

Volume 11

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FUN IS WHERE YOU FIND IT

Ruth Heath

"Bring a lunch next Saturday, and let's go to the cemetery." This was the request often made by my best friend during 1910 and '11. If she hadn't suggested it I probably would have.

In those days we had hit upon a wonderful form of entertainment. We hurried through our Saturday chores and with our lunches and ten cents for carfare, we were off for a pleasant day.

Our street car was yellow, striped with brown, and we felt very gay as we started from Julian Street. When we reached Chrisman's Hay and Wood Yard on North 11th Street, our car would wait at the switch for the east bound car, or, if we were early we went on to 6th Street where it might be waiting for us. We changed cars at 1st and San Fernando for our ride south and with one more transfer at 1st and Alma we were on our way to Oak Hill Cemetery.

We always tried to get outside seats. We felt very adventurous as they faced the street and we had to hang on to the posts to keep from falling off. Sometimes we were fortunate enough to ride on a car which was open on both sides with seats across and an isle in the center.

Occasionally the trolley slipped off the wire, emitting a shower of sparks. The conductor would run to the back of the car, fit the grooved wheel of the trolley onto the wire and away we would go.

We rode through Cottage Grove and down Monterey Road. We had a choice of getting off at the first or second gate--Stone Avenue (now Curtner) or Tully Road. We were cautioned never to ride to the end of the line, if we did

this, we were told, could be dangerous, for here was located the German Beer Garden (Schuetzen Park). We never found out what might happen to us, but the little mystery added to our sense of adventure.

We usually chose to enter by the second gate, off Tully Road for in that section were our family plots and I never grew tired of reading grandfather's Civil War record carved on his stone.

My grandfather was Colonel A. G. Bennett. He had served as an officer in the Union Army, then moving from the East to San Jose to engage in the manufacture and sale of furniture. Active in the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic, it had been his responsibility to attend to ordering and placing the white stones for those of his comrades who had passed away. He had requested that such a stone be placed on his grave.

We saw many of these stones in the Civil War plot where we often attended Decoration Day exercises. The war was always kept fresh in our minds by the bearded veterans who visited our school prior to Decoration Day.

We knew the story of the Dunham assassination, when six members of one family were murdered in Campbell in May 1896, therefore an important part of our day was to visit the plot where the victims were buried and read the inscription "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, saith the Lord."

We visited the mausoleums and picked out styles we thought the most beautiful, hoping that we would be fortunate enough to have such a monument to mark our graves.

Since we had lived in San Jose all our lives, we recognized many of the names on the stones as those of relatives of our friends. While we ate our lunch we discussed the part that those now dead had played in the early days of our valley.

We still had the fun of a ride home and the change of street cars. We ended a pleasant day with the promise of a repeat trip as soon as possible.

* * *

THE SAN JOSE POST OFFICE

Henry Calloway

The first official mail communications established by the United States between San Jose and the outside world was in April, 1847 when Assistant Quartermaster General J. L. Folsom established a weekly mail service between San Francisco and Monterey via San Jose. Previous to this time, under Spanish and Mexican rule the only means of communication had been by mounted messenger.

Under the postal system established by the military, Jacob D. Hoppe acted as postmaster, and was in reality San Jose's first postmaster. Hoppe came from Missouri in 1846. He was a member of the firm of Hoppe, Hawkins & Company, who kept a general merchandise store in a small frame building on South Market Street. It was in this building that San Jose was established as a U. S. Post Office, November 8, 1849.

Shortly after this Hoppe moved the firm and the Post Office into a two story adobe structure he had built on the N.E. corner of Santa Clara and Market streets. Hoppe was a prominent figure in early San Jose history and his place of business was headquarters for our pioneer politicians. Hoppe's death on a steamer explosion near Alviso in 1853 was a public calamity as San Jose could ill afford to spare such a citizen.

John R. Wilson was our second postmaster appointed by President Fillmore, August 7, 1851. Wilson held the office for about one year, resigning in late 1852. He was a noted politician and was city treasurer for several years. Arthur Shearer was then appointed postmaster. Shearer moved the office to a room on Santa Clara Street, between Market and First. At this time there was a monthly overland mail and a weekly mail delivery from San Francisco and Monterey. Shearer gave up his appointment after serving for one year.

The next postmaster was Major John Patrick, appointed by President Pierce in November 1853. The Major was a native of Arkansas, and a veteran of the Mexican War. During his term, the office was moved to South First Street opposite El Dorado Street.

Next came General Charles E. Allen who was appointed July 15, 1856. The new postmaster moved the office to West Santa Clara Street. Allen was a native of Massachusetts and a pioneer of 1849. He was the first county assessor of Santa Clara County, and a county judge in 1853. He was commissioned a Brigadier General of the First Brigade, Second Division of the California Militia. Allen declined the reappointment of postmaster by President Buchanan, but remained in charge of the office until his successor was appointed by President Lincoln the following year.

Simon M. Cutler succeeded General Allen in July 1861 being the first postmaster of the new Republican Party. Cutler decided to move the office to a general store on South Market Street. Cutler died in office in 1868, and his brother James acted as postmaster until 1869, when

Judge Charles G. Thomas was appointed postmaster. Again the post office was moved to South First Street, to a section known as the Hester Block. Business was increasing by then and four clerks were employed. Judge Thomas was also the Justice of the Peace.

President Grant in May 1873, appointed. Dr. E.A. Clark postmaster. The new postal elect once more moved the office to better quarters on the N.W. corner of Market and Santa Clara streets, in the Hensley Block. Previous to his postal appointment the Doctor served as deputy County Recorder, was Superintendent of City Schools engaged in Real Estate, wrote for the local press, and always practised medicine.

Mr. S. B. Anderson was appointed postmaster by President Hayes April 4, 1877. Anderson was assistant postmaster for ten years before his appointment. Because of local political factions Anderson was removed from office after serving only one year.

Daniel C. Bailey was the next postmaster, appointed by President Hayes in April 1878, and was reappointed by President Arthur August 1, 1882, served until June 1, 1886. Bailey after repeated attempts succeeded in having free delivery service inaugurated in this city October 1, 1885. He adopted a better system of renumbering the streets and gave birth to the mail carrier force in San Jose. Bailey once served as County Recorder.

Samuel H. Wagener was appointed postmaster by President Cleveland in April 1886. Wagener had never taken an active part in politics, and his appointment was, like many of Cleveland's appointments, a disappointment to the politicians. Despite the clamor of political friends Wagener retained efficient clerks and carriers, and all his appointments were made upon merit without regard to politics. Wagener came to San Jose from Michigan in 1877. He was an enthusiastic Mason, and a Past Grant Commander of the Knights Templars.

Dr. Thomas Kelley was commissioned by President Harrison as postmaster May 8, 1890. He appointed his son Professor A. M. Kelley assistant postmaster to whom he entrusted the details of the office. The office was now located at First and San Antonio streets. During Kelley's term of office receipts were exceeding \$40,000 thereby making San Jose for the first time a "First Class Post Office."

During the Congressional campaign of 1888, the Hon. T. J. Clunie promised the people of San Jose that if they would send him to Congress, he would secure an appropria-

tion for a post office building for this city. He was elected and kept his promise. The site chosen was at Market and San Fernando streets (recent public library). Cost of the grounds \$39,454.67. The building construction cost \$138,852.21 and started in 1892, completed in 1894. San Jose was well proud of its new and handsome Government building which at the time they thought would be permanently located.

John W. Ryland postmaster at this time, was appointed August 24, 1894. Ryland was a native of San Jose, educated at Santa Clara College and Hastings Law School. The longevity of this location lasted until July 1934, when the new Federal building was completed at First and St. John streets. The life span for the Main Office at this location was 31 years. Rapid growth and lack of space made another move necessary.

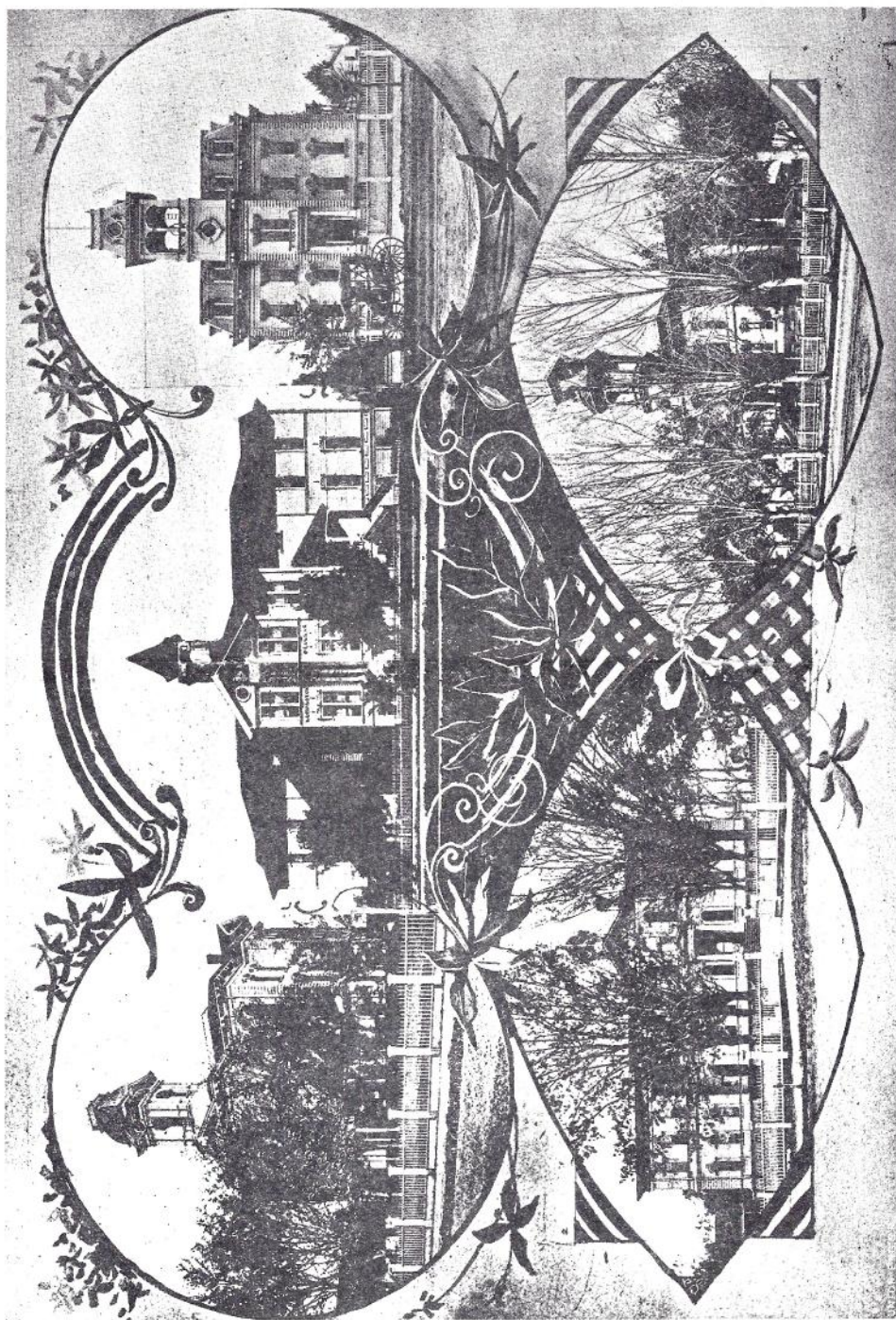
Having followed the Post Office in its wanderings from place to place over the city, we will now leave it "permanently" located as our "Main Office" at 1750 Meridian Road, a \$3,000,000.00 facility on a ten acre site.

* * *

The following interesting information was received with application for membership from Catherine Piper Connett. "My paternal grandfather Noah T. Piper came to California via Isthmus of Panama in 1859 with an older brother, Samuel. He crossed the mountains to Aurora, Nevada, remained there two years and then returned to Mono County, California and purchased the (Oasis) Piper Ranch. There are two mountain peaks named for my grandfather in that area. Piper Peak, in the Silver Peak range in Nevada and Piper Peak near Deep Springs, California.

Several years ago my husband and I made a trip to Oasis, because we were curious and wanted to see the place. The ranch is still productive and is owned by a Basque. It is a beautiful sight to look down into the valley from Lida, Nevada and see this bright green ranch of 3,800 acres planted with green alfalfa with nothing but desert all around. The ranch borders the California-Nevada state line. The home is in California and on the road which, today, goes over Westgard Pass into Big Pine, California. It is over this road that my grandfather made many trips to his Masonic Lodge, Inyo No. 221 of which he became a member in 1873 and to visit his friends in the Bishop area."

* * *



Upper left, Longfellow School. Lower left, Lowell School.
Center, Washington Grammar School.

Upper right, Horace Mann Grammar School. Lower right,
Grant School. Circa 1895.

EFFIE MAE HAWKINS

The following message written by Mrs. Hawkins was read at her funeral service on June 7th and we would like to share it with the entire membership.

"It is not that I am expecting to pass on soon--life is good, and I enjoy the privilege of living so that I may learn and understand better just why I was born at all.

"The day I cast off my body will be more like a birthday into another and better state of existence. It will be like shedding an old garment whose usefulness has been outgrown.

"So, I want no funeral--no weeping and gazing on a cold body which I wore for a time. Instead of flowers the money so spent could be used to make the world a better place in which to live. And since this old body will be of no further use, why should it take up space needed for the living? Cremation, with the ashes disposed of in a suitable manner would be my wish.

"There may be some who will miss me, but I want to feel that their thoughts are a happy send-off for me in my new life."

Effie M. Hawkins

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The following contribution was copied from The Pioneer (predecessor of The Trailblazer) and sent in by Mrs. Helen Arbuckle.

"July 14, 1877. The committee of the Board of Supervisors have reported adversely in the matter of a street railroad to the cemetery, on the ground of the road being too narrow and the cost too great.

"Dec. 8, 1877. The sale of the Divine homestead at the corner of First and Divine streets was recorded today, the purchaser being James B. Haggin of San Francisco, the price was \$11,000. Last week, this same gentleman bought the homestead of ex-sheriff J. H. Adams adjoining Divine's on the south for \$6,500.

"Dec. 22, 1877. Our Senator Murphy has introduced a bill to allow women to practice law and hold the office of Notary Public. Well, why shouldn't they?

"Aug. 4, 1877. The Chief of Police has given orders to enforce the ordinance against minors being upon the streets after 8 o'clock. Good. Make a clean sweep Chief.

"What is a moral instrument? An upright piano."

BY-LINES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lynn L. Vermillion

"History-Now!" was the theme of the 17th annual Historical Conference of Historical Societies that I attended this June. I appreciated this opportunity to represent our organization. Listening to the speeches, attending business meetings, seminars and talking to people, two words always came to the foreground: Caring and Involvement--which when analyzed means individuals--you-me-all of us must participate in some way to make belonging to an organization meaningful. I think a fine example of this is our San Jose Historical Museum opening last June. If people had not cared and had not participated, I don't believe this event would have ever taken place. We can all be proud of Jack Dowty, Dennis Peterson, the members of the Historical Association, and all the other people who gave their time and energy. They had their "Castle in the Air" but they put a firm foundation under it. Congratulations!

* * *

LOOK FOR IT HERE

Our next quarterly meeting will be Saturday, September 4th, 12 o'clock noon at Lou's Village. Our program chairman promises us some good entertainment. ***

The Social Club of our society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday afternoon of each month. For further information call Mrs. Lovene Lührman, 292-0070. ***

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE chairman is Miss Doreen Magud, 819 State Street, San Jose, CA 95110. Phone 293-0242 or during office hours 287-2788 ext. 855. Please report all SICKNESS and DEATHS to Miss Magud. ***

BUS TOURS: your tour leader is Mrs. Esther Adams. For information you may call her Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Phone 264-8119. **

On May 1st during a banquet at the Red Coach Inn Mr. Austen D. Warburton received the University of Santa Clara's coveted Edwin J. Owens Lawyer of the Year Award.*

Fire gutted the interior of the old Wendt meat market on the evening of July 8th at the corner of St. John and Market streets. The Wendt market was over 100 years old and will be remembered by most all of our members as a pioneer establishment. ***

The historic Lytton School at Lytton Avenue and Middlefield Road in Palo Alto, built at the turn of the century, may be torn down. The City of Palo Alto has purchased the property from the school district and is con-

sidering a r e s a l e for a senior citizen's apartment project. ***

The old Hichborn home at 1091 Fremont Street in Santa Clara, built in 1865 was the recipient of a bronze marker recently. It was placed by the Santa Clara Historical Society. Mr. Clyde Arbuckle was the main speaker at the event. Franklin Hichborn was known as a crusading journalist and called the "Man who gave the state back to the people." He worked with Governor Hiram Johnson for many labor reforms and covered the state legislature for over 50 years. He died in 1963 at the age of 95. In the home was a giant grandfather clock, which is now in the possession of Robert Hichborn, grandson of Franklin. The clock dates back to 1690. ***

The history of Orchard School dates back 115 years and at present is undergoing a \$200,000 renovating and remodeling job of lighting, painting, two new classrooms, a multipurpose room, new cement and planting arrangements. The school is presently located on Gish Road just beyond the junction of Bayshore and Highway 17. The original Orchard School was built in 1856 on the old Oakland Road near Coyote Creek, then moved to Schallenberger Road about where Highway 17 crosses at the present time. In 1896 it was moved to its present location on Gish Road. The first principal of Orchard School was Miss Martha Trimble, who later became principal of Normal Training School. Miss Kate Doyle served as its second principal and Miss Mabel Farley the third principal. Miss Farley retired June 30, 1970 with 48 years of service in the school department. ***

The old Berryessa adobe at 373 Jefferson Street in Santa Clara was dedicated as an artifact of Santa Clara's early days, July 16, 1970 by the Santa Clara Historical and Landmarks Commission. The plaque states, "The old adobe was 'probably built about 1849-50' and was sold to the occupant, Fernando Berryessa and his family by the town of Santa Clara on Dec. 20, 1867 for \$6. A partial basement was excavated long ago when the owners at that time heard there was gold buried under their home." The lapse in time between when Berryessa built his adobe and gained title was because of delay in obtaining ownership under California law by the Americans. The \$6 was payment for a lot 148 x 300 feet. The walls of the adobe are nearly three feet thick and the rafters are heavy hand-hewn timbers which were originally covered with hand-hewn shingles. ***

WELCOME

Congratulations to our new members: Charlotte D. Barber, Edward A. Barber, Carl B. Bennett, Victoria A. Bennett, Irba L. Close, William J. Close, Constance M. Desmond, Corla I. Dorn, Emily Falbo, Marjorie Fitch, Myrtle Hawkins, William E. Hawkins, Claire M. Holmes, Clarence E. Holmes, Francis G. Milner, Louise B. Nelson, Edna Oertley, Beatrice A. Roberts, Edward W. Roberts, Dominic M. Roti, Chester A. Topham, Jr., and Ruth M. Wayman.

* * *

UNDER THE WEATHER

As we go to press there are no serious illnesses reported. In case of sickness please notify Doreen Magud. Phone 293-0242, 819 State St., San Jose 95110.

* * *

BEYOND THE SUNSET

But the truer life draws nigher Every year;
 And its morning star climbs nigher, Every year;
 Earth's hold on us grows slighter,
 And the heavy burden lighter,
 And the Dawn Immortal brighter, Every year.

Josephine E. Franklin
 November 30, 1879 - April 26, 1971

Lora F. Benson
 February 19, 1888 - May 19, 1971

Louise McKenzie Knickrem
 May 20, 1890 - May 26, 1971

Effie Mae Hawkins
 May 24, 1895 - June 2, 1971

Irene A. Fulton
 August 18, 1924 - July 10, 1971

In behalf of the officers and members of the California Pioneer Society of Santa Clara County, The Trailblazer extends their sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of our departed members.

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THE TRAILBLAZER

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* * *

SEND APPLICATIONS for membership to Bernice Van Gundy, 561 Fuller Ave., San Jose, CA 95125.

BUS TOUR information for members of the Pioneer Society may be obtained from Mrs. Esther M. Adams, phone 264-8119 9 a.m. until 12 noon, Monday through Thursday.

SICKNESS and DEATHS please notify Doreen Magud, 819 State Street, San Jose, CA 95110. Phone 293-0242.

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