

**Volume 44, Number 3**

**September, 2003**

### **President's Report**

**Jim Arbuckle**

Earlier, I've noted my goals of broadening the membership, the response to the essay contest, and helping to move along the Jackson Ranch project in Morgan Hill, to hasten its opening to the public by the county's Parks Department. Progress is being made in all three areas.

Our proposition to amend the Bylaws to help expand our membership was presented in two parts, both of which passed our vote at the luncheon. The margin for both, as counted by our Audit Committee, was about 6:1. Prospective new members, such as our essay contest winner, "are waiting at the door."

This year's essay contest brought a wider variety of submissions; we expect to do better next year, partly with the help of Rosaleen Zisch, a relatively new member who is a social studies teacher and also on a countywide group for that subject. High school submissions have declined because the subject is now taught in the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade.

### **September Program –Tom Mc Enery on the Brooke Hart Kidnapping**

What if the Brooke Hart kidnapping and murder had not occurred?  
What if young Mr. Hart had been allowed to fulfill what many thought

was to be his destiny? Former San Jose mayor Tom McEnery will explore answers to these questions at the September luncheon. Our speaker muses:

As you walk the streets of San Jose, there is a presence, little known, of what "might have been" in everything from the skyline to our temperament. Even the current anarchy in Sacramento might have a different slant.

The world as it might have been will be reviewed, analyzed, and dissected with a distinctly San Jose touch. Bring your questions to this provocative presentation.

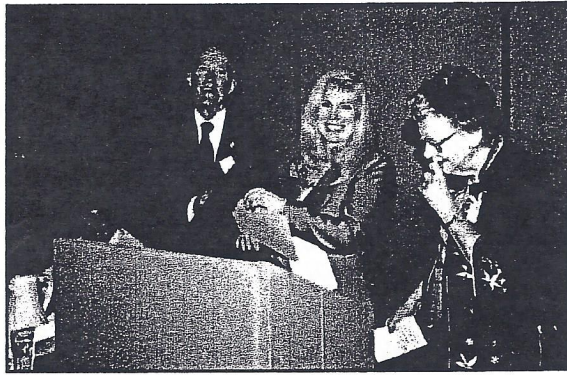
### **A Note from our Membership Secretary, Melita Kelly**

I would like to remind all our members that it is important for you to notify us when you move. We do not want the Trailblazer to go astray. Call me, send me a note, or send an e-mail. As the Post Office requires us to use the nine-digit ZIP when sending the Trailblazer, it would really assist me if you could include that also.

Please let me know if you need any applications for membership. I would be happy to mail them out for you.

I look forward to seeing you at the September meeting.

460 No. 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
San José 95112-1725  
(408) 292-2385  
[melikel@pacbell.net](mailto:melikel@pacbell.net)



Jim Arbuckle, Winner Jeanne Lewis, and Helen MacCarthy

## Essay Contest

The six prize recipients this year were a more diverse group than in the most recent years with several of them coming from old, familiar institutions, a Metropolitan Adult Education class and from Santa Clara University. The youngest of the group, Preeti Piplani from Los Altos High, had to come in at the end of the luncheon because she was taking her SAT test that morning...and is heading to Washington, D.C. very soon to be a Congressional Intern. Our oldest, at 91, Leo Black drove down from Communication Hill in his pickup truck. Our prizes went as follows:

|              |                 |                             |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| First        | Jeanne Lewis    | Valley Artists              |
| Second       | William Clayton | San Jose After Pearl Harbor |
| Third        | Lucas Reese     | Sarah Winchester            |
| Hon. Mention | Preeti Piplani  | Mountain View               |
| Hon. Mention | Leo Black       | Judge Welch's Mtn. Home     |
| Hon. Mention | Thomas King     | Hist. Of his Burbank House  |

Jeanne Lewis, a student in former prize winner Erna Holyer's Adult Ed. Class was a winner her first time out with her original work. Like Jeanne, Leo was also in Erna's class. Our second and third place honors went to two history students of Father Gerald McKevitt at Santa Clara. Excerpts from Jeanne's essay follow.

## **Introduction**

Recently I was called in for jury duty at Superior Court on First Street in San Jose. While patiently waiting to fulfill my civic duty and reading a very dry novel, I noticed a huge oil painting in the jury waiting room. Being a San Jose native, I thought it must be a rendering of the valley when agriculture was the main source of income. It featured rows of expertly painted orchards with pastel blossoms intermingled with hues of green and brown that captured the essence of the valley when it was a farming community. A ranch house would dot the landscape and in the center were a few taller buildings representing the downtown area. Besides being a beautiful pastoral, the painting made quite another statement; it was enormous.

"Jurors 1324 through 1399, please step to court room 3. Numbers 1324 through 1399, room 3," the receptionist called into the microphone.

My number was not called so I walked over to the painting and noticed a typed card below the piece. The artist was Charles Henry Harmon and he had been commissioned by the Board of Supervisors in 1914 for \$1,000 to paint the Santa Clara Valley at blossom time. The work had been displayed at the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition World Fair in San Francisco. It was nine by eighteen feet and weighed 800 pounds. Somehow it had ended up in Superior Court's Jury Room.

As the time slowly crept by, I would alternately read and look at the painting, wondering about Harmon. Was he a San Jose native? How did he come to command a \$1000 fee, a sizable amount in 1914? What other artists chased creative pursuits in the Valley of Hearts Delight? San Jose had always taken a back seat to San Francisco culturally but here stood proof of an art history unique to our valley. If there was one artist, there had to be others. Here is what I discovered from the beginning about the art and artists of Santa Clara County.

## **Charles Henry Harmon**

Harmon (1859-1936) was a fifteen year Ohioan when he came to San Jose in 1874. He was a self taught artist and did touch up work for photographers early in his career. Most of his paintings were small

except for one exception. It was "Santa Clara Valley at Blossom Time". After it was shown at the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition World Fair in San Francisco, it disappeared for many years. In 1938, it adorned the Board of Supervisors 2<sup>nd</sup> floor office of the old courthouse on North 1<sup>st</sup> St. It was there until 1954 and then put into storage. In 1962, it was brought to the Jury Assembly Room (through the ceiling) in the new Superior Court Building where it is today.

Harmon also did a small, primitive painting of "The Alameda" as may have appeared in the 1840's. It shows the three rows of willow trees lining the dirt road to the Mission. It is one of his earlier works and lacks the professional technique that he accomplished later in his career.

Harmon was of medium height, plain of dress and a hint of restlessness. His wife, Ida, was a school teacher. He had a studio in the Auzerais Building but kept no inventory of his work. He was best known for painting the Santa Clara Valley and early Pioneer scenes and achieved a moderate amount of success in his lifetime. His early work was primitive and difficult to find, either lost or destroyed.

Harmon was one of the three most well known artists of his time. Along with Hill and Cooper they created a large body of work that documents Santa Clara County. Of the three, less is known about Harmon. He appears to have lived quietly with no great causes or need for much social contact. Harmon's most known work "Santa Clara Valley at Blossom Time" is also his finest artistic achievement and records for posterity the splendid beauty that was Santa Clara Valley. It was also the inspiration for this essay.

#### **A. D. M. Cooper**

Astley David Middleton Cooper (1856-1924) was born in Missouri to a wealthy family. He had a good education and was free of financial concerns. Cooper loved Western art and traveled west, staying with Indians and sketching them. He arrived in San Francisco in 1878 and moved to San Jose in 1883. He was either at his studio painting in east San Jose or at one of his favorite saloons.

Cooper painted everything; allegorical subjects of the Plains, life-sized female nudes, the Black Forest in Germany to the Delta of the Nile. He was comfortable painting suicides and visions of hell. His big break came when Civil War General U. S. Grant commissioned him to paint his portrait.

Cooper's paintings were shown in Europe and the eastern United States. He was famous for his scenes of American Indian life though his classical religious subjects were also popular.

The size of his work was as varied as his themes: "Morning of the Crucifixion", a sanctuary in a Denver church is eleven by thirteen feet; "The Blacksmith" owned by the San Jose Museum of Art is ten by fifteen feet. Then there is an Indian riding a Pinto pony that measures fourteen by sixteen inches.

Cooper's nudes were life size and healthy, customary of the era. They were in demand at the local saloons as many were displayed above the bar. Rumor had it that Cooper gave them to the owners to settle bar bills as so many of them were found in these establishments. His "Little Egypt" was displayed at Sacramento's Fire House Restaurant. A voluptuous nude is still displayed above the bar at Wave's Smokehouse and Saloon at 65 Post Street in San Jose, purported to be a brothel in the late 1800's.

His final studio was a large Egyptian structure on the northeast corner of 21<sup>st</sup> and San Antonio Streets. Known as the "Egyptian Temple," it was sometimes confused with the Rosicrucian Museum by tourists. His studio is gone but his Victorian cottage still stands at 250 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

Cooper was a prolific, self taught artist who was affable, impulsive, generous, and well liked in the community. He hosted parties for traveling vaudeville companies. He gave paintings away as gifts. He married once to Charlotte George in 1919 at the age of sixty-three. He taught one student, his nephew, Benjamin O'Fallon Raborg (1873-1918). He was not as productive as his uncle but his style could be confused with Cooper's. His best known painting is a quirky image of nude women, one who appears to be a leering lecher from a distance.

Raborg died at 45 in a San Francisco streetcar accident, a footnote in San Jose art history.

### **Theodore Wores**

Theodore Wores (1859-1939) was dissatisfied with San Francisco's art scene and moved to Saratoga in the 1880's. A gentleman and an accomplished artist, he gained notoriety in this country and abroad. His oil paintings capture the splendid richness of Santa Clara Valley in the Los Gatos and Saratoga areas. Wores enjoyed painting the grand vistas of the Valley of Heart's Delight and painted many of them. He captured the valley with the impressionist's brush technique and a keen observation of light. Some of his most splendid works are "Peach Orchard, Saratoga, California," "Santa Clara Valley," and "Road with Blossoming Trees". His paintings have light and airy brush strokes combined with the softness of colors that was hallmark in the Impressionist movement. Wores differed from the Impressionist discipline by painting every detail and not leaving anything to the imagination.

"A Corner in My Studio" complete with a nude was done in light grays, browns, and soft whites touched with muted reds. This piece was probably done when he studied in Munich, Germany. He also did many San Francisco Chinatown scenes.

Wores also painted flowers and landscapes influenced from his two extended trips to Japan in the 1880's. His "Lotus Pond, Shiba, Tokyo" is probably his best known. It recently fetched \$178,500 at Christie's Auction House.

Though never a full-fledged Impressionist, Wores paintings were technically sound. They explained the external beauty of the subjects painted but never moved forward in the artistic realm to change the reality of what was actually seen. His wife, Carolyn, and brother, donated many of his paintings to the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara and they are shown there periodically.

## **Sportsmen Chefs**

**by Jerry Rosenthal**

[We received a Letter to the Editor by e-mail from Carol Portal in Hall's Valley regarding Jerry's previous article. Excerpts follow.

Ron & I really enjoyed your article in the June Trailblazer regarding the preparation of wild game and all the fun involved in preparing the menus for those who would appreciate eating game... I agree, whether someone likes game or not, lies mostly with the preparation and recipe .... It can never be prepared like domestic meat... My mother-in-law, Helen Bair Portal, and our good friend, Bill Hubbard, a great hunting historical storyteller, talked about times of going home driving through the streets of San Jose with bucks tied on car fenders. Can you imagine anyone doing that nowadays? ... I appreciate your article even more, because it is written now when the attitude towards hunting has become very negative, even though it provides one of the healthiest meats we can consume. Are all these great recipes lost to another era of time?

Carol Portal

Jerry's article now continues.]

The Feast of the Wild Boar featured the cuisine of Russia. The menu notes,

In our desire for authenticity in menu, recipes, and method of serving, our research was simplified by the splendid assistance of Representative Charles S. Gubser, House of Representatives, Congress of the United States, and the kindly cooperation of the Honorable Mikhail A. Menshikov, Ambassador, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Needless to say, the feast centerpiece was a whole roasted Wild Boar, which was provided by Joe Lodato and Sam Rubino. The guest list, as usual, had celebrities. This time they were political, from the

international stage. The USSR was represented by the Consul from San Francisco who brought along vodka and caviar. The big boar, slowly turning on the spit was a wonder to see. It looked just like one of the pictures from the Middle Ages.

Ladies night of 1960 was "The Feast of Bacchus, and for this occasion a more refined menu was chosen. This meal featured a whole Elk on the rotisserie, a giant, 120 pounds, Blue Fin Tuna baked and stuffed and pan fried Monterey Squid with pine nut stuffing.

La Fiesta de Los Cazadores was the Californios contribution. In addition to its being the fifth Ladies night, it is the first menu to mention the Gilroy Sportsman Chefs and the contributions of Glen Smith and Ron Hayes, Frontier Guides and Outfitters of Anchorage, Alaska. Gilroy sent a Sea Turtle from La Paz for the steaks. As usual, Norb Mirassou took care of the wines! The group from Gilroy (now known for founding the Garlic Festival) felt that the San Jose Chefs did not meet often enough so they started their own club.

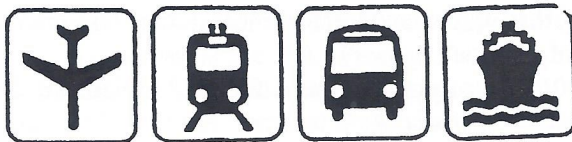
The Feast of Scandinavia became the sixth ladies night and was VERY successful in that there was no traditional Lutefisk served! They handled the problem by serving it in a hot mustard sauce. There were Sienimureke and Lefse to go along with the *Hand-select Wyoming Mountain Oysters in Ecstasy Sauce* and the usual treats prepared in the Swedish and Norweigan manner, sometimes by adding tremendous quantities of "Aunt Penny's White Sauce." The guest list on Ladies Night was restricted to the members' wives, although most of the permanent guests came with their better halves.

In fall of 1962, Jack Schwabacher, Frank Vessels, Jr., and I hunted near Cora, Wyoming. Among other things, we contributed a whole yearling Buffalo (Bison) for the La Fiesta de Los Toros, a dinner concocted in the manner of the Basques. It was an outstanding meal. There were the usual tidbits, but it was more like eating at the Star Hotel in Elko, Nevada or the Wool Growers in Los Baños.

Our one Chinese Dinner, back in 1958, was not a success. I guess it was because our kitchen was not equipped with woks and the other necessary stuff.

By 1966, the Hawaiian Gardens was out of business, but the DeBenedectis boys invited the Chefs to the nearby Alpine Park on Canoas Garden Road. Das Fest Der Hirschjäger was held on September 8, 1966, and featured Sauerbraten , Panierte Krabben, Zigeunergulasch mit Spätzle, Hasenpfeffer, the first time we had served rabbit, Hirsch am Spiess. The meal ended with Die Wiener Kremkäsetarte. The Vorspeise included Geräucherte Regenbogenforellen and Tartar nach art des Hauses. Needless to say, the members of Germanic extraction had a ball! The menu decorations were Duerer woodcuts.

The last menu that I have was for Ladies Night, September 28, 1973. It was La Bella Cucina per La Bella Ragazza! Calamare, Smelt, Pheasant Cacciatore were the only items that could remotely be wild game. The organization had fallen to having officers such as "President," "Parliamentarian," "Sergeant at Arms," and others. The Board of Directors was elected to specific terms. Elected! I ask you! It turned into a popularity contest. The guys in the past were selected because of their ability as cooks and leaders, because they had the time and the money to do the job, not because they were well known. I think that was the end of the Sportsman Chefs. It was a grand run. It was a bunch of guys having fun. This group could not now be duplicated. Can you imagine the uproar if it got out that whale parts were served or Big Horn Sheep?



## Touring with the Californians

September, 2003

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 March 1 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 March 10. 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

#### October 2, Thursday — Jack London Square, Port of Oakland

We travel to Jack London Square first to enjoy the waterfront shops. Reminders of Jack London, adventurer and novelist, include a bronze statue and his Klondike cabin re-assembled next to Heinold's Saloon where he was befriended as a young boy. Our included luncheon will be salmon at Scott's Seafood Restaurant overlooking the harbor. We then board our boat for a 90 minute narrated cruise of the port, which surpassed rival San Francisco in the second half of the 20th Century. Today cargo containers and huge cranes handle then ship loading and

unloading that was once done by colorful longshoremen in the days of Harry Bridges.

Leave: 9:00 AM

Return: 4:00 PM

Cost: \$ 40

### **November 7, Friday — San Francisco in the Movies**

Craig Smith will guide our tour of movie scenes made in and about San Francisco, from the silent era to this day. Over 80 film clips will be shown on our motor coach screens while we pass the actual locations. Scenes will be from *Vertigo*, *Dirty Harry*, the *Maltese Falcon*, *Lady from Shanghai*, *Birdman of Alcatraz*, , *Pal Joey*, and of course *San Francisco* with Jeanette McDonald singing the title song. Our included lunch is at Enrico's Café on Broadway with a scene of Steve McQueen in *Bullitt*. Our included afternoon break for sundaes 'shakes will be at Mel's Drive-in on Geary, featured in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. What a fun way to see vintage shots of San Francisco the way it was and how it is today!

Leave: 9:00 AM

Return: 4:30 PM.

Cost: \$ 48

### **December 11, Thursday — Nob Hill Landmarks at Christmas**

We start with the Fairmont Hotel, designed by Julia Morgan in 1907 and built in honor of the Comstock King, Jim Fair by his daughters. Its marbled Laurel Court is the setting for our included buffet luncheon. Long-time concierge Tom Wolfe will give us a historical tour along with stories of the United Nations, presidents and royalty, and as a location for numerous movies. Then to Grace Cathedral and its Archbishop's Mansion, now an elegant boutique hotel with 15 different opera-themed rooms. We will then go down to the newly designed Union Square to see the holiday decorations, such as the huge Christmas tree in the Neiman's rotunda and the St. Francis Hotel lobby decorations. As the climax, we will see the wonderful illuminated neighborhoods in South San Francisco.

Leave: 11:30 AM

Return: 7:00 PM

Cost: \$ 49

### **EXTENDED TRIPS**

These trips have guaranteed departures, whether we have enough in our group or not. Only ten people are needed for a group. Brochures will be available at the December 7 luncheon.

### **September 9 to 17, 2003 — Northwest Tour and Cruise**

Agency: Golden Gate Tours. We fly to Seattle to visit the attractions of the Northwest. This includes a tour the city, the *Pike Place Market*, an evening cruise to Tillicum Village, the *Boeing Museum of Flight*. Then we go to Canada for two nights of Victoria's *Empress Hotel* and High Tea, Vancouver's *Stanley Park* and *Gastown* and two nights at *Chateau Whistler Resort* and the mountains. We return to San Francisco, down the coast and make a grand entrance under the Golden Gate Bridge, on the Holland-America M.S. Volendam. Six nights, 14 meals, all transportation, plus handling and tips. Cost: \$1625 to 1695 depending upon cabin choice. Return by air September 15 for \$1520.



Mission San Xavier del Bac on the Anza Trail

### **December 30 to Jan 3, 2004 — Wild West Tucson at the New Year**

Agency: Premier Tours. We fly from San Jose to Phoenix where we tour the Heard Museum's outstanding collection of Southwest Native American art. We stay four nights at Tucson's Doubletree Suites Hotel to see a Titan Missile site, beautiful Mission San Xavier "White Dove of the Desert," Sonora Desert Museum, Biosphere 2, Sabina Canyon tram excursion, 1880's mining town of Bisbee, and Tombstone, site of the OK Corral gun battle. The highlight will be the New Year's Eve celebration with dinner, entertainment, and a champagne toast to 2004. Cost includes round-trip air fare, seven meals, hotel, and baggage handling. Brochures will be available at the September luncheon. Cost: \$999      Trip cancellation insurance (optional): \$ 59.

### **February 2004 — Palm Springs and the Indio Date Festival**

Brochures with the itinerary will be available at the September luncheon.

**Quarterly Luncheon at Lou's Village  
September 6, 2003 at Noon  
Price: \$16.50**

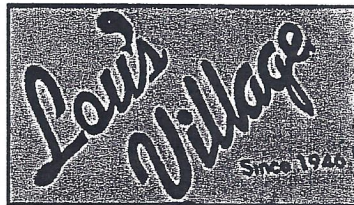
**Reserve by Wednesday, September 3  
Telephone: 554-7587**

**Menu**

Pork tenderloin  
Red roasted potatoes  
Seasonal vegetables  
Green salad  
Dessert - Chef's choice

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

*Please, no reserving of tables after 11:45, the better to accommodate later arrivals*



**1465 West San Carlos Street  
(just west of Meridian Avenue)**

## Officers & Directors

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## Californians

|           |                   |          |
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| Reserv.   | Marie Rider       | 251-7887 |
| Treasurer | Beverly Fisher    | 241-0224 |

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| Ralph Perez    | 377-1641       |
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Pioneers Society

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