine from California was poured which put us in a convivial mood for the late afternoon arrival in Dickinson. There a German meal of sauerbraten had been prepared topped off by a program of Czech dances by local children. The morning agenda included a visit to Prairie Outpost Park and the Joachim museum

where Helen Arbuckle's family mementoes were on display.

Our next important stop was the historic town of Medora deep in the North Dakota badlands and where Theodore Roosevelt ranched in the 1880s. He wrote: "I have always said I never would have been President if it had not been for my experience in North Dakota." He admired the rough virtues and the rugged integrity of the men with whom he rode and from them drew his inspiration for organizing the Rough Riders. (Prairie dogs).

Cutting across southeast Montana through more plains, ranch, and spectacular badlands country, we arrived at the Custer Battlefield, officially Battle of the Little Big Horn. With the help of the ranger, we visualized the action on that fateful day in 1876.

Then on to Cody, Wyoming, founded by William F. Cody -- Buffalo Bill, epitomizing the tradition of the old west. The splendid exhibit of western art by western artists was/is worth a special visit.

Entering Yellowstone Park at its east entrance, we paid our respects to the geysers, springs, and naturally Old Faithful -- we couldn't miss that! On to the Grand Tetons and the quaint Church of the Transfiguration in Jackson Hole.

High on the list of bonus points was a picnic lunch among the wild flowers along the western slope of the Teton and the restful two nights at Grand Targhee Ski Lodge -- no skiing though at this time of year, then on towards home.

Leave it to Barbara Johnsen to arrange for unexpected detours that were better than the original plan. Every one agreed that our welfare and comfort were the first consideration of hers and our young driver, Gary Anderson of Fargo, North Dakota



Assumption Abbey

FIRST, WE ATE IT, THEN WE SAW IT!
TO EAT OR NOT TO EAT?... THAT IS THE QUESTION!
WHERE'S THE BEEF?
THANKS, BUT I CAN'T EAT ANOTHER BITE!
ANOTHER VICTORY FOR 'THE CALIFORNIANS'!



By Tommy Warren

In the afterglow of the Olympic Games, comes a nostalgic remembrance of the internationally acclaimed achievements of THE CALIFORNIANS, the Pioneers' traveling group. Renowned as a world-class EATING machine, they have hands-down scored 10's in restaurants throughout the world.

Led by Austen Warburton and Dick Hill, charter members of the Clean-Your-Plate Club, THE CALIFORNIANS came very close to doing a "belly flop" in, of all places, the wilds of Nevada. On a four-day trip through western Nevada and northeastern California, THE CALIFORNIANS swaggered into the first stop (Minden, Nevada) which featured "SLOTS-of-fun", and of greater importance, the Minden Country Club with its bigger-than-life Basque dinner. THE CALIFORNIANS were willing, ready and ready for an EAT-out at the Old Basque Corral.

With knives, forks and napkins at the ready, the Warburton gang sat in place, anxious to EAT. The veteran Basque serving force, knowing that the main course was yet to come, were not impressed by THE



CALIFORNIANS rapid disposal of baskets of bread, plates of salad, bowls of beef broth and oxtail hors d'oeuvres. As the meal progressed, a gradual ominous hush came over the room as one after another EATER put down his utensils. Unfinished platters of steak were still in abundance. Were the gorged, glazed-eyed CALIFORNIANS to learn firsthand about the agony of defEAT?

All appeared to be lost, but wait! Who is that wrangler in cowboy boots wearing a big belt buckle and flashing a triumphant smile seated next to Austen? Why none other than Avis Burr's California fifth generation nephew, Clarence Burr, who cattle-ranches a large spread in Minden, Nevada. An EAT-a-thon "ringer," a guest EATER whose lineage certainly qualifies him as a

CALIFORNIAN, Clarence, having already devoured a pound-and-a-half of steak, victoriously gets plastic bags from the beleaguered Basque servers. With the cry of USA! USA! (actually San Jose! San Jose!) the bags were filled with the remaining 20 pounds of steak and whisked off to the range freezer (with Clarence commenting "I grow it, I eat it.") a technical victory, nonetheless another EAT-til-you-drop-before-dishonor" triumph for THE CALIFORNIANS.

A celebration was a must! A pilgrimage was made to "king" Clarence's training quarters. Saved from defEAT, THE CALIFORNIANS will be EATurnally grateful to Clarence Burr, our gold-medal EATER.



A Paul Bunyon-sized prize bull

WHALE BLAZERS

SAN JOSE, August 1902... A builder's contract had been filed at the office of the county recorder where one William J. Bigger agreed to construct four houses in the Naglee Park Tract at the entire cost of \$11,640.

GILROY, August 1902... Again, the demand, according to the town's Gazette, for resident homes was on the increase. "Certainly there appeared to be a good opportunity for those who had \$1,000. to \$2,000. lying idle. Those who neglected to build here in just a year were already regretting their lack of enterprise."

SAN JOSE, October 1902... County Tax Collector William January was authorized to make visits to the various sections of the county for tax collecting purposes.

SAN JOSE, October 1902... The long and popular firm of the O. A. Hale department store came to the relief of the teachers whose warrants for salaries could not be paid until December owing to the depleted condition of the State's school fund.

MAY 1912... The opportunity to see what San Jose would be like if Prohibition was to win on May 20, 1912. The Saloon keepers had taken this action voluntarily with the intention of showing the people of the city what it would be like if Prohibitionists were successful on the issue. For three nights, a Friday, Saturday and Sunday, San Jose saloons were to close. This was a 'test run' to see how the city would respond. Well, by May 21, the 'wets' won even in 'dry territory' with a 1200 majority. Santa Clara also rose up to vote on the saloon question. On June 20, 1912, the 'wets' won with nearly every person registered casting a vote on the disputed question.

SANTA CLARA, August 1911... The Enterprise Laundry here was now adding to the plight of the horse and wagon era with the purchase of two automobile delivery vans.



Beyond The Sunset

Leon Allen
Geraldine Benoit
Ann Leonard

Isola Barackman
Walter Hojda
Josephine Wiley

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

Evelyn N. Ayres
Paul R. Bernal -Life Member
Betty L. Bradford
Verna J. Broadwell
Esther C. Crosby
Harriet L. Duzet
Janyce M. Holland

John K. Holland
Eugenie B. Keenan
Florence T. Myers
Mary H. Price
Ruth W. Savage
Rayborna Williams
Daniel E. Williams

JOIN US FOR THE LUNCHEON ON
SEPTEMBER 12TH

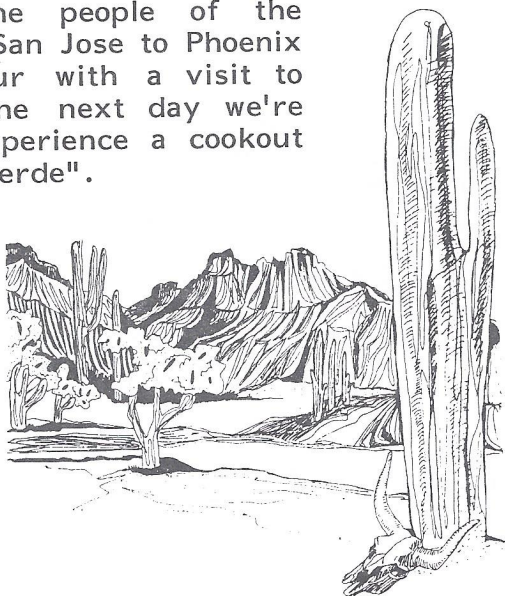
UNDER THE WEATHER

Kindly keep your officers informed as to the condition of any ill member and report any sickness or death to the chair of our SUNSHINE Committee -- Leah Warren, 2032 Emory Street, San Jose, CA 95128
(408) 241-8942

Touring With The Californians

November 7-14, 1992 SONORAN DESERT WITH AUSTEN WARBURTON, our very own expert in the cultures of the people of the Southwest. We fly from San Jose to Phoenix where we begin our tour with a visit to the Heard Museum. The next day we're off to Tucson. We'll experience a cookout at guest ranch "Tanque Verde".

On following days we will visit Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Saguaro National Monument, Tumacacori National Historical Park, Mission San Xavier Del Bac, the "White Dove of the Desert". Then on to Tombstone, Bisbee, and the great ruins of Casas Grandes.



Before flying home from Tucson, we will visit "Biosphere 2" near Oracle, Arizona.

For reservations, call Nancy Hill, (408) 258-3449, Monday thru Friday, preferably in the morning.

Send a stamped, self-addressed, legal size envelope for the Sonoran Desert brochure to:

THE CALIFORNIANS
1365 Lindsay Way
San Jose, CA 95118

Exciting one day tours are planned for October and December. Sign up at the September 12th Pioneers Luncheon.

SPRING 1993!! We are looking forward to a "potpourri" of new Southern California attractions in an early spring tour.

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA CO.
P. O. Box 8208
San Jose, CA 95155



Tommy Warren

The expiration date of your membership is noted on the address label of the TRAILBLAZER. Membership is on the annual basis -- January through December, and dues are payable the first Saturday in January.

TRAILBLAZER subscriptions to non-members are payable to the Financial Secretary the month after the expiration date.

PLEASE be conscientious in notifying us of changes of address. If the task is left to the post office, we are charged 29¢ for each returned TRAILBLAZER. Many thanks!



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SUBSCRIPTION RATE TO NON-MEMBERS: \$5.00

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NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR SEPTEMBER
LUNCHEON - SATURDAY THE 12TH!



Yep! 'Tis Pioneer
Luncheon Time
AT LOU'S VILLAGE

Sat. Sept. 12

* Featuring *

Prof. John De Vincenzi
of San Jose State
University *

Please
Call.. **554-7587** For Reservations
24 HOUR SERVICE *Please CALL by Wed. Prior to LUNCHEON*

SWISS
STEAK
MASHED
TATOES
VEGETABLE
TOSSED
SALAD
ICE CREAM
BEVERAGE
\$10.