

Vol. 53, Issue 2

June 2012

Inside this issue:

Pioneers Restore Rare Map	1
President's Message	2
Pellier Jinx Continues	3
Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon	4
The Vanguard of Intellectualism	5
Member Spotlight:: April Halberstadt	6
Paulson House Docents	7
Rare Birdseye Map	8-9
In Days Gone By	10
Ralph Rambo	10
Vendome Hotel	11
Before Days of Gold	12
Remembering Beverly Fisher	13
History Calendar	13
Pioneers Gone To the Golden Hills	13
Film Archive News	14
Annual Treasurer Report	14
Membership Report	15
Board of Directors	16

Pioneers Restore Rare Map

For years the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County has been a repository for historic items, and the Stevens Estate brought us an interesting treasure. At first glance it

those who have some time to spend with this map. The new South Pacific Coast Railroad is also in evidence, showing an impressive depot.

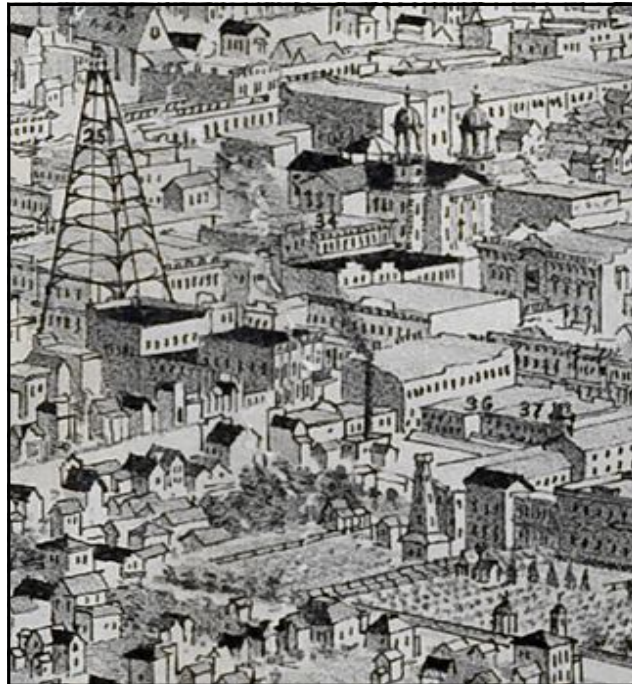
The Pioneers has the only known copy of the 1885 map in existence. There are three other known versions of engravings that portray birds-eye views of San Jose; the earliest one is from 1868. The Library of Congress and the California State Library in Sacramento each have copies of these maps. They are available for viewing on-line at the On-Line Archive of California (OAC).

The Pioneers arranged to have our 1885 map inspected by a special paper conservator, a person trained to clean and restore works on paper. The map was washed (yes, that can be done) and repaired. The edges were heavily stained by dirt that built up around the edges of the frame. The map has been digitally scanned by a professional company so the map image can be accurately reproduced.

Because of the rarity of this marvelous treasure, it has been placed in the care of History San Jose and it will

(Cont'd page 2)

Left, a tiny segment of the birds-eye map enlarged for detail; note Light Tower and St. Joseph Church



looked like an incredibly filthy framed map, streaked with grime and barely readable. It turned out to be a rare birds-eye view of San Jose from 1885, showing the little town with its glorious Light Tower. In addition, several other auxiliary light towers are revealed, just one surprise in store for

The map was created by W. W. Elliott, a lithographer in Oakland, California. There are insets along the top showing ten important structures of the time, including nice views of the College of Notre Dame, the Pacific Hotel and of course, the Light Tower.

Quarterly Luncheon on June 9th

Join the Pioneers at *Three Flames Restaurant* on Saturday, June 9th at 11:00 AM. Make reservations by Thursday, June 7th. For more details and menu, please see page 4.

Message from our President

When former San Jose Mayor Tom McEnergy asked me this week whether Louis Pellier from the 1850s was a vintner (even though he was never known to be a vintner), I relied on Pioneers members Rick Helin and Bill Foley to help me turn around a three-page answer within hours. (The answer was "yes.")

One of the blessings of being associated with the Pioneers is the excitement of working alongside historians at the top of their field. Our organization is a magnet for talent. This helps us serve the public like no other group.

Much of what we do to fulfill our mission is done behind the scenes by our vanguard of researchers. Every week I receive history inquiries from everyday folks, who are directed to the Pioneers because we are known as a resource of knowledge. And because we successfully answer their questions, people keep returning to the deep well of information known as the Pioneers. It is fun because we field the most esoteric questions imaginable. We are happy to do so because that is what history geeks do. We embrace this opportunity because we love solving difficult puzzles;

we ourselves learn something new every day; we relish the thrill of the challenge; it creates camaraderie among our core researchers; and we provide service to others.

In just the last ten day period, I received by email a Renaissance-varied list of questions on these topics: Carmel Castro Fallon; Hobson Street in 1924; how to make adobe bricks; origins of Cambrian Park; Luis Maria Peralta; "Lost World" on Highway 17; history of San Jose canneries; local artist Emma van Winkle; Bear Flagger Kit Carson; early dental tools; Juan Bautista de Anza; Clyde and Jim Arbuckle; the Berreyesa family; Almaden Air Force Station; and Ohlone Indians. Glorious!

If I do not know the answer, I turn to the best and the brightest within our group. Fortunately, there is always someone in the Pioneers who has his or her finger on the pulse of each topic. On some of these thorny email inquiries, I will get 12 Pioneers providing information for our collective response. Every day we are doing what the Pioneers "is all about": answering seemingly impossible questions, connecting family members, digging up golden



Photo: Hans Halberstadt

**Paul Bernal, President
California Pioneers
of Santa Clara County**

nuggets for the curious, and applying our skills to serve others. If you have any unsolved mysteries of your own, run them by me at President@CaliforniaPioneers.com. We have an enthusiastic team ready to help.

-Paul Bernal

Pioneers Restore Rare Map (Cont'd)

be stored in a fire-safe and climate-controlled vault. A reproduction is now framed in its original frame and will be on display in the Paulson House. We are also having a study copy made for those who want to further inspect the map. Go to pages 8 and 9 in this journal to see a smaller copy.

In addition to the 1885 birds-eye map, the Pioneers are also having our precious *Articles Of Incorporation* conserved and reframed. The *Articles* have been hanging on our wall and were framed in an era before acid-free paper and archival mats. Decades of direct contact with

wood and cardboard damaged the document. The edges show signs of "mat-burn", those small holes that begin to appear when the acids leaching from cardboard mats affect the document.

Our *Articles Of Incorporation* document has also been professionally conserved, cleaned and repaired. Keeping such important documents is part of the Pioneers mission, and we strive to be good stewards of the legacy that has been given to us.

-April Halberstadt

Trailblazer

is published quarterly by the
California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

Editor: Gayle Frank
Logo Designer: Kat Foley

Contact us at
info@californiapioneers.com or
Paulson House/History San Jose
1650 Senter Rd. San Jose, CA 95112-2599

© 2012 California Pioneers
of Santa Clara County
Established in 1875

The Pioneers is a 501(c)3
not for profit organization

Pellier Jinx Continues

By Jim Zetterquist

In the last issue of the Trailblazer, I boasted about the wonderful All Souls Day event on November 2, 2011, at Calvary Cemetery. I talked about how we celebrated the restoration and installation of the 140 year old Pellier headstones, and acknowledged the Pioneer's "In Grave Danger Gang" and others, for their hard work. I even cited Louis Pellier's long list of accomplishments and called him the Father of Santa Clara County Agriculture. Finally, I spoke of the Pellier Jinx and our hope to disprove it. Well ladies and gentlemen, I am sorry to inform you, but the Pellier curse lives on.



Destroyed Pellier headstones and exhibit at Calvary Cemetery

Before I tell you of the latest episode, let me recap the history of the Pellier Jinx.

1. After Louis Pellier and his brother Pierre introduced the French Prune to the Santa Clara County, along with varieties of grapes from France, other horticulturists gained far more wealth from the Pelliers' cuttings than did the brothers.

2. After a long partnership, the Pellier brothers had a falling out. According to one report, they actually cut the house in two when they divided up the assets. (Talk about a house divided!)

3. Louis' marriage began to fall apart and when his wife left him, he ended up in an asylum in Stockton. (The misunderstood Louis Pellier was the Vincent Van Gough of agriculture.)

4. After dying in the asylum on July 13,

Just four months after the headstones had been lovingly placed, they were torn from the ground, tossed in the air, and broken in pieces.

1872, Louis was buried at Holy Cross (aka Kell) Cemetery in San Jose. Just ten months after Louis' death, his 14 year old namesake nephew, Louis P. Pellier, passed away and was buried next to his uncle.

5. By 1890, the Holy Cross Cemetery was abandoned, becoming overgrown, forgotten and eventually a playground for vandals.

6. In the 1940s and 1950s, Pioneers members Clyde Arbuckle and Lee Lester rescued the two Pellier headstones from vandals. They were placed in storage and were forgotten for over 60 years.

7. During the 1940s, in an attempt to honor the Pelliers for their contribution to local agriculture, an official historic marker was placed at the site of the Pellier's City Nursery. Within a short period, a large truck swerved off the road and destroyed the marker. The marker was never replaced.

8. In the late 1940s, the movie *A Fortune in Two Trunks* was produced by Sunsweet Co. and was played in schools throughout the valley. By the 1960s, the film about the Pelliers' contributions was no longer used in schools and was lost to the public.

9. In 1977, for San Jose's bi-centennial celebration, Pioneers member Leonard McKay, a group of citizens, and the City of San Jose, created Pellier Park on the site of Pellier's City Nursery. Within a few years, the park was neglected and fell into disrepair. In 2008, the park was temporarily removed to gain access for a high-rise housing development. The park was never rebuilt as promised.

10. In 1984, Highway 87 cut through the site of the old Holy Cross Cemetery. Since all of the grave markers had been removed over the years, all of the bodies were placed in a mass grave at Calvary Cemetery.

11. In 2011, the Pellier movie was re-discovered in a local film archive and was reproduced by our Pioneers Film

(Cont'd on page 4)

California Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Saturday, June 9, 2012

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT

Banquet Room
1547 Meridian Ave in San José

For Reservations by Thursday, June 7

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)

Speaker

John Mascali on

"HISTORY OF MOFFETT FIELD"

The Menu Selections are:

Three Flames Special Steak

tri-tip steak topped with sautéed mushrooms.

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Stuffed with ham, Swiss cheese and Mushrooms and
topped with Béchamel Sauce

[Above served with Herb Roasted Red Potatoes]

Pasta Primavera

Penne Pasta Marinara and Vegetables

All of the above served with Salad, Coffee and
Vanilla Ice Cream for 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.*

Pellier Jinx Continues (Cont'd)

Archive and shared with the world on our website. Pellier's missing headstone can be seen in the old movie.

12. In 2011, the Pioneers "In Grave Danger Gang" tracked down the two long-missing headstones and on November 2, the Pioneers celebrated their beautiful installation next to the large granite marker at the mass grave in Calvary Cemetery. At this point, it looked like we were well on our way to ending the Pellier Jinx.

That was until Saturday March 10, 2012. Just four months after the headstones



had been lovingly placed, as over a hundred Pioneers members enjoyed their quarterly luncheon at the Three Flames restaurant, the large headstones were torn from the ground, tossed in the air, and broken in pieces. A woman in her 80s, driving a very large old truck, lost control of her vehicle as she drove through the cemetery. The truck plowed through the Pellier headstones along with the huge granite marker. The damage was compounded when the vehicle was later backed over the markers. Officials from the 100 year-old cemetery said that such collisions are very rare, but then again, they have never had to deal with the Pellier Jinx.

Left, the larger Louis Pellier headstone broken to bits lying on ground



Smaller L.P. Pellier headstone; note tire-tracks

Though the curse may be back, the Pioneers are determined to restore the markers. We will be working closely with the cemetery to make sure the beautiful headstones are pieced back together, even if it takes all the king's horses and all the king's men.

- Jim Zetterquist

The Vanguard of Intellectualism

By Joseph Maille

In an unusual estate called The Cats, built in the 1920s by famed architect Walter Steilberg on the outskirts of Los Gatos, lived a progressive lion and his soul mate holding court for what some would call the vanguard of intellectualism in the Bay Area. The gates of the estate are still guarded by the twin mountain lion statues "Leo" and "Leona" created by Robert Treat Paine in 1922 to greet guests of the estate. Very nearby is The Cats Restaurant & Tavern that is a newly renovated incarnation of the old stage coach stop. The Cats Roadhouse was purportedly a notorious speakeasy and bordello when famed Erskine Wood and Sara Bard Field decided to build their writer's retreat nearby.

Charles Erskine Scott Wood (1852-1944) had a long fruitful life spanning two centuries and numerous fields including the military, law, writing, painting, and humanitarian work. He was enthralled with the unknown expanse of his young country. Wood once wrote to an editor, "When I was a schoolboy the map of the United States from the Missouri River west to the Rocky Mountains and beyond nearly to the Pacific Ocean was a blank space of pink paper, "The Great American Desert" (Barnes, 2012).



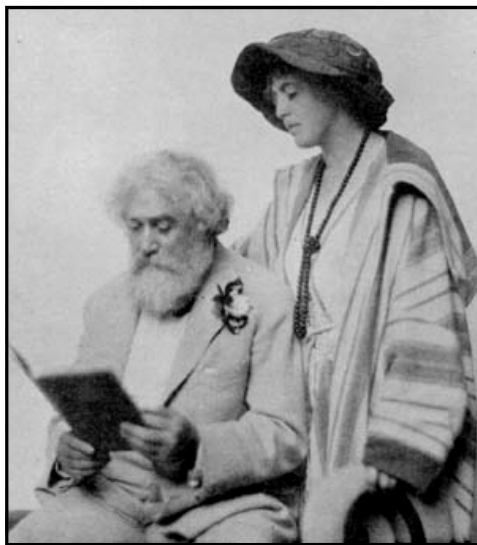
The two 8-foot tall concrete cats guard the gate to the former C.E.S. Wood and Sara Field estate

After graduating from West Point, Wood eventually became an aide during General Oliver O. Howard's pursuit of the Nez Perce in the Pacific Northwest. Depending on whom you ask, Wood either transcribed or wrote Chief Joseph's haunting surrender speech ending with the famous lines, "Hear me, my chiefs. I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever." The two men became life-long friends and Wood's son would spend several summers with Chief Joseph. In 1884 Wood resigned from the military in part due to the treatment of the Nez Perce.

Wood became a prominent corporate attorney in Portland, but was increasingly concerned as the west was divided and subdivided by corporate interests and the freedom of "The Great American Desert" was lost. He maintained a separate office where he read broadly, questioned the results of the westward expansion, and entertained like-minded friends. If you have seen the Warren Beatty movie *Reds*, then you have already met John Reed, Louise Bryant, Emma Goldman and other visitors to this growing circle.

William G. Robins said, "C.E.S. Wood's life was a paradox. He defended railroad monopolies by day and wrote radical essays for such publications as The Masses after hours. . . The Oregonian once called him hypocritical for quietly accepting the largess of the railroads while espousing his anarchist views before the

public." It is unlikely that Wood had any compunction about using railroad money to further his political causes. He was not a delicate man. In an age of robber barons and bomb throwers he was, relatively speaking, a man of integrity. Wood blanched at some of his close friend Clarence Darrow's exploits.

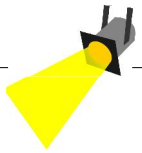


C.E.S. Wood and Sara Field, c. 1920
(Regional Oral History, UC Berkeley)

Wood, a late blooming philosophical anarchist, was certainly an eccentric and complicated man, but he was no dilettante. Largely passed over in the literary history of the west, the elder Wood's literary style was from an era soon to be displaced by modern writers. This didn't prevent his "Heavenly Discourse (1927)," originally published in the anarchist publication The Masses, from being regarded as hilarious and irreverent satire.

Upon his retirement from practicing law in Oregon, Wood left what he perceived as the provincial morals of Oregon behind and built The Cats estate outside Los Gatos to establish a retreat befitting the principals of liberalism he seemed to admire the most. This included the free love espoused by his

(Cont'd on page 6)



Pioneers Member Spotlight: April Halberstadt

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County board member April Hope Halberstadt is as energetic as she is fun. Full of insight and good humor, she tackles projects with laser-like execution, and is a blast to be around. April was born in Missouri but is one of the most "Santa Clara County" people in the valley.



April Halberstadt

With the Pioneers April heads our Essay Contest, does school outreach, is instrumental in the annual Santa Clara County History Day, works on our Presidents Portrait Wall, heads up restoration of some of our original documents such as our 1885 bird's-eye map of San Jose and *Articles of*

Incorporation (both being the only known copies to exist).

April is a local history fanatic: she has been active in Preservation Action Council of San Jose since 1993; was the Curator/Director of the Saratoga Museum from 1999 to 2008; member of History San Jose's Museum Collections Committee since 1998; member of the Santa Clara County Historic Heritage Commission since 2006 (and Chair); board member of the San Jose Fire Museum since 2008 to present; board member of the Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History at San Jose State University since 2009; board member of San Jose Woman's Club since 2005 (and President); and a long-time consultant for *Archives & Architecture*, a history consulting group. Most

importantly, she is the "go to gal" for anything having to do with the historic Naglee Park neighborhood.

April has published 13 books on her own or in collaboration with others on a very broad range of topic, including roundhouses, plows, planters, Willow Glen, tractors, bungalows, barns, fire-fighters, and Saratoga. Her latest book is "Naglee Park: The History."

April earned her Urban Geography major, with a minor in California History, from CSU-Hayward. When she is not sharing her love of history with others, she is a consultant in telecommunications engineering. She retired from her full time job in that field in the 1990s.

The Pioneers are fortunate to have such a brilliant, dedicated historian among our members.

- Paul Bernal

The Vanguard of Intellectualism (Cont'd)

beautiful young lover the suffragette Sara Bard Field. In their unorthodox relationship Field found new spiritual support for her progressive views and an antidote to her stifling marriage.

The two had met in Oregon while both were married to others. Field's husband, a much older Baptist minister named Albert Ehrhott, lamented that the two were ever introduced by Clarence Darrow . . . A man Ehrhott believed had blackened their lives. Sara Field was instrumental in the suffragist movement and subsequent passage of the 19th amendment. She even delivered a petition to Woodrow Wilson after a hazardous cross country automobile drive.

Field was equally determined that unhappy marriages and social convention would not stand between her and her soul mate. Field became a different



Wood and Field (Photo: Los Gatos Public Library)

kind of pioneer when she relocated to Nevada for the specific purpose of obtaining a divorce. Wood could not obtain a divorce and the two were unable to marry until his wife Nanny's death years later. The Cats retreat in Los Gatos allowed them to follow their idyllic, if unconventional, life as they lived and worked together on their thirty-four acres in a setting they called Poet's Canyon.

While John Steinbeck and wife Carol were living in Los Gatos they visited Erskine and Sara at The Cats estate with Doc Ricketts in tow. The Steinbecks, Clarence Darrow, Upton Sinclair, Robinson Jeffers, Ansel Adams, Langston Hughes, and Lincoln Steffens were among the friends and admirers greeted by the elderly Wood and the much younger Field draped in Roman robes with sandaled feet.

This cadre of literary and progressive giants hiked in the mountains, shared ideas, and enjoyed warm company in commune with nature.

When Charles Erskine Scott Wood died in 1944, and Sara Bard Field moved back to her native Oregon, they left behind a time when the vanguard of Bay Area intellectualism resided in that quaint writer's retreat in Los Gatos.

-Joseph C. Maille

Paulson House Docents



Pioneers Board Members Mary Berger and Bev Blockie met with the "seasoned" and new docents at the Paulson House on March 24th. Seven new volunteers, who are Pioneers members, completed docent training, adding to our ten docents who continue to faithfully volunteer their time at the Paulson House. The Pioneers open the Paulson House Museum on most Sundays and for special events at History San Jose. With additional docents we will be able to cover our "House" more effectively when large crowds visit the History San Jose grounds.

The docents reviewed the updated guide that Mary Berger developed with added information on the many new artifacts from the Stevens estate. Mary will also be working on a binder containing all the archive information

about objects in the Paulson House.

Training went well as the "seasoned" docents demonstrated how they handled visitors and questions. The new docents had the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and are now ready to be scheduled at the Paulson House.

Our Paulson House Docents are: Pat and Walt Moorhead, Joann Souza, Jonna Baker, Melita Kelly, Merle Featherstone, Diane Alves, Madeline Streight, Tim and Barbara Peddy, Carol Arnoldy, Rosalein and Jerry Zilch, Judy Mabie, Mary Mueller, Bob and Donita Grace, and Fran Mclaggan.

Anyone interested in joining our merry group is welcome to contact me at bev@blockie.com.

-Bev Blockie



Top photo: from left, Jonna Baker, Mary Berger, Madeline Streight and Melita Kelly. Above photo: from left, Merle Featherstone, Carol Arnoldy, Bev Blockie, Diane Alves and the back of Fern Mclaggan

Californians

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County regretfully announce the discontinuation of the day and extended trips previously provided by the Californians.

Volunteer Today!

The Pioneers have numerous committees and we are seeking interested members to join. There are opportunities to serve on the following committees: 1) Education, 2) Events, 3) Membership, 4) Cemetery, 5) Paulson House, 6) Docents, 7) Newsletter, 8) Essay Contest, 9) Book Publishing, 10) Inventory, 11) Grants, 12) Public Outreach, 13) Finance, 14) Library, 15) Website and 16) Archives. Please call us at 408-275-6889 if you want more information or would like to serve.

Birds-eye Map of San Jose, Santa Clara County, California, 1885



1. MC HAMILTON & LICK OBSERVATORY.
2. ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.
3. SAN JOSE CANNING COMPANY.
4. HIGH SCHOOL.
5. SAN JOSE WOOLLEN MILLS.
6. BRUSH ELECTRIC LIGHT CO.
7. UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

8. PUBLIC PARK.
9. SOUTHERN PACIFIC R.R. DEPOT.
10. TANNERY.
11. COURTHOUSE.
12. EPISCOPAL CHURCH.
13. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
14. CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

15. STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.
16. FREE LIBRARY.
17. M.E. CHURCH.
18. ST. JAMES HOTEL.
19. NEW YORK EXCHANGE HOTEL.
20. BANK OF SAN JOSE.
21. THEATER.

SAN JO
SANTA CLARA COUNTY
1885.



JOSE
CALIFORNIA.

- 22 GASWORKS.
- 23 M.E. CHURCH SOUTH.
- 24 FIRST WARD SCHOOL.
- 25 ELECTRIC LIGHT TOWER.
- 26 CHRISTIAN CHURCH.
- 27 BAPTIST CHURCH.
- 28 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

- 29 JEWISH TABERNACLE.
- 30 GERMAN M.E. CHURCH.
- 31 HOME OF BENEVOLENCE.
- 32 REED ST. SCHOOL.
- 33 ST JOSEPHS CATHOLIC CHURCH
- 34 PACIFIC HOTEL
- 35 LICK HOUSE

- 36 FARMERS UNION.
- 27 "TIMES-MERCURY" BUILDING.
- 38 NOTRE DAME COLLEGE.
- 39 FOURTH WARD SCHOOL.
- 40 SOUTH PACIFIC COAST R. R. DEPOT.

W.W. ELLIOTT, LITH. 921 BROADWAY, OAKLAND, CAL

Map cleaned and digitized by Richard Johns of Superior Color Labs in San Jose

In Days Gone By

"When the raindrops go Pit-a-Pat."

by Chas. Stevens. (Age 19)

An address to the Mercury Herald Circulation Department dinner on

Thursday, December 30, 1915.

Ding-a-ling-ling-ling – not the fire alarm nor the patrol, just the alarm clock. You sit up and rub your eyes and shudder when you hear the familiar sound of the rain coming down on the roof. You garb yourself in heavy shoes, rubber coat, trousers and hat and start for the mailing-room. You go and report and start after "coffee and" while your papers are being counted out.

The "coffee and" encourages you a bit, however, and you shoulder your bags of papers and brave the elements.

The rain is coming down hard. You wouldn't mind it much if you could keep the papers dry. The sidewalks are slippery, and whenever you have to cross the street in a district in the out-skirts of town you have to go through mud. The ordinary subscriber wants to find his paper on the porch so it will be dry and we boys all try and get it there. Sometimes the porch is a good ways from the street and sometimes it is so dark that you can't see the porch.

We are all glad that we are to have an all-night lighting system – it will help wonderfully. There is an end to all things – even to the work of distributing papers on a route on a rainy day. Of course you're nearly always wet and cold and hungry when you get through. Some dry clothes and a good breakfast makes the world look brighter again. We are glad that we live in California, where there is so much sunshine, so little rain and not very cold weather with snow and sleet.

Charles Stevens was the late husband of Helen Stevens who bequeathed their estate to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. They both are honored with an exhibit at our Paulson House at History San Jose.

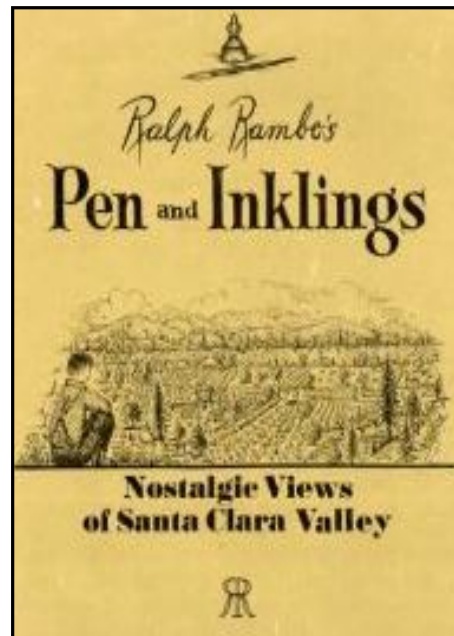
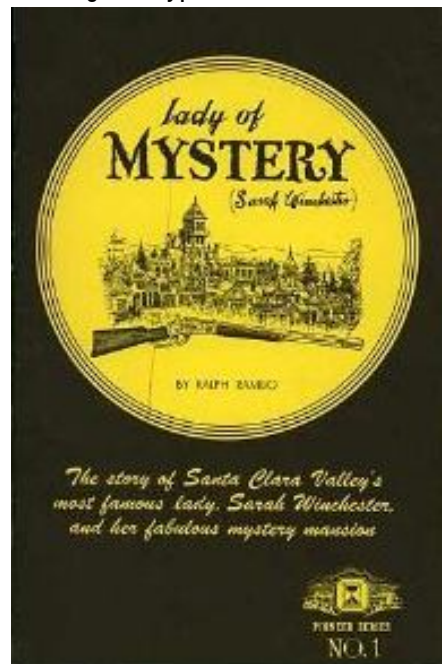
Ralph Rambo

Ralph Rambo was born in San Jose at 10 Sunol Street in 1894, but his childhood memories were centered in the prune orchard on Miller Avenue in Cupertino where he grew up. He attended the one room Doyle School with one teacher and 23 students. He completed his education at Santa Clara High School in 1912.

He married his childhood sweetheart, Katherine Coker, when he was 21 and they enjoyed 37 years together before her death in 1952. Ralph did not join her until 1990 at the age of 96. They had 2 sons and 2 granddaughters.

His career was with the Murison Label Company as a graphic artist designing fruit labels for nearly 50 years. When he retired at age 70, he began writing books for his granddaughters on the history of Santa Clara Valley. His complaint about history as taught in school was that it was too dry, with names and dates. He recounted stories of the old valley and described intimate nostalgia. He claimed that he was a nostalgician, not a historian.

All of his books were done with hand lettering, not typewriters, and cartoon



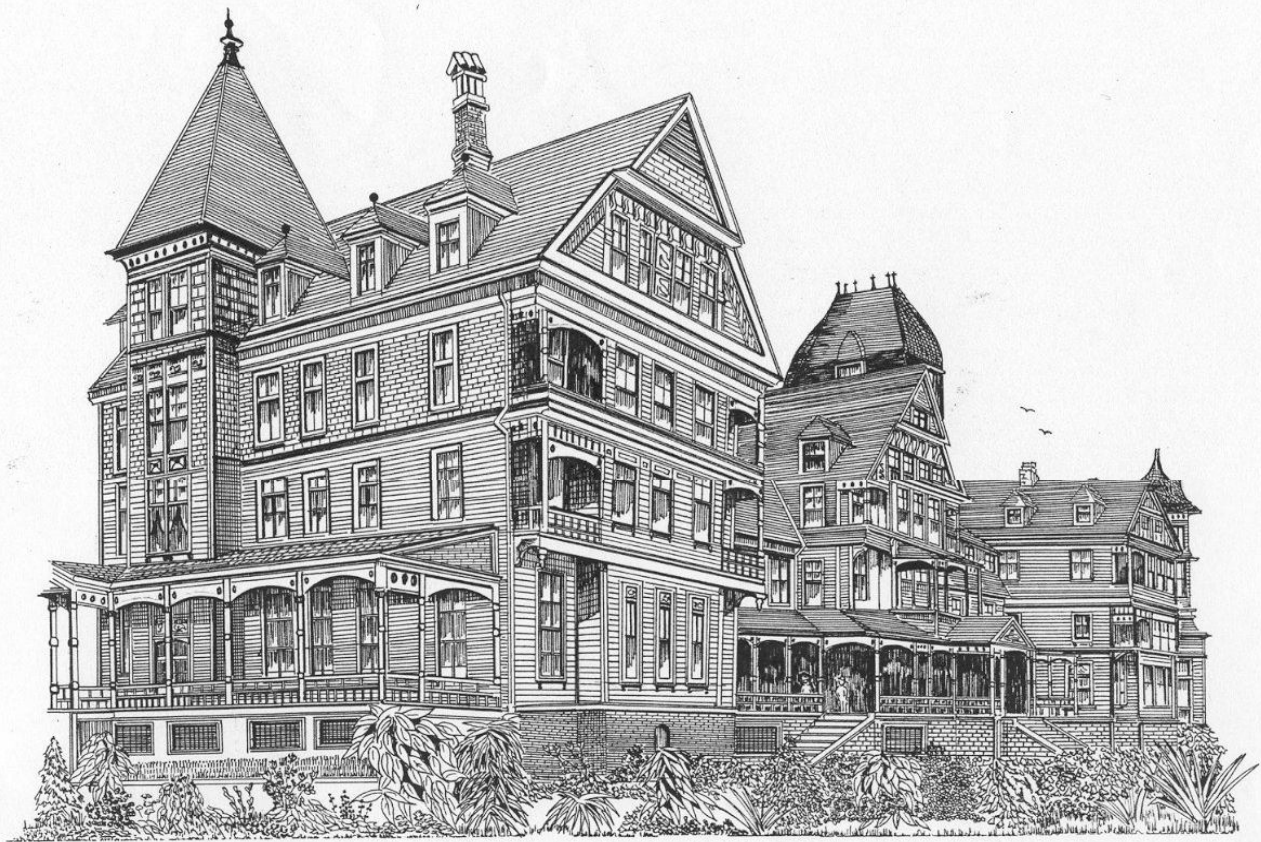
figures of the events and personages he remembered from his boyhood in the early 1900's. He also illustrated six different large maps of the county with people, places and things; one with Clyde Arbuckle on the ranchos, one with the original pueblo San Jose de Guadalupe, one map of schools in early Santa Clara County, and a map of the state with missions, mountains, rivers and other important details noted.

His books may still be bought at the bookstore at History San Jose or at Amazon.com. They include: *Looking Backward*, 1900, published in 1959; *Almost Forgotten*, 1964; *Remember When; a Boy's Eye View of the old Valley*, 1965; *Me and Cy*, 1966; *Lady of Mystery*, 1967; *Lo the Poor Indian of the Santa Clara Valley*, 1967; *Trailing the California Bandit, Tiburcio Vasquez, 1835-1875*, 1968; *The Little House by a Pioneer Occupant*, 1969; *Adventure Valley*, 1970; *Sierra Santa*, 1971; *Pioneer Blue Book*, 1973; *Pen and Inklings*, 1984 (a compilation of the previous books); *E-Day*, 1906, and *Witness to an Earthquake*, 1987

-Mary Lou Lyon,

Hotel Vendome in San Jose

Excerpt from "Down Memory Lane" by Jim Campbell



Hotel Vendome San Jose, Ca.

Campbell

The Hotel Vendome

The Hotel Vendome, built in 1888, was located on North First Street in San Jose and stretched from First Street to Hobson Street. The Vendome, a showplace of the day, was built in the "Queen Anne" style. Shortly after the hotel was built, Franklin Harris Ross established the Vendome Stables and incorporated the Mt. Hamilton Stage Co. A regular daily stage left the Vendome on the "up trip" at 7:30 a.m. and arrived at the observatory at 1:00 p.m. On the "down trip", it left the observatory at 2:15 p.m. and arrived at the Vendome three hours and forty-five minutes later. The trip to Mt. Hamilton

was one of the highlights of staying at the beautiful hotel. In 1904, President William McKinley and his cabinet were guests at a reception in the Vendome, given in the President's honor. The earthquake of 1906 inflicted severe damage to the building. In spite of the damage, service continued at the hotel.

- Jim Campbell

Note: The Vendome was demolished in 1930 by a real estate syndicate who sold the resulting lots for \$1,500 each on what became Ayer Avenue, Losse Court and Rankin Street.

About Jim Campbell

J. Howard (Jim) Campbell, a Pioneers member, formed his own company reproducing his original art into prints that can be found in prestigious galleries, maritime museums, and shops around the country. Many of his drawings have won awards in competitive art shows. His artwork hangs in private collections throughout the world in Japan, Hong Kong, Germany, England, Canada, and the United States. Several of Jim's pen-and-ink drawings of historic California landmarks have been commissioned for use by the U.S. Postal Service in the form of commemorative cancellations and cachet designs including San Jose's "First Day of Issue" of the U.S. Bicentennial Stamp issued in San Jose, September 9, 1977. Jim also wrote and illustrated *From Cinnabar to Quicksilver*.

Before the Days of Gold

By Jenny Walicek

In the minds of some Californians, our history begins with the Gold Rush, that “flash in the pan” that gilded a few years on our timeline, and tarnished much of the century thereafter with greed. Yes, we learned in kindergarten that “Indians” once lived in the area, and our fourth-grade mission projects left us with vague memories of mud bricks and missionaries, and by our teen years we’d noted the *San-tas* and *Sans* on our maps. But we tend to forget that for seventy-plus years prior to statehood, “our” land of *Alta California* had been thoroughly settled by Spanish-Mexicans – not just priests and presidio soldiers, but citizen ranchers who managed vast estates. In the eighteenth century such estates

California. The *Californio* culture flourished. Cattle, raised mostly for leather, grazed in every valley; a dozen children assisted on every ranch; the riches of nature and craftsmanship met every need. There were frequent fandangos, weddings, and other occasions to enjoy ample food and wine.

It is easy to romanticize the *Californios*, forgetting the impact that their actions, sanctioned or not, had on the native people and wildlife. Not everything they did was right or good. There were horrific bear-and-bull fights, mistreatment of neophyte labor, and numerous clashes with Native American tribes. As happens when any culture encroaches on an-

other’s territory, the cost of success is borne by the displaced.

Ironically, as a direct result of the massive influx of gold-seeking immigrants, the Spanish-Mexican culture itself was thoroughly displaced. Illegal squatters flooded *Alta California*, foreigners staked mining claims on private properties, and “Americans” sought to overturn as many of the Spanish-Mexican

land grants as possible. Lawyers like Henry Halleck of San Francisco, who had taken *diseños* and proofs from the government offices in Monterey, held the grantees in their power. By the mid-1800s, many *rancheros* had been forced, by decree or by crippling legal costs, to relinquish nearly all their land. The subsequent statehood of California marked the end of the Spanish-Mexican era. Not many *Californio* ranches would survive the



Cactus paddles along Los Alamitos Creek, Almaden Valley, San Jose

gringo invasion, though so many place names evoke their once powerful *don*s: Bernal, Berryessa, Peralta, Vallejo, Sunol.

Still, this shared edge of the continent unifies us across time, and its landmarks betoken the facts of its edited past. Ancient trees that once sheltered *vaqueros* also marked *Californio* boundaries, lynchings, and graves; dark holes in the hills show where *gringos* once gutted the earth; thick cactus paddles poke through grass by streams. Bovine descendants of Spanish Longhorns graze beside freeways that connect thriving cities, for despite its mismanaged finances, the Golden State still draws millions who seek its riches. The little-known truth, though, is that Spanish-Mexicans brought prosperity to *Alta California* long before prosperity was measured in gold.

Jenny Walicek is an MFA student writing a book about Maria Zaccarias Bernal Berreyesa (1791-1869), a Spanish-Mexican matriarch of San Jose.



Photos: Jenny Walicek

A massive Oak used to mark the boundaries of Rancho San Vicente

were granted to Spanish colonists by King Carlos III, usually for military service to the crown. When Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1822, Mexican governors issued hundreds more grants to reputable residents who presented petitions and *diseños* (crude maps indicating the boundaries of the desired property). These property grants, ranging from 200 to 40,000 acres, made a land baron of virtually every *ranchero* in

Bev Fisher Remembered

Beverly Fisher was a major player in the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. She passed away on February 7, 2012. Although Bev was 85 years old, she had the spirit of a much younger woman. Bev shaped the Pioneers by assisting with the acquisition of our Paulson House Museum, its restoration, ADA modifications, and decoration. A wonderful thing about Bev is that she attended every Pioneers board meeting, long after she was no longer on the board. Up until the end, she and her husband Bob always occupied their "special love seat" couch below the American flag in our meeting room. Without fail. From her perch Bev did not say much, but when she did, her ideas were always inspirational and right on target. It was Bev and Bob that we looked to for institutional memory regarding why the Pioneers decided to

take a certain path, such as back in the 1980s.

Bev loved all things from former eras. An avid quilter, her colorful quilts earned her many prizes. She was a member of the Santa Clara Valley Quilt Association and volunteered with the American Museum of Quilts and Textiles. Bev was also active with the American Red Cross.



Beverly Fisher

Beverly Hansen (Fisher) was born in Merced and raised in Gustine. In 1944, she moved to San Jose and attended

San Jose State College, earning a business degree in 1948.

She went to work at Food Machinery Corporation, where she met her future husband, Robert George Fisher, whom she married in 1951. Bob is also a significant contributor to the Pioneers. She is survived by her husband Bob and three children, Tudy Johnson, Jeanne Rudy and Robert Fisher. And because Bev and Bob instilled

the love of history in their children, all three of them are members of the Pioneers! Bev will be missed by the Pioneers, her family, and the community.

—Paul Bernal

Visit "Pioneers' History Calendar"

Please check out the "Pioneers' History Calendar - Santa Clara County" on the web. To view month-by-month local, history related events go to and bookmark californiapioneers.com and click "Calendar" on the left menu.

Every month we send out an email with the Calendar to a comprehensive list of interested people including our Pioneers members. All email recipients can rest knowing your emails will only be used to receive upcoming events through the "History Calendar Santa Clara County." The addresses will not be shared with anyone!

We offer this as a service to all our friends and like-minded organizations. This fulfills the Pioneers' outreach and fellowship goals. The Pioneers believes "a rising tide lifts all boats." We want to help your organization reach more residents and assist spreading the word about your events. This may mean higher attendance at your events, healthy networking, and a better chance of growing your membership.

We reserve the right to not include every event. If the event is not history

related, not county related, or contains inappropriate content, we will not post it to the "History Calendar - Santa Clara County."

Our primary interest is Santa Clara County, so we might include neighboring county events that would be of interest to our valley residents, but we do not guarantee we will include everything that is submitted for inclusion.



Pioneers Gone on to the Golden Hills



**Beverly Fisher
George Hesse
Gene Fanucchi**



Pioneers Film Archive News

Film clips from the Pioneers Film Archive have been aired on CBS! Jim Zetterquist was a recent guest on the show "Eye On The Bay," during which he spoke very knowledgeably about several locations in San Jose, circa 1912. Our Film Archive provided footage to illustrate these clips, showing the San Jose Country Club in the early part of the century. I must say, those clips looked very good on TV! Thanks to Jim and his fine work developing new connections for us.

The Pioneers Film Archive has also licensed some clips to be used in an upcoming documentary by the San Jose Water Company. Films of the valley flooding in the 1930s will be included in the historical portion of this feature, and the Pioneers will receive credit for this, as well as a chance to inspect the Water District's historic archives.

The film archive transferred over 150 films in February, mostly belonging to Richard and April Bowen, many of which show the Franco Family and many of their stores, as well as other San Jose landmarks, Santa Cruz, and the Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island. The films range from 1938 (our oldest 8mm!) to 1965.

Bill Foley and Rick Helin were also able to transfer a quantity of heavily dam-

aged films donated by Edith Walters. The segments able to be transferred, after extensive work, were portions of parades in San Jose and San Francisco in 1948, on Columbus Day and the Fourth of July. They include storefronts along Santa Clara Street, First Street, and San Carlos Street, and include the Saint Claire Hotel, the De Anza Hotel, and Coast Radio. All are in brilliant color.

The YouTube channel has been updated with new films, including a documentary showing the production of an issue of the Mercury News in 1970, as well as the "Freedom Train" stopping in San Jose in 1949, a film from the Lester family.

The computers in the Film Archive are now connected remotely, so that they may be accessed and operated from outside locations, including Boston (Bill Foley's residence at present.) This will enable us to tag, index, send, and process video from remote locations and during non-business hours, improving our productivity and speeding up our transfer processes.

Tim Peddy created a soft light and magnifying assembly that will allow us to more easily record the date codes written on the edges of films. This will make it much easier to get a precise

date on a piece of film, even if one is not recorded in a film's label or description. Electronic labelers and new 16mm reels have been purchased to speed up indexing and transfer of films.

A new version of our film clip "End-User License agreement" has been drafted, ensuring our film clips are used appropriately by outside organizations and ensuring we receive proper credit for them.

New leads for film include home movies of Cora and Fremont Older, historians and publishing 'magnates,' and a collection of clips of the World's Fair in 1939, of which we are amassing quite an archive!

Perhaps most exciting has been the discovery of a published synopsis of our 1906 orphaned film, "The Indian's Revenge." We also have new information that our film was exhibited worldwide, one of its final showings being in New Zealand in 1908. These discoveries, as well as exciting leads on additional information about the film, are in the works, and will be the subject of an upcoming Trailblazer article.

-Bill Foley

Annual Treasurer Report

In compliance with California law, we are making our Members aware that annual financial reports of our organization are available to Members who request such information in writing. If you desire to receive such a report, please contact our Treasurer, Ken Machado, at 7m.kenmachado@gmail.com and the report will be emailed to you. We also give an oral financial report to our Membership at the June annual luncheon meeting.



Sunshine



Do you know of a Pioneers member who is ill, needs cheering up, or lost a loved one? If so, please call Madeline Streight at 408-259-4422. An appropriate card will be sent.

New Pioneer Members - Welcome!



Marlene Mirassou lives in Santa Cruz and is a physician (psychiatry.) The first of her family arrived in California in 1848 with others coming later from France, Norway and Portugal. Her ancestors include the most notable Pellier and Mirassou families, Pierre Pellier and Pierre and Henriette Mirassou. You can read about them in our March Trailblazer. Marlene's parents are Don and Joyce Quamone Mirassou. Marlene's interests include agriculture and photography.

Drew Enright is a native of Santa Clara County, lives in Hollister and is a Park Ranger. Drew's great, great paternal grandfather was James Enright who arrived in California around 1846 from Missouri. James purchased 710 acres in Santa Clara County that can be found on old maps as the Enright Tract. On Drew's maternal side, 7th generations ago, his roots can be traced to Jose Dario Arguello, the last Spanish governor of California. Drew's great-great maternal grandfather is Antonio V. Fatjo who owned, with his brother John, the grocery store *John Fatjo and Son* in Santa Clara for over 50 years.

Ernest Lovoi lives in San Jose and is a native Californian. He was the proprietor of San Jose Stationery and Printing Company but is now retired. His parents each came here from Italy as teenagers, married here and bought a prune orchard in the Willow Glen area. Ernest says he was a "prune picker" in the old days.

Patricia Girard is a native San Josean who now lives in Placentia, California and is retired. Her ancestor is Frank S. Pedro who immigrated to San Jose in 1889. Both of Patricia's parents were born in Santa Clara County, her mother in 1910 and her father in 1897.

Robert Grace lives in San Jose and was a carpenter/contractor. His family arrived in California in 1962 from Texas and Missouri. Robert and his wife, Donita, volunteer at History San Jose as docents and helping with carpentry work. When they visited our wonderful Paulson House Museum they were encouraged to join the Pioneers. Robert and his wife have been residents of Santa Clara County since 1974.

Donita Grace, Robert's wife, arrived in California, from Texas, with her parents in 1957. She is a retired middle school teacher and principal. She and her husband both volunteer at History San Jose and discovered us at the Paulson House. They both mentioned that they were impressed with our newsletter, activities and mission and would like to donate some of their time to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County to promote and preserve our history.

Mandy Samson lives in San Jose and is a native Californian. She taught

elementary school. Her pioneer ancestors are Herbert and Mildred Manners who were born in the 1890s. Mandy's parents were the Brewers.

Helen Garza is a native San Josean. Her occupation was an Employment Counselor. Her maiden name was Pappageorgas, later changed to Pappas. Her parents were very active in the WWII effort locally. During the War, her father, from Greece, was an air-raid Warden; her mother, who was fluent in English, Spanish and Greek, taught citizenship and first aid. Helen believes that her mother was the first Latina real estate agent in San Jose, who was licensed in the early 1940s.

Rosalinda Oneto came to California in 1963 from Texas. She was a teacher and lives in Campbell. Her ancestors are all from Texas.

Roger Little is a teacher and lives in San Jose. His interests are photography, wood-working, carpentry, art, and gardening. His family arrived in California in the 1850s from Massachusetts and Alabama. His mother is Pioneers honorary member Mary Mueller. His father is Norman Little. His ancestor names include Little, Means, Learned, and McPherson.

Membership Report



The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County have 466 members as of April, 2012. We have had an excellent response to our renewal mailings. Thank you! For members who have not yet paid their 2012 dues, they will not receive future issues of the Trailblazer

until 2012 dues are paid. Members can check their address label on their newsletter to find their membership expiration date. If it says "Dec-11" that means you need to pay your 2012 dues. Standard dues are still \$25 per year and can be sent to California

Pioneers, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155.

Please invite a friend to the luncheon and to join the Pioneers. If you have questions, please call Gayle Frank, at 408-275-6889.

P.O. Box 8208
San Jose, CA 95155

Tel: 408-293-2641
Email: info@californiapioneers.com

Non Profit
Organization
Cupertino, CA 95014
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 543

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

We're on the Web!
www.californiapioneers.com

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

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County 2012 Board of Directors

Paul Bernal, President; pbernal@scscourt.org

Ken Machado, 1st VP, Treasurer & Legal Counsel;
7m.kenmachado@gmail.com

Rosemarie Beebe, 2nd Vice President; Rbeebe@scu.edu

Melita Kelly, Recording Secretary; melikel@pacbell.net

Gayle Frank, Membership Chair, Trailblazer Editor;
frank.gayle@att.net

Rick Helin, Marshall, Liaison with historical organizations;
rickhelin@aol.com

Bev Blockie, Paulson House Docent Chair; bev@blockie.com

Mary Berger, Paulson House Chair; mary.berger@prk.sccgov.org

Joe Melehan, Volunteer Coordinator; jpmfats@aol.com

April Halberstadt, Essay contest Chair, Schools Liaison,
Public Programs; aprilhalb@gmail.com

Jim Zetterquist, Immediate Past President;
thewoodencrown@att.net

Mary Lou Lyon, Historian; malyon_1999@yahoo.com

Tom Kearney, Publicity Chair; tpkearney35@att.net

Tim Peddy, Webmaster, Luncheon Coordinator;
miltpeddy@aol.com

Bill Foley, Film Archive Chair; iamspartacus@gmail.com

Madeline Streight, Sunshine Chair, 408-259-4422

Alma Taylor, Publicity Committee, allee@att.net