

The Cinnabars of New Almaden — 1897



Cheered as a 'humdinger" this baseball nine had won 15 games out of 18 played and were justified in showing off their new uniforms consisting of white shirts with blue lettering and blue padded britches with white caps encircled with blue trim.

Photo was taken by General Agent of the New Almaden Mines, Robert Bulmore who was responsible for the team's new garb. Johnny 'Pee Wee' Seleya, the mascot stands up front to show how big he was — Back row: (l-r) Dave Bulmore, captain, 3rd base; James Fielder, pitcher; George Bulmore, catcher; Joseph Moore, center-field; Seated (l-r) Frank McComas, 2nd base; Almo Bulmore, left-field; Johnny Seleya, mascot; Albert Aceveda, right-field; Frank Ynostrasa, short-stop; Frank McCracken, 1st base.

The team sported the best of Spaulding baseball gear. There was also fun galore due to a very rigid ground rule. Because of the many squirrel holes in the field of play a runner could advance just one base when the ball fell into one of them. Evenings also provided dances at the Hacienda hall in honor of visiting teams with dances often named after visiting players such as the "Dooley" schottiche or a "Sullivan" quadrille.

WHALE BLAZERS

SAN JOSE, 1881 — Hale & Co. announced an extensive construction and remodeling program for their store including a glass display window, “all the way from New York,” One startling innovation was the erection of an electric light in front of the store.

SAN JOSE, 1892 — A representative from a San Francisco firm was taking orders for its celebrated Dinsmore Soap which had justified claims it would “clean anything but morals and conscience and greatly improve the later.”

SAN JOSE, 1903 — Real Estate dealers here desirous of contributing to the beauty of the city had signed an agreement as to the overabundance of “For Sale” and “To Let” signs and that they be abolished.

March 10, 1906 — MT. HAMILTON ROAD STAGECOACH HOLDUP! Just beyond the Grand View House on the Mt. Hamilton Road, near the Mt. Hamilton Vineyard entrance, a stagecoach, property of the San Jose Vendome Hotel Stables, with its occupants being four ladies and a gentleman were urged, other than Bert Ross the reinsman, at the peril of their lives to step down and surrender their valuables. The victims, from New York, were guests of the Vendome Hotel. Well, in just two days due to the persistence of Deputies Ray Starbird and Will Dresischmeyer, a pair of Hall’s Valley cowhands were in custody after their capture in a San Jose downtown saloon — their booty \$12 in gold coin.

SAN JOSE, 1907 — The San Jose Police Department was looking for a new set of clothes. The officers were asking their superiors for an olive drab material in place of their heavy blue uniform then worn. Officers believed the new garb would give a better opportunity for drawing their weapons and at the same time be more comfortable.

SAN JOSE, 1909 — A white hot steel fragment from a rivet shot 200 feet with the speed of a bullet from the framework of the rising First National Bank Bldg. at First and Santa Clara Streets chipping a neat hole through a plate glass window of Thad Hobson’s Clothing Store just across Santa Clara Street missing the head of a clerk inside the store. Hobson said the bank made good the damage but not on his apprehensive salesman. Anyway, a record in structural steel construction had been set when the nine story framework was erected in just 15 days.

SAN JOSE, 1912 — Again, the Board of Health recommended that all dogs be muzzled and placed on a leash in fear of an outbreak of rabies.

SANTA CLARA, January 1927 — Official recognition was given Santa Clara as a city when the state legislature ratified the new city charter, adopted by a vote of 627 to 150 by the local citizens on April 5, 1926.

SANTA CLARA, March 1939 — Glass milk bottles were soon to be displaced by paper containers according the State Department of Dairy Service.

SAN JOSE, April, 1939 — The Agriculture Commission announced the valley’s greatest invasion of migrant workers was at hand with the arrival of 138,250,000 honey bees preparatory to the annual cherry and prune polination period.

REMEMBER ARBOR DAY?



Julius Morton introduced this event in Nebraska in 1872 directed toward the reforestation of scantily wooded areas and to emphasize the importance of conservation and was a legal holiday there. California, of course, was more partial towards its 'transplanted' native son, Luther Burbank, born in Lancaster, Mass. on March 7, 1849 usually the excepted Arbor Day date for Californians. This Santa Rosa horticulturist, botanist and pioneer 'plant wizard' is remembered with a district, school and street in San Jose today. . .

Thankfully, due to an avid tree planting program by our own Pioneer faithful as early as 1907 and in recent years have spiralled into towers of bowery returns; so let's recall a few:

March 7, 1962 — This planting at the S.W. corner of the Rose Garden consisted of a robust redwood tree sapling. On hand for the occasion was our then president, Austin Warburton, Clyde Arbuckle and Arthur Fisk, then editor.

March 21, 1962 — Senator Herbert Jones, one of our directors, was honored with redwood plantings at San Jose's Backesto Park for his activity in helping to preserve our State redwood groves for posterity.

March 7, 1963 — Three redwoods were planted at San Jose's River Glen Park in memory of our departed Pioneers. Mrs. Minnie Clark, Edith Titcomb, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Harriman, Clyde Arbuckle and Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Fisk acted for the Society in this activity.

March 10, 1964 — Three redwood saplings were planted in the S.W. corner of the Rose Garden. Partaking were Alice Vetterle, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Jones, Mrs. Minnie Clark, Clyde Arbuckle, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Fisk — all memorials to our departed Pioneers.

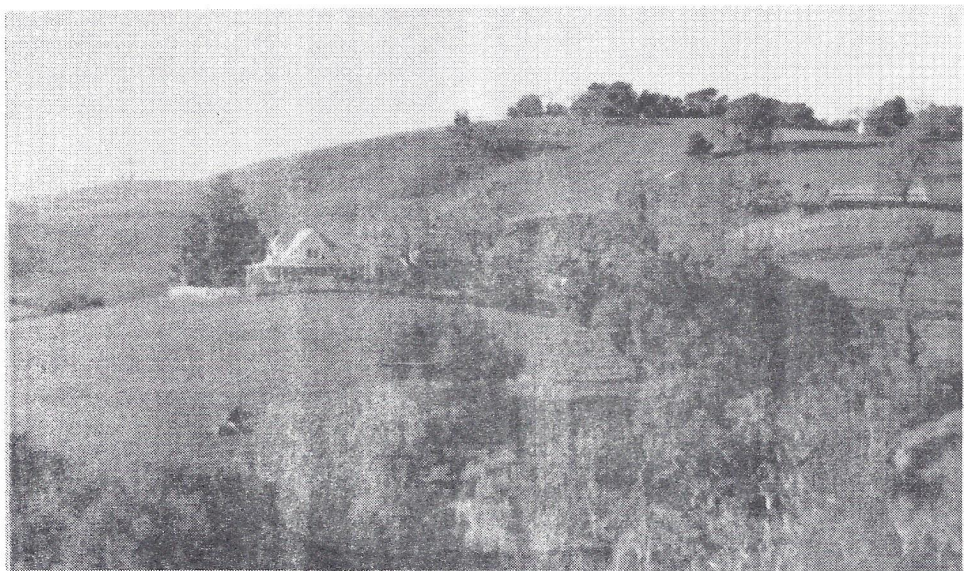
March 11, 1965 — Three more young redwoods were established at the north-west section of the Rose Garden. On hand were Clyde Arbuckle, City Councilman Clyde Fischer, Theron Fox, Mr. & Mrs. William Heath, Alice Vetterle and Bert Gerlits of the San Jose Planning Commission.

March 9, 1966 — Seven pine trees were planted at the San Jose Historical Museum. Our representatives were Mrs. Minnie Clark, Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Arbuckle, Mr. & Mrs. William Heath, Dr. Earl Rhodes, Alice Vetterle, Tony Sapena, Lawrence Bulmore, and Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Fisk.

And say — the next time you're up a tree may it be one we planted!

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

HISTORICAL JACKSON RANCH



The Jackson Ranch lies between Dunne Avenue and the Anderson Reservoir in the Santa Clara County, just east of Morgan Hill.

Mrs. Gladys Jackson, in loving memory of her grandmother, Aphelia Cochrane, bequeathed her interest in her residence and the surrounding property consisting of approximately 38 acres of land and the furniture and furnishings contained in the residence to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County.

Because of the outstanding property taxes in excess of 7 thousand dollars and the existing liability combined with horrendous restoration and/or maintenance costs, the California Pioneers found it prudent to lease the 38 acre Jackson Ranch property to the County of Santa Clara for an addition to it's Parks and Recreation facility, for 50 years.

A grant application has been made by the Historical Heritage Commission jointly with the California Pioneers and the Parks and Recreation Department for qualification of the site as an Historical Property. This could obtain funds to restore and/or rehabilitate the structures on the property consisting of barns, the Victorian residence, the bunk house, and a prune drying structure. Plans call for restoring the residence of Gladys Jackson which was badly damaged in the 1984 earthquake. A museum to display the many antiques bequeathed to the California Pioneers would be a fitting use for the old Victorian.

Richard Hill, 2nd Vice Pres. Calif. Pioneers

The Mission Bell of Campbell

By Bill Chivers



Most of us know there is no Mission in Campbell, so why a Mission Bell? At one time, there was a Mission Chicken Hatchery there, but that has nothing to do with the Bell.

In the years 1906 to 1912, much interest was being taken in restoring and repairing the 21 old California Franciscan Missions and marking the trails of the early Franciscan Fathers and their workers. The main trail from Mission San Diego de Alcala in San Diego to Mission San Francisco Solano at Sonoma, about 700 miles connecting the Missions, was called "El Camino Real" or The King's Highway. The roads changed as each Mission was established, and it was only after the last Mission at Sonoma was built in 1823 that the route became permanently established.

A plan to preserve the "El Camino Real" was formally presented before the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Los Angeles in May 1902, and a month later the Daughters of the Golden West endorsed the plan. Mrs. A.S.C. Forbes of the California History and Landmarks Department of the State's Federation of Women's Clubs led the crusade, and in 1904 a convention of delegates from all over California met to form the El Camino Association.

In 1906, the new association decided that the path of the Mission Fathers should be marked with a distinctive and appropriate guidepost. It was Mrs. A.S.C. Forbes, author of a book on the history of the Missions and later President of the Association, who designed the Mission Bell standard that was accepted as the marker of the Missions' path. The cast iron bells for which she secured a design patent and a copyright weighed 100 pounds and were placed on iron pipes eleven feet above the ground, the base of the pipe being set in concrete. Each bell was marked with the inscription "El Camino Real — A.S.C. Forbes — 1769-1906." The first date was that of Father Serra's founding of the first Mission. The second was the year the first bell was placed and dedicated with great ceremony at Plaza Church in Los Angeles on August 15, 1906. The bell setting program gained much popularity in the next few years, and by 1913 there were about 450 bells along the 700 miles of The King's Highway.

In 1911, a Campbell Women's Club called "The Pundita Circle," which was a reading club named in honor of Pundita Ramabai, one of India's most educated women of that era, was formed. Pundita means "learned women" which is what the ladies wanted to be. They decided to buy one of the bells and mount it in Campbell to commemorate the path of the old Franciscan trail from Mission Santa Clara to Mission Santa Cruz. The cost was \$25, and the money was raised by a donation from each member every meeting of five cents.

They received permission from the Campbell School District to mount the new bell on the old high school ground next to the historic President Teddy Roosevelt redwood tree on the southeast corner of Campbell Avenue and Los Gatos-Santa Clara Road (now Winchester Boulevard). On Campbell's Old Settlers' Day February 12, 1912, the bell was dedicated with great fanfare. It stayed there until 1940 when the old high school was sold. The bell was then moved across the street to the Campbell Grammar School property. It was another 21 years before the Campbell Mission Bell was to become news again. In 1961 when the committee for El Camino Real decided to restore 100 of the old bells, they put out a search for any of the old remaining bells. They requested the donation of the Campbell Mission Bell, but the Pundita Club turned down the request and said they wanted the bell to remain in Campbell. The bell stood on the site of the old elementary school almost unnoticed until 1976 when the Campbell Civic Improvement Commission decided that a better and safer place for the historic bell would be at the Campbell Catholic Church, about one-half mile south on Winchester Blvd.

The Pundita Club hastily approved and donated the bell to St. Lucy's Catholic Church which agreed to be its caretaker and permanent home. This bell may well again be in the news soon. It has been recommended by the people of Campbell that a bronze plaque be placed beneath it as a historic point of interest. It will be an important reminder to visitors and to future generations that it was not always blacktop and concrete highways from Santa Clara through Campbell and Los Gatos to Santa Cruz but once was a footpath through the Santa Cruz Mountains where Indians, Franciscan missionaries and our pioneer settlers once traveled.

SAN JOSE'S WASHBURN PREP

By Hank Calloway

The Washburn School was a private preparatory school for boys and girls, then located at the NW corner of San Pedro and Devine Streets. Some 130 pupils was the average daily attendance with ten per cent having been attracted from abroad. The faculty consisted of ten teachers who were not only university grads but skilled teachers in their departments.

Half of the student body was assigned to regular college preparation work with the younger students covering the different primary departments such as with public schooling. No one was required to follow a fixed course or do work done before or wait for the 'slow poke.' The exceptionally bright pupil could complete the school course in seven years.

It was in 1894 when Arthur H. Washburn, a native of Fredonia, New York, and his wife, Jessica, a San Josean, established the school both having had degrees from Stanford. Washburn was also a graduate of Polytechnic Institute of Worcester, Mass. with a mechanical engineer degree. He was also a graduate of San Jose Normal.

According to old San Jose Herald accounts Washburn was, "the best school of its kind this side of Chicago and one of the three top private 'prep' schools in the state."

Washburn was said to also be fully accredited at Stanford and at California at Berkeley, as well as at Smith and Vassar, the leading colleges for women in the country. The first grad to be sent to the Smith from Washburn was elected president of her class in her Sophomore year, as was its first grad sent to Vassar.

Aiding the Trailblazer in this quest has also been the "Washburnian" the 1907 yearbook of the school and keepsake of our Pioneer member Mrs. Mabelle Taylor. It was at the home of Mabelle's parents, the Charles W. Bradley's where a student enjoyed housing accommodations.

By 1907 and already in its twelfth year Washburn had graduated some one hundred forty-two students. Of the schools first six classes two-thirds had graduated from universities, twenty-eight from Stanford, one from California at Berkeley. At the time no less than three Washburn grads had been engaged in teaching at Stanford: one as a math instructor, one as an assistant in the same department and a third as assistant in the department of chemistry.

It also appeared Washburn scholars had shown a good amount of proof they were not 'quitters.' Accordingly Miss Mary Myrick, its principal in 1912, said, "The school does not sugar-coat all the pills its student have to swallow and when they find themselves able to complete a task, even if it be distasteful, is indeed a test of real men and women."

Due to ill health Mr. Washburn, who was a resident of Los Gatos, was compelled to retire, spending a good part of his final days at his fruit ranch in the eastern foothills near Evergreen. This contributor to early education died in 1921 as did his school several years later.

California's Golden Poppy Survival Program



By Hank Calloway

Our golden poppy was selected as the official state flower of California by the 1903 State Legislature. Growing wild throughout most of the state it was sometimes known as the flame flower or 'la amapole' or cup of gold. In 1816 when the Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences was on a three-year scientific expedition, it had dropped anchor in the San Francisco Bay when the nearby hills were reported as being "bathed in *Eschscholtzia California*" named in honor of the German zoologist, Johann F. Eschscholtzia had visited California in 1816 on this voyage while in the service of Russia.

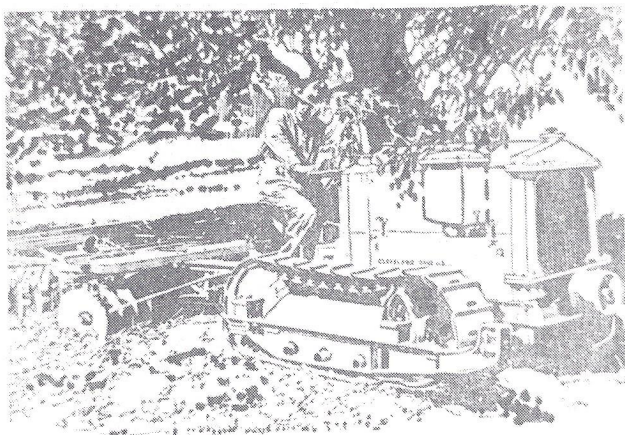
However, passing generations and the arrival of the automobile threatened the poppy's lifestyle as multitudes swarmed hillsides on poppy picking expeditions constituting a threat to the state's emblem, the golden poppy.

By March 6, 1925 the Hon. C.C. Spaulding of Santa Clara County introduced a bill in the State Assembly pertaining to the protection of our golden poppy. The bill was designed to halt the extensive gathering of the poppy along highways and on private lands. The steady increase of motorists over the countryside was considered a menace to our celebrated poppy fields which had already diminished rapidly because of the increased population and other natural causes. A determined fight was actually being waged by scientists and lovers of the out-of-door world to preserve as far as possible the colorful feature of the California landscape. Douglas H. Campbell who headed the botany department of Stanford University, also helped author the bill. Likewise Prof. Smith, noted biologist of the San Jose High School, was among the valley boosters for the state's threatened emblem. It was his belief that at certain seasons of the year when the poppy fields were in full bloom, picking poppies was a favorite sport.

The Sacramento Bee very much in the poppy survival campaign stated, "Sunday was poppy day seemingly from the thousands of poppies gathered by hundreds of autoists who motored out west, north, and south of our California towns insistent on raiding our poppy fields."

Valley Endurance Tractor Run Proved to be a World Record

by Hank Calloway



On April 22, 1928 after ten grueling days and nights of deafening tractor blasts and jolts, two determined and bruised brothers, Bill and Joe Battaglia had brought their relentless tractor to an exhausted halt at their extensive and demanding San Jose fruit ranch at the junction of Almaden Road and Lincoln Avenue. This feat earned the pair a world's endurance record. Just a week before they were well under way determined to 'disc' or plow their extensive orchard land non-stop and overtake a record held by New Zealanders. The 'down-under' run had been a nine-day continuous effort.

Bill and Joe could see no reason why they could not better such longevity by each taking turns at 12 hour shifts. Joe was well trained with a recent 45 hour conditioning 'run'.

The 'Cat' was out-fitted with recording clocks which made certain throughout the run it did not stop. Officials associated with the Agriculture Department at the University of California at Davis were on hand to keep tab of the Battaglia's accomplishment.

Gas and water were provided to the tractor while running. Each staunch brother also nourished himself while 'aboard.'

At the start of the race the tractor was officially named "Mercedes" by a young lady who broke a bottle of prune milk shake over the massive radiator.

Immediately after the epic plowing task the 'Cat' was hauled aboard a trailer with the elated brothers and paraded through the downtown streets of San Jose. At the St. Claire Hotel a silver trophy was presented 'the team' by the Sea Side Oil Co. who donated their "Diamond" gasoline for the race. The tractor was the type sold and serviced by the "Best" Tractor Company of San Jose. A special ornate cake, said to be a prune variety, was presented the 'team' by the St. Claire Hotel's bakery staff. The California Prune and Apricot Growers Association also presented certificates of accomplishment for this unique challenge.

HURRY FOR OUR 1989 HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST!

Both high school and college students as well as the general public are eligible for cash awards. First prize will be \$500, a second of \$250 and a third of \$125 with three Honorable Mentions of \$25 each.

Subject: any person, place, or event concerning Santa Clara County from its beginnings to the recent past.

Length of essay: from 3000 to 10,000 words

For further information contact Essay Chairperson Helen MacCarthy at 578-4485 or Austen Warburton at 296-3388.

Essay deadline is Monday May 1, 1989. First prize winners of the last five years are ineligible to compete.

Don't Be Left Out!

Annual dues are now past due! All members who have not paid for 1989 by the March luncheon (March 4, 1989) will be considered delinquent and will not receive the Trailblazer. The Financial Secretary will be available at the luncheon to receive payments.

Those who wish to mail their payments can do so by sending the \$5 check along with a stamped self-addressed envelope to California Pioneers, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155.

Any questions? Please call Membership Chairman/Financial Secretary Alexandra Riddle at 738-1216.

Passing Scenes — 1915

San Jose's 'fleet' of horse drawn sprinkling water wagons were said to be 'scarcer than hen's teeth' in this advancing age of paved streets.

For the fellow who was trying to get on the waterwagon had to hunt hard to find one to mount. From a total of some 26 such wagons in full operation during the 1890's the number had decreased to ten even with the acquisition of considerably more area due to the annexation of East San Jose and the Gardner District, both in 1911.

It was considered a sign of progress when these huge yellow tank wagons teamed down the neighborhoods with all their dust dowsing sprinklers wide open as hilarious barefoot youngsters followed close behind.

Still another phase out, at the time, was the final blow to the city's "Black Mariya," a patrol wagon. Old timers believed a culprit could be tried, sentenced and do his 'time' before "Mariya" arrived at the scene.

H.C.



Touring With The Californians

RESERVATIONS by phone begin Monday, March 6, for members only. Call Nancy Hill at 258-3449 Monday through Friday, preferably mornings. After Nancy confirms your reservation, make check payable to THE CALIFORNIANS and send to P.O. Box 32121, San Jose, CA 95152. After the quarterly meeting a Trip Brochure may be obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed legal-sized envelope to the above address. We encourage you to use the waiting list if your desired trip is full.

May 8-19, 1989 Yippie! and Hang on! T'will be our grandiose spree to the HEARTLAND OF AMERICA: Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri — Featuring Ozark Mountain Country. Come catch the special excitement shared by folks who live there. Stirring as old mid-American history itself, mountain music jubilees, Clydesdale horse farms, fantastic caverns, passion plays, last fling towns of the forty-niners, Will Roger's memorial and President Truman's home and library are just bits of this colossal grand-tour. Better make haste — just a few spaces remain.

NORWEGIAN COASTAL TOUR "To the Top of the World" July 31-August 14, 1989 Treat yourself to a gloriously new and refreshing vacation: An unmatched adventure where night takes a holiday and the sun is visible 24 hours a day while you observe a close-up of Scandinavian 'goings-on.' Where on earth is there a voyage like this one!

Along with these two extended journeys we will have some new one day trips for your enjoyment.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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Richard L. Belding
Carrie Dutra
Raymond Dutra
Martha Ebinger
Katherine Hannon

Jack E. Hentzell
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