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Final Eight Bells for the Jenny Lind

"Eight bells and all's well." The approximate 320 attendees at the dedication of the monument to the steamboat *Jenny Lind* disaster were moved when Vice-Commodore Russell Breed read the poem "Gone From My Sight" by Henry Van Dyke and rang eight bells to symbolize the end of the shift for a maritime crew. The program ended with bagpiper Richard Charette performing a traditional rendition of Amazing Grace.

The dedication at the Alviso Marina on Saturday, April 13th, commemorated the 160th anniversary of the *Jenny Lind* tragedy on April 11th, 1853.

After welcoming remarks by Master of Ceremonies Chris McKay and introducing the "Jenny Lind Gang" (Claire Britton-Warren, Russ Robinson and Chris McKay), the monument was unveiled. The monument was the fruition of many history organizations' contributions, including those of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. Britton-Warren, Robinson, and McKay are all Pioneers members, as are



Photo: Tim Peddy

Chris McKay, Russ Robinson and Claire Britton-Warren dedicate monument to Jenny Lind disaster at Alviso Marina.

other project participants April Halberstadt, Rick Helin and Paul Bernal.

A keynote speech was delivered expertly by story-teller Claire Britton-Warren, who was the lightning rod for creating the place of honor. Britton-Warren described the history, the passengers, and disastrous boiler rupture aboard the *Jenny Lind* that fateful day. She wove all three together, lending a feel of reality and horror within our valley's pioneer families.

The "Jenny Lind Gang" spent many hours of research, organization and outreach to others in order to bring us an accurate account

of the disaster, culminating with the grand monument and dedication celebration. Most of this hard work transpired within the short span of one year, an amazing accomplishment.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese and Santa Clara County Parks Department Director Robb Courtney both remarked on the importance of recognizing this early piece of history that previously seemed relegated to a footnote.

Comments by the donors, descendant families and supporting historical organizations included: Chris McKay

Continued on pg. 2)

Jenny Lind Dedication (Continued)

from E Clampus Vitus—Mt. Charlie 1850; Russ Robinson from South Bay Yacht Club; Hon. Paul Bernal from the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County; Tom Whiteford from E Clampus Vitus—Yerba Buena No. 1; Mary Mueller from the Argonauts Historical Society; Gib Pearson from the Native Sons of the Golden West; Barbara Belloli from the Native Daughters of the Golden West; Travis Clark from the Free and Accepted Masons, SJ Lodge No. 10; Lynn Hohler, a descendant of the steamship's engineer William Travis; and Brian White from the family of passenger Charles White (an alcalde in San Jose and the namesake of White Road).

The large bronze and cement monument, with a striking depiction of the Jenny Lind by artist Jim Campbell, lists the 32 known passengers who perished in the disaster and also memorializes those whose names shall never be known. On the top of the marker, facing the heavens, is a rose navigational compass, pointing the direction of the Jenny Lind's final voyage. The text explaining the history states:



**Jenny Lind Disaster Monument
at Alviso Marina, unveiled April 13, 2013.**

Beginning in the 1840s, the dock at Alviso served as Santa Clara County's access to the San Francisco Bay. From this port, passengers boarded steamboats loaded with goods and produce bound for San Francisco and points beyond. In the early days of the California gold rush, San Jose provided hay, lumber and large amounts of food through this port.

During the height of its shipping activity, Alviso experienced a devastating maritime disaster. On the eleventh of April in 1853, the steamer Jenny Lind left Alviso bound for San Francisco. Midway through the voyage, steam trapped by a torn boiler pipe exploded outward through the ship's furnace, scalding those who were in its path. Residents of San

Jose were stunned, as many of those killed had been leaders in their community, and the incident is still remembered as a major tragedy.

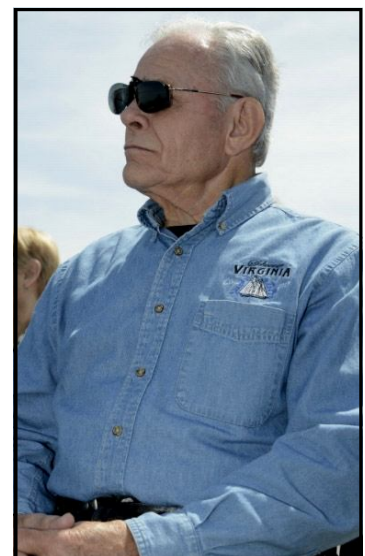
Soon after, business at the Port of Alviso began to suffer. The completion of the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad in 1864 diverted most of the passenger traffic from Alviso and hastened the port's decline. Although Alviso's commercial prominence faded, its past is forever linked to the history of the ill-fated steamer, Jenny Lind.

Immediately following the dedication, guests gathered at the San Jose Yacht Club for a barbeque. Members of the historical organizations and other donors each received a black and gold ribbon and pin memorializing the passengers of the Jenny Lind disaster. Many thanks go to all who made this dedication a remarkable experience. ❖



Left, Russell Breed rings eight bells in memory of the Jenny Lind disaster.

The "Jenny Lind Gang" sits behind.



Artist Jim Campbell.

Photos: Tim Peddy

Message from our President



Photo: Hans Halberstadt

Paul Bernal, President
California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

"The seed of knowledge may be planted in solitude but must be cultivated in public." – Edgar Johnson.

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County shares this philosophy. History should be made available to the public. On so many projects, our volunteers work tirelessly behind the scenes to dig into research, sort fact from fiction, apply critical thinking, draft and redraft white papers, hone the message, and then publish it to our membership and the world.

We do not charge for our services, we welcome the challenging questions that are presented to us. We are about getting the word out, sharing information, celebrating those who came before us. So often, on the internet today, people charge for historical information or images. We have never charged a fee for our ever-flowing fountain of public knowledge.

Santa Clara valley is a phenomenal place with incredible stories. We honor not only the huge achievements but also the seemingly mundane. The National Trust for His-

toric Preservation hosts the Main Street Project, which recognizes that the everyday work centers of every community are vital to telling that story. It is the shoeshine box, the bankers who took risks, the innovative trolley line. Whether your main street is fantastic or tired, it deserves attention and contains stories of the past. Main streets are usually older, contain family owned businesses, and remnants of past achievements that shaped the surrounding suburbs.

The stories of a unique community are not found in cookie-cutter outlets such as Taco Bell, Home Depot, Starbucks or Boston Market, which spring up on every corner like so many mushrooms. This is not to say that uncommon ideas cannot come from common places. In our valley, a lot of incredible things have sprung from late nights in average garages. It is the people. The ideas. The stories. That is what the Pioneers focuses on.

Umunhum was a magnificent indigenous person; María Josefa Sánchez braved the elements to arrive here in 1776; Zephyr Macabee built a better gopher trap; Amadeus Giannini brought about a paradigm shift in banking; Dr. Dawson saw the future of canning; Meg Whitman built an electronic empire; the two Steves produced the personal computer. These are but a few of our pioneers.

Arthur O'Shaughnessy penned this Ode:

*We are the music makers,
And we are the dreamers of dreams,*

*Wandering by lone sea-breakers,
And sitting by desolate streams;—
World-losers and world-forsakers,
On whom the pale moon gleams:
Yet we are the movers and shakers
Of the world for ever, it seems.*

The pioneer families (some multi-generations and some new to the area) are movers and shakers, and all of us are dreamers of dreams. The Pioneers strives to play that music and reveal those dreams. And if some listener, young or old, learns something new and unique about the place they call home, we have succeeded. ❖

-Paul Bernal

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WANTED: YOUR FILMS

The Pioneers Film Archive wants to preserve your home movies and provide you DVD copies. For info, contact us!
(408)317-8249

Films@CaliforniaPioneers.com

Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Saturday, June 8th, 2013

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT

Banquet Room—1547 Meridian Ave. in San Jose

Make Reservations by Wednesday, June 5th

E-Mail "sccpioneers@aol.com" or call
408-554-7587 with your menu selection

Cost \$25 (make checks payable to
California Pioneers and bring to Luncheon)

Presentation

Bill Foley

"Film Cocktail" of Santa Clara Valley

The election for open seats on the Board of Directors will take place during luncheon.

Menu Selections

Three Flames Special Steak

tri-tip steak topped with sautéed mushrooms.

Grilled Salmon

with roasted potatoes & light cream sauce

Pasta Penne Italiano

with spinach, feta cheese, basil and garlic

All of the above served with Salad, Coffee and Dessert

No Host Bar for soft drinks, beer and wine

Parking is limited in front of the restaurant; however, ample parking is available in the rear and close to a separate banquet room entrance.

March Luncheon Awards



Photos: Tim Peddy

Bill Foley receives the "Outstanding Service Award" for his excellent film archive work from Pioneers President Paul Bernal. Foley, chair of the Pioneers Film Archive, will present an original "Film Cocktail" of clips of our valley from the 1890s to the present at the June luncheon. He calls it the closest thing to a time machine!

Claire Britton-Warren, in a replica of her ancestor's dress, receives the "Outstanding Service Award" for her research and development of the Jenny Lind project.



Pueblos Versus Missions: Fr. Serra's View

by Rose Marie Beebe

November 29, 1777 is an important date that is celebrated each year by members of the Pioneers of Santa Clara County, for it is the date of the founding of the Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe—the very first pueblo in Alta California. However, the establishment of a civil settlement was not met with joy by everyone in Alta California during the eighteenth-century. Indeed, one very prominent inhabitant, Father Junípero Serra, was quite opposed to the establishment of any pueblo whatsoever.

Serra's previous experience as a missionary in central Mexico had convinced him that Spanish colonization could easily have the effect of oppressing the native peoples, especially if soldiers and settlers were major participants in the colonizing efforts.

One of the reasons that attracted Serra to California was he believed that its great distance from the population centers of Mexico would make it more difficult for large numbers of settlers to make the journey. He hoped that missions, which he genuinely believed were the best way for Indians to be protected from those who wished to seize their lands and oppress them, would be the dominant institutions in Spanish California.

So when Governor Felipe de Neve¹ oversaw the establishment of the Pueblo de San José and indicated that another similar pueblo was being envisioned for southern California, Serra was not at all pleased. Less than a year after the establishment of the Pueblo de San José, he expressed his deep frustration with this turn of events in an impassioned letter to a senior Spanish military officer, Teodoro de Croix.²

"Finally, Señor, with regard to my brief reflections, which Vuestra Señoría³ has kindly allowed me to offer, I can only say

that at the moment, I have gone over in my mind many times the new idea of establishing pueblos of Spaniards or mulattos among the gentiles instead of adding more missions. And I have not been able to come up with or conceive of any advantage at all, either temporal or spiritual, but rather many disadvantages.

The Señor Gobernador already knows how I feel and when I was asked to sign the document in which Su Señoría strongly advocates this idea as a means of bringing prosperity to these lands, I had to catch my breath for a moment, and then asked: "Can it really be true, Señor, that I have to sign this?"

To which he responded that it was only Su Señoría who was speaking, and that I was only an observer. And with that answer, I signed it.

Having shared this information, I can now feel at ease. And I would be happy if, in addition to Vuestra Señoría, my Venerado Ilustrísimo Señor Don José de Gálvez⁴ were also informed.

All right, establish those pueblos, if that is what the superiors decree and stop building missions. But let it be known that I will end as I began, expressing nothing more than what seems fair and appropriate to be based on the wisdom that Our Lord God has seen fit to bestow upon me.

Missions, Señor, missions are what this territory needs. They will provide the territory not only with what is most important, that is, the light of the Holy Gospel, but also with food for the missions themselves and for the royal presidios which is



Courtesy of the Santa Bárbara Mission Archive-Library

No evidence exists that Junípero Serra ever sat for a portrait. This depiction, done in the early twentieth century by a Mexican priest, Fr. José Mosqueda, is the most familiar one. He said that he based it on an older painting that had long hung in the city of Querétaro and was apparently lost during the Mexican revolution of the 1910s.

better than what these pueblos without priests can do, among other things that they cannot provide.

I maintain that settlements populated by fine Spanish citizens who are models of good behavior can be established only after the gentiles who are scattered across the territory have become Christians and have been brought together in their respective reducciones or missions. That is when there will be plenty of valuable uncultivated and uninhabited lands or possessions of the crown. But for now, this is very repugnant to me for various reasons.

But I beg Vuestra Señoría to not interpret what I have expressed as a form of opposition. That is not the case, but rather, as I have already stated, I am expressing my

(Continued on pg. 7)

The Sourisseau Academy for State & Local History

By Tom Layton and Charlene Duval

In about 1875, as Felix Sourisseau stood proudly in front of his gun shop located at 362 First Street, he could hardly have imagined that, a century later, his image would be preserved in an archive bearing his name.

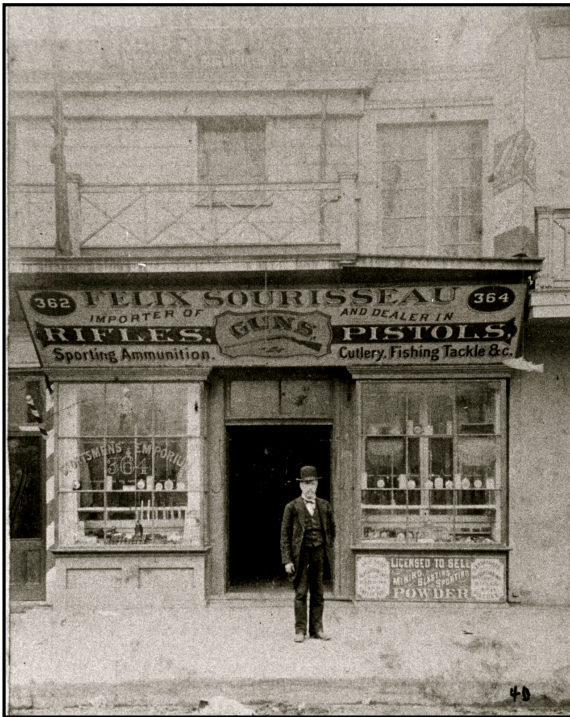


Photo: Sourisseau Academy, San Jose State University

Felix Sourisseau in front of his gun shop on First Street, c. 1875.

In 1909, Felix died, leaving a large estate to be managed by his seven children. His youngest child, Eva, successfully followed her father's footsteps into the world of business and, in 1971, left a bequest to San Jose State College to establish an organization devoted to the promotion of State and local history, including the collection, preservation and dissemination of historical materials relating to primarily the Santa Clara Valley.

More specifically, Eva's founding trustees determined that the Sourisseau Academy would collect all types of source materials concerning the history

of the valley, including photographs, business records, family letters, organizational papers, travel journals and personal diaries.

Eva's bequest provided support for a part-time Executive Secretary, trained as a historian, and a part-time Archivist. Over the years, the Sourisseau staff has helped historians and researchers locate the historical resources needed to answer their research questions, while the 14 member Sourisseau Board, made up of University staff and community members interested in local history, dispensed small grants to researchers and scholarships to students interested in local history.

With the acquisition of thousands of new images, the board made the decision to focus our resources on building our photograph collections, including scanning and cataloging the photographs into a state-of-the-art searchable photo database.

In 2005, the Martin Luther King Jr. Library at San Jose State University granted the Sourisseau Academy space within the University's Special Collections and Archives area on the fifth floor of the library. The Sourisseau office occupies one side of the Special Collections Reading Room and we have storage space in the climate-controlled vault. This guarantees us a proper environment for preservation of our archival materials, in perpetuity. The confluence of the Sourisseau Academy, the California Room and the University's Special Collections, in close proximity to each other, provides one of the most convenient and accessible local research venues in the Santa Clara Valley.



Photo: Sourisseau Academy, San Jose State University

Eva Sourisseau

In 1999, the Sourisseau Academy became the beneficiary of a new and larger bequest that redirected the focus of the organization. Edith Smith, who had served for many years as Archivist for the Sourisseau, left instructions to her trustees to use the balance of her estate to support the preservation of local historic resources. Her trustees, who included the Executive Secretary and two members of the Sourisseau Board, decided that her money would be best spent in acquiring and preserving images of the Santa Clara Valley. Serendipitously, Edith's bequest came just as the attics of the world were beginning to be emptied onto eBay. Edith's trustees proceeded systematically to purchase every daguerreotype, tintype, stereoview, cabinet card, carte-de-visite and early photographic image they could find, not only from eBay, but from every ephemera and antique dealer, auction house, garage sale and estate sale they could locate. Among the many foci of the purchases, were the works of professional San Jose photographers and the photo archives of well-known early San Jose families. The result, to note a few examples, is that Sourisseau has assembled a major collection of photographs by J. H. Heering, whose San Jose work dates

(Continued on pg. 7)

Sourisseau Academy (Continued)

from 1863 to 1873, and an equally significant collection of early San Jose stereoviews — as well as probably the largest collection in the world of early "real" picture postcards. Family photo collections include, for example, the 19th century archives of the Polhemus, de Saisset, Sainsevain, Clayton and Murphy-Arques families.

By far, the largest Sourisseau acquisition was the 2009 purchase of the 20,000-image Arnold "Del" Del Carlo collection. Del was the most active commercial photographer in the Valley from the late 1940s to the late 1960s. His photographs document virtually everything, including the step-by-step building of the IBM facility on Cottle Road, and the General Motors assembly plant in Fremont, as well as every other commercial building or residential tract that one can imagine. Del photographed all of these from the ground, and also from his plane, taking low aerial oblique photos on his way to every job location. Some of those aerials for

Willow Glen and the Alameda are so low that you expect to see people running for shelter on the sidewalks.

The Sourisseau Academy has recently participated in several historical exhibits that showcase our photograph collections. In 2009, we co-sponsored an exhibit in City Hall focused on the early African American families of San Jose. We also co-sponsored the Road Trip exhibit with History San Jose, which first appeared on their campus and then at the King Library in 2010. The photos documented the Santa Clara County Automobile Club's excursions throughout Central California, including road trips from San Jose to the Del Monte Hotel in Monterey. Our next exhibit, on San Jose Hotels, will open at the King Library in June 2013.

Les Amis de Sourisseau, a group of donor/members, was established in 2011 to support the ongoing purchase of important images of the Santa Clara Valley. For the past sixteen months, we have produced a monthly mailing for

Les Amis members and other interested friends. These mailings include several captioned photos from among our most recent acquisitions, and many of the photos have benefited from the research skills of our own staff and board members, along with our California Pioneers of Santa Clara County colleagues.

During our 42-year history, the Sourisseau Academy has maintained a close relationship with the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. Pioneers Presidents that have served on the Sourisseau Board include Clyde Arbuckle, Austin Warburton, Theron and Francis Fox, and Leonard McKay. Indeed, a full quarter of our current Sourisseau Board is comprised of Pioneers.

We at Sourisseau look forward to building upon our long relationship with the Pioneers to accomplish joint projects that will capture the synergy of our overlapping interests and skills.



Pueblos Versus Missions (Continued)

opinion, which I subject along with my entire being to the precepts and the slightest words of advice from Vuestra Señoría."

**Letter to Teodoro de Croix,
August 22, 1778**

Serra's opposition to another pueblo proved fruitless, as Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles del Río de Porciúncula was founded in 1781. But missionary opposition to the pueblos persisted and much of the early history of the Pueblo de San José involved boundary and jurisdictional disputes between it and Mission Santa Clara, which was founded eleven months before the pueblo, and Mission San José,

which was founded in 1797. Spanish California proved to be a conflict-ridden place! ❖

¹ Neve was a Spanish military officer who served as governor of Las Californias -Alta and Baja California from 1775 to 1782. In 1777 he moved the capital of Las Californias from Loreto in Baja California to Monterey, Alta California. He and Serra were often in conflict during the time both of them were stationed in the Monterey Bay area.

² Croix was a Spanish administrator and lawyer who was appointed Visitor General of New Spain by King Carlos III in 1765. He organized the colonization of Alta California in 1769. In 1777, when Serra wrote this letter, Croix was Minister of the Indies, the chief Spanish official in charge of the colonies in America.

³ Your Lordship is a title of respect that Serra uses when addressing Croix. Later in the letter Serra addresses José de Gálvez as Venerado Ilustrísimo, a similar title of respect.

⁴ A Spanish military officer, and nephew of a former viceroy, Gálvez was Commander General of the Provincias Internas, a vast area of northern New Spain that included Alta California. In the structure of the Spanish colonial bureaucracy, he possessed significant powers over the developments in this jurisdiction.

Note: The translation of this letter by Junípero Serra will appear in a forthcoming book by Rose Marie Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz that deals with Serra's essential correspondence. All rights reserved. Please do not use without permission.

The Mysteries of the Glass Plate Images

By Tim Peddy & Rick Helin

History San Jose Archives recently received a "donation drop-off" at their Senter Road archive center consisting of two large cardboard boxes containing glass plate negatives packed in straw and old newspapers. These glass plates had been reportedly discovered in the attic of a Victorian home on East Julian St., San Jose, where they had been stored for many years. It became quite obvious that the boxes themselves had also been the home for many rodents during those years; covered in dust, debris and signs of "critter infestation."

In January of this year, History San Jose Curator Jim Reed kindly allowed the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County to take custody of these two boxes for the purpose of attempting to clean, document, inventory and digitize the images found on the individual glass plate negatives. Our first step was to carefully remove and clean each plate. Many were already broken and several stuck tightly together making them difficult, if not impossible, to document. We were able to separate many, but others still stubbornly cling to each other.

The plates were dusted with camel hair brushes over a vacuum table (to keep the dust out of our lungs,) and when necessary, we cleaned some with appropriate solvents. Most of these plates revealed emulsion damage, ranging from small to large chips here and there. As we gently examined each plate, in some cases larger areas peeled away from the glass altogether with the emulsion delicately wafting above the glass.



Photo: Tim Peddy

Tim Peddy at the scanning station processing glass plates.

After cleaning each glass plate negative, we individually photographed each using a high resolution camera and processed each in Adobe Photoshop. We then assigned an inventory number before logging them into a database and separately packaged each plate for archival storage using museum quality containers.

To date, our volunteers have cleaned, imaged, recorded and packaged 177

glass plate negatives. Only 80-100 still remain unprocessed. Our volunteers are Rick Helin, Barbara Peddy, April Bowen, Richard Bowen and Tim Peddy. We work on the project in our spare time and hope to be completed soon.

The fun is in the discovery of the life and times during the early 1900s. Helin likes to say whenever he views a

new image, "It's like Christmas morning all over again!" We would like to thank History San Jose and Jim Reed for allowing us the opportunity to have so much fun while benefiting local history at the same time. Volunteer work has never been so rewarding!

The Detective Work Begins

So, how old are these negatives? Who took them? How did they end up in an attic on East Julian Street in San Jose? As we processed each negative, we took

Continued on pg. 9)



Image from glass plate: Vendome Hotel coach in front of 70 E. Julian St. This building still exists.

Glass Plate Images (Continued)

special notes regarding clues contained on each image. Each clue led us closer to answers regarding the origins of these wonderful images as well as the man who took them. Our initial research suggests the photographer was James B. Long who in 1909 once lived at the home on East Julian Street—the same location where these glass plates were discovered. Searching through newspaper archives also aided us in the identifications of various images. We've concluded most were taken in San Jose during one specific year...1909.



Image from glass plate: a parade from First and Santa Clara Streets, c. 1909. First National Bank is on the right.

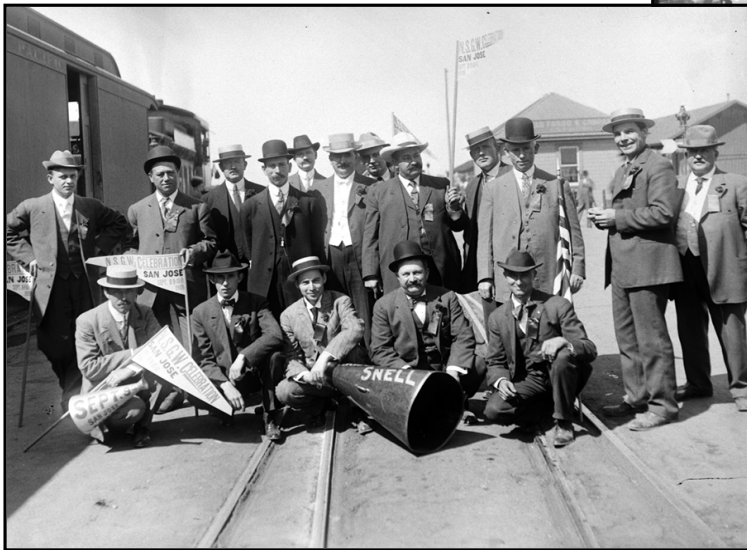


Image from glass plate: Native Sons of the Golden West at the train station, c. 1909.

Photos Courtesy of History San Jose

Once we have completed our processing, the Pioneers hope to partner with History San Jose and prepare a presentation for the public. Our goal is to make sure everyone has the same opportunity to enjoy these images and have as much fun viewing them as our volunteers have had while preserving them. ❖

Pioneers Member Related to Capt. Tidball

You may remember the article in the last issue of the Trailblazer about Company K of the California Volunteers. Company K, 5th Regiment, was organized at Santa Cruz by Captain Thomas T. Tidball in 1861. Our member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, Marilyn Hall Frizzell, informs us that Captain Tidball was her great-great grandfather. She tells us the following information about him.

"His (Captain Tidball) daughter Nellie Harriet married John D. (Wilson) Hall and they had four children, one of whom

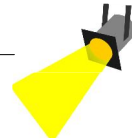
was my grandfather, Charles Hall. Captain Tidball had a store in the Lockwood-Jolon area near King City after his army duty. He also partnered with a Mr. Dutton in another building for overnight guests – a "motel" of early times near Jolon, now destroyed with only a few walls left. A sign is posted there with a picture and interesting information. This is also the area of the San Antonio Mission, all in all, a very interesting area." ❖

-Marilyn Hall Frizzell

Do You Have a Story?

We love to hear stories about local history and the people who participated in making this area what it is today.

We may print your story in the Trailblazer!



Member Spotlight: William J. Adams Jr.

By Gayle Frank

William (Bill) J. Adams Jr., a member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County since 1987, astounds us with his amazing accomplishments and dedication to the community. Adams turned 96 years old in February, 2013, and visited with me for a short time. In his childhood he was interested in all machines and moving parts. His father, William Adams Sr., to whom he looked up and was inspired by, had a genuine talent for inventing farm equipment and operating machinery. The junior Adams caught the engineering bug from his father. To this day he has the utmost respect for his father who only had an eighth grade education yet invented the earthmover called the "Fresno Scraper" along with four other landmark agricultural inventions.

Santa Clara University

Bill Adams Jr. graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering (magna cum laude) in 1937 from Santa Clara University. At that time he was awarded the Nobili Medal, given to the outstanding male graduate in academics, character, school activities and contribution to the University. After graduation, Adams continued to serve the University as National President of the Alumni Association, president of the Engineering Alumni Board and was a member of the Board of Regents. He and his wife established the *William and Marijane Adams Jr. Endowed Mechanical Engineering Fund* for financial support to students and research fellowships. One of his peers commented that Adams was always available for advice and opinions on the University and Alumni Association issues and described him as one of two "engineering Broncos who made an indelible mark on the University."

Adams' Career

Bill Adams was hired by General Electric (GE) the minute he graduated from the University with pay of 70 cents per hour. Later during early WWII, one of



William J. Adams Jr.

his projects in Schenectady, N.Y. as a mechanical design/chief project engineer, was the development and design of the first remote-controlled gun turret. These electronic guns were installed in B-29s and other bombers and enhanced our military capabilities during the war. When the war ended, Adams quit GE and moved to California, taking a job with Food Machinery Corporation (later FMC) in 1946. He soon became the Chief Engineer for Bolens/FMC Division in Wisconsin.

Back in San Jose by 1953, Adams was designated the Assistant General Manager and Director of New Products and Business Development of Central Engineering Laboratories for FMC. One of Adams' many accomplishments during his 34-year career at FMC was establishing the Industrial Design Department. He said, "It was a tough sell to convince Division Managers and Chief Engineers that they needed Industrial Design." He was convinced that psychological and human factors, function, appearance, idea and

visualization must be considered in the formative stages of preliminary design. The new department of Industrial Design began with two employees and grew to fifteen. Following his FMC career, Adams worked as a registered mechanical and agricultural engineering consultant.

Bill Adams holds twelve U.S. patents and fifteen foreign patents for agricultural equipment and apparatus, a few created with a co-inventor. He is the author of several technical papers, trade magazine articles and two books about the history of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME.) He was very active in the History and Heritage Program for ASME, identifying and nominating a number of mechanical engineering landmark inventions. Bill also led the designation of the John Montgomery 1883 glider as an ASME International Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark.

Awards

Bill Adams' walls are filled with the many awards he has received over his lifetime. In 1990, the Santa Clara University Alumni Association awarded him the "Ignatian Award" for

(Continued on pg.11)



Bill Adams, Chief Engineer at Bolens/FMC, tests the Ridemaster in 1946.

A History & Genealogy Resource By April Halberstadt

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County is a venerable organization with a rich heritage. As many of our members will tell you, the group was incorporated in 1875 and has kept the flame of local history burning for well over a century. The Pioneers collected local history and preserved the valley's heritage long before others took up the cause. When important records were tossed into dumpsters, members of the Pioneers salvaged them.

Thanks to years of Pioneers diligence, the interest in local history has never been stronger. For example, today there are nearly a dozen "house museums" in our county as well as approximately 65 history organizations, most of them with non-profit status.

Santa Clara County also has many small specialty museums with large reputations. The San Jose Quilt & Textile

Museum, the Lace Museum and the new Computer Museum are strong evidence of an appreciation for local history.

For many years the Pioneers kept biographical records of their members as well as information on early residents. We still do keep our member's information on file, but as yet the information has not been entered into a database. Today the Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society, (SCC H&GS) formed in 1957, has taken over much of that chore. Housed in the City of Santa Clara public library, the organization and the research collection are one of the finest in California. The group has a budget to acquire research materials and a knowledgeable staff to help the novice researcher.

SCC H&GS is dedicated to honoring

Santa Clara's early settlers with a certification program that honors local pioneers. There are three categories for certificate recognition.

1. First Family - a family member who was a resident before 1860.
2. Pioneer Family - Ancestors who arrived in this county between 1860 and 1881.
3. Century Family - A family with ancestors who have been residents for at least 100 years.

Santa Clara County residents who are interested in a certificate can contact the Genealogy Society through their website at <http://scchgs.org>.

The California Pioneers is proud of the growth and research efforts of this group. They make a critical contribution to our knowledge of local history.



Member Spotlight: (Continued)

outstanding service to humanity through excellence, judgment, worldliness, and service.

In 1991, Santa Clara University awarded Adams the Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award and in 2003, the Outstanding Service Award. Adams was elected to the Silicon Valley Engineering Hall of Fame in 1998.

Adams became an Eagle Scout in 1933. As an adult he served on the Boy Scouts Executive Board for many decades and established a community endowment to benefit the Boy Scouts of America. The Distinguished Eagle Scout Award was presented to Adams in 2009 to acknowledge his service on the national level, receiving recognition and eminence in his field and holding a strong record of voluntary service in his community.

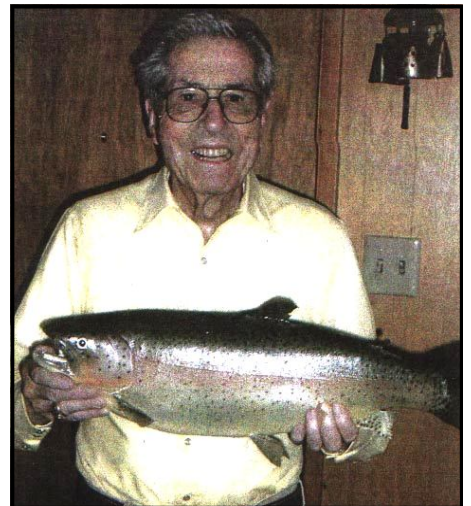
In 2010, Adams was honored with Honorary Membership in the American

Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) in recognition of a lifetime of professional service including his accomplishments contributing to the advancement of the profession and to the well-being of people served by this vocation. Adams also established national scholarships through ASME. There were many other awards; too many to mention in one short article

Fun

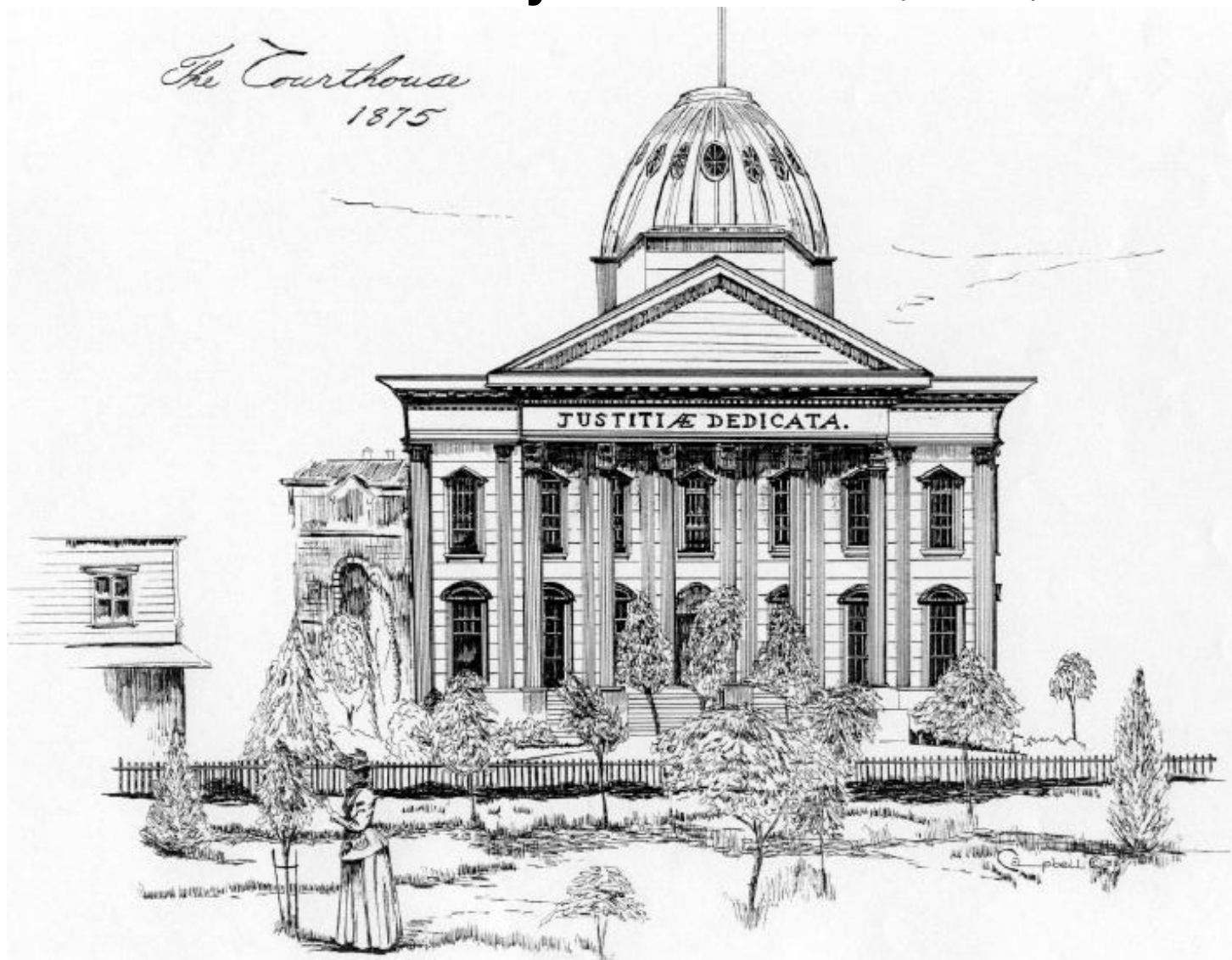
Bill Adams is not all business. He designed one of his San Jose homes and a home in Squaw Valley for his family of four, his wife and two sons. In the past he enjoyed trout fishing, skiing, golf, and travel. He and Marijane traveled extensively throughout the world. After Marijane passed away in 2005, Adams took his last overseas trip, a life-long dream to sail around Cape Horn. He said he was surprised how smooth the water

was, not choppy or rough like he expected. Adams is truly an excellent example of the diverse and successful members in the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County who contribute to our community. ❖



Adams with Rainbow Trout, near Dollar Point, Lake Tahoe.

Santa Clara County Courthouse by Jim Campbell



In 1868, the classical Santa Clara County Courthouse, at 161 North First Street, was completed and San Jose was still upset about losing the state capital in 1851. The Board of Supervisors let it be known that the fine, new courthouse building would make a great state house. However, that never happened.

Levi Goodrich designed the six-foot thick, solid brick masonry structure with ornate decoration, Corinthian columns, and a dome covered with a layer of pure copper.

In 1931 a fire heavily damaged the courthouse and destroyed the dome. In the next year, reconstruction removed

what was left of the dome, added a third story, a Spanish tile roof, removed the portico and incorporated the columns into the façade. The words "Santa Clara County Courthouse" replaced the Latin phrase over the entrance.

After the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the courthouse was closed; some citizens called for its demolition. Fortunately, public opinion prevailed and it was beautifully restored and open for business by 1994. During the restoration, a forgotten dungeon was discovered deep under the courthouse and behind a brick wall.

In the foreground are young trees in Saint James Park, now part of the Saint

James National Historic District along with eight contributing structures, including the County Courthouse. In Saint James Park, both President McKinley (1901) and candidate Robert Kennedy (1968) spoke to San Jose citizens shortly before being assassinated elsewhere. A bronze statue of McKinley faces the courthouse and a RFK memorial sits at the southwest corner of the park.

One of San Jose's darkest hours took place in Saint James Park in 1933, when Jack Holmes and Thomas Harold Thurmond were hanged by a mob for the kidnapping and murder of 22-year old Brooke Hart. ❖

What's In the Paulson House? By Gayle Frank



Photo: Gayle Frank

In the back bedroom of the Paulson House, a Florence sewing machine from 1872 sits in the right corner. Gladys Jackson bequeathed it to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County in 1984, along with her ranch house, furnishings and art.

The machine operates by moving the foot pedals back and forth, causing the threaded needle to pass up and down through the material. Gladys Jackson

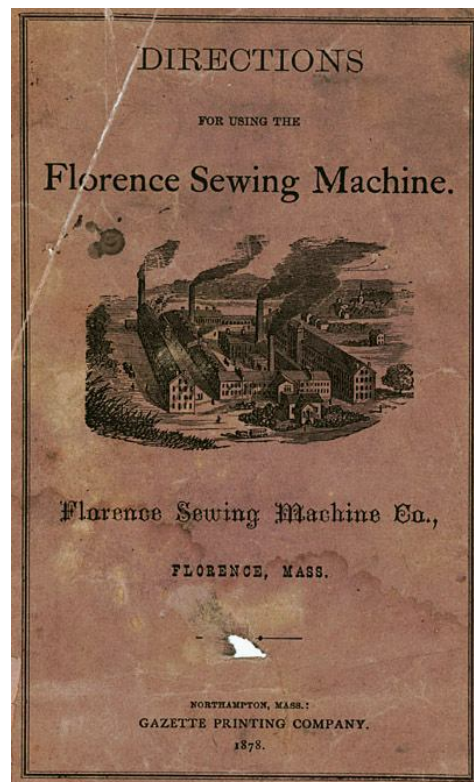
most likely sewed numerous pieces of clothing and other household goods on this machine. Perhaps even her grandmother Aphelia Cochrane, the early force behind the Cochrane/Jackson Ranch, used this machine.

The early Florence sewing machine was renowned for its reversible feed that allowed well-finished hems. Two heads were available; one decorated with simple gold lines and the other with graceful floral designs.

The basic Florence machine with a plain treadle sold for \$45 in 1873 or \$55 for the more ornate "pierced" legs model. The vintage ads for these machines offered a \$1 a week installment plan.

In 1855, Leander W. Langdon obtained his first sewing machine patent and by 1858 set up his brick factory in Florence, Massachusetts. After a few

years, the Florence Sewing Machine Co. business grew to 350 employees, was housed on three acres and sales peaked at 17,600 in 1870. By 1879, the Singer Company provided stiff competition, therefore business dropped and the Florence Sewing Machine Co. was acquired by A. G. Mason in the 1880s. ❖



Dare to be a Docent

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County offers a unique opportunity to become a docent.

Our Paulson House at History San Jose holds a multitude of historical furniture, art and artifacts that makes it easy to talk about with visitors; a version of show and tell. The Paulson House is open on most Sunday afternoons.

Here are a few reasons to become a docent:

- Learn about Santa Clara County and California history

- Be involved in an important community
- Make new friends with similar interests
- Meet visitors from other parts of our world
- Enjoy the surroundings of History San Jose and the beautiful Paulson House

If you have questions, call Bev Blockie at 408-274-1625 or email her at bev@blockie.com. ❖



Photo: Tim Peddy

Correction:

This is Joann Souza, one of our Paulson House docents. In the last issue she was misidentified.

New Pioneers Members - Welcome!

Donna Bick is a native San Josean. She worked as a Probation Officer locally. Donna's great, great-grandfather David Wight came to California from Scotland in 1851. He worked as an engineer in the construction of Mare Island in Vallejo from 1853 to 1860 and finally found San Jose a great place to live by 1870.

Donna recently received, from a family member, a late 1890s photograph of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County at an Alum Rock Park picnic that includes Mr. and Mrs. David Wight. Wight was a prominent local California Pioneers member and served as President in 1898-1899. Donna shared the photo with us and we now have a beautiful enlarged copy.

Donna's ancestors also include her grandmother Zena York, a talented performer locally as well as Susie Cottle. Donna's parents were Eugene Barnard and Margaret Donnelley Barnard. Many of the family ancestors lived in Willow Glen.

Terri Carter is the wife of Pioneers member Jim Carter and lives in San Jose. She was born in Chico, California, is a retired second grade teacher and is fluent in Spanish. Her family moved to San Jose in 1951. Terri and her husband have lived in a California Craftsman/Bungalow for forty years. Terri volunteers with a group of ladies who knit and crochet hats, blankets, and prayer shawls for babies, children and adults. She and Jim have two grown sons and three grandchildren.

Betty Balch Chase is a native Californian and lives in Los Gatos. She is a homemaker. Her pioneer ancestor is I. A. Wilcox, who came to California in 1852.

Karl Doll arrived in California in 1989 from New York. He is a marketing manager and lives in Sunnyvale. Karl has located some misplaced headstones in the Cupertino hills and is interested in replacing them back to their correct location. Karl has spearheaded this project, and with the assistance of our "In Grave Danger Gang," the headstones will soon be removed from their abandoned location, restored, and transported to the original cemeteries from which they were lost or stolen.

Catherine Leeson Pelizzari came to California in 1973 from New York and Pennsylvania and now lives in Milpitas. She is a retired technical writer. Catherine is active in the Milpitas Historical Society and produces their newsletter. She also assisted with the Arcadia's *Images of America* on Alviso. She is interested in research and writing projects. Catherine's grandmother Adelaide Hanscom (Leeson) arrived in California with her family from Oregon in 1881. Adelaide's father Meldon Hanscom was the city auditor in Berkeley for many years.

Norma Robinson is the wife of Pioneers member Russ Robinson. She came to California in 1933 from Oklahoma. Norma is retired from teaching and real estate. She and Russ live in Cupertino. Norma lists Kit Carson as a



relative. That sounds like an interesting story and we'll have to get back to her on that.

Fred Shirey is a native San Josean, still lives in San Jose and his occupation is listed as Project Manager. His membership was proposed by Pioneers members Jim Campbell and Donna Miguelgorry.

Karen Shirey, Fred's wife, was born in Wisconsin and came to California in 1960. Karen's maiden name was Johnson. She was an elementary school teacher. Her membership was also proposed by Pioneers members Jim Campbell and Donna Miguelgorry.

Gloria Stern lives in San Jose and was born in San Francisco. Gloria's husband, Howard Stern of San Jose, is the great-grandson of Marcus Stern, who arrived in San Jose from Germany and established a harness and saddle shop in 1853. Gloria volunteers at the archives at History San Jose and also is active in the San Jose/Okayama Sister City Organization. She has served on the boards of the Mental Health Association, History San Jose and San Jose/Evergreen Community College. ❖



Would you like to go green and read the Trailblazer online? Do you toss the Trailblazer after reading it? Why not save paper and receive an email notification and link to read the newsletter online? Just notify Gayle Frank at 408-275-6889 or gaylefrankCA@gmail.com and you will receive an email and Trailblazer link as soon as the newsletter is ready. Using less paper means saving trees and reducing water consumption from paper manufacturing. Did you know that the United States uses a quarter of the world's paper products – more than 748 pounds per person per year?

Time Travel

In San Jose, 1898: The town council said there were 308 places where liquor was sold, but the city was collecting taxes from only 77 of them.

In San Jose, 1900: Almost a thousand people were engaged in picking hops in and about the city. The pickers published a semi-weekly social news sheet called the "Hopgard News." They held Saturday night dances with the grand "hop" at the season's end.

In San Jose, 1901: There was agitation about doing away with the four secret fraternities in the local high school. A candidate in one initiation had been lowered by ropes in a coffin from a three-story building.

In San Jose, 1902: For the first time ever people on the East Santa Clara Street car line could get an unobstructive view of the famous Henry Naglee estate. The high fence around the property was removed.

In San Jose, 1905: Newspaper ad reads, "Have fun at Alviso. Fishing, boating, clam digging, saltwater bathing, yachting, watching the tide come in at Alviso, the salt water resort of Santa Clara Valley. Southern Pacific round trip only 40¢ on Saturday and Sunday."

In San Jose, 1908: A well known San Josean reported a thief entered his downtown hotel room and made off with his artificial arm and his bible.



News From the Past



Visit Pioneers' Calendar

The "History Calendar - Santa Clara County" is on our website at www.CaliforniaPioneers.com and then click on "Calendar."

Membership Report

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County have 455 members as of May, 2013. If you haven't yet paid your annual dues for 2013, please pay by mail to CA Pioneers, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA, 95155.

Please go to CaliforniaPioneers.com and select "Membership Information" from the menu on the left. There you will see the various benefits and categories of membership. Additional donations are appreciated. If you are over 70 ½, this year the IRS allows charitable giving

straight from your IRAs and 401Ks and then deducted from your MRD (minimum required distribution) for the year. And please don't forget the Pioneers in your estate planning.

invite your friends to one of our luncheons. Or ask them to join our organization if they are interested in Santa Clara County and California history.

For questions, please call Gayle Frank, at 408-275-6889.

Membership Categories

Individual	\$25
Family Level	\$45
Loomis Level	\$75
Lifetime Level	\$250
Arbuckle Level	\$500
Younger Level	\$1000
Murgotten Level	\$5000

Pioneers Gone on to the Golden Hills



**June Hubbard
Henry Mattos
Robert Muench
Winnifred CoeVerbica**



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

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