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CPSCC Makes Headlines Down Under

Australia

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County (CPSCC) became famous in Australia in November, 2014. It seems that 17 reels of films acquired at a San Jose estate sale were donated by Tim Peddy to the Pioneers about a year ago. Rick Helin, one of our film archivists, edited and posted on his personal Youtube site some of the

From there a local historian, Annie O'Riley spotted the footage and posted them to her social media pages, "Odd Australian History" And "Lost Melbourne." O'Riley contacted the Pioneers to tell us that the films went viral and, "The people of Melbourne have loved seeing this footage and as my daughter said, it was a beautiful feel good segment of the news."

of the development that has taken place in the last 75 years. However, "scenes of Luna Park, rowers on the Yarra and the Botanic Gardens are timeless." The fountains near Parliament are exactly the same. The article continues, describing Helin's activities and the mystery of who took these 17 reels of vacation movies of not only Australia, but also of Hawaii,

New Zealand and Europe.

But this gets even better! Annie O'Riley happens to be the daughter of Leonard McKay, a well-known and respected historian in San Jose who passed away in 2006. McKay was a Pioneers Board Member, Presi-

dent and President Emeritus-Historian. His leadership and guidance were major factors in the success of the Pioneers organization.

Annie O'Riley moved to Australia at age 17 but remembers sipping lemonade with Clyde and Helen Arbuckle, working at History Park and leading tours of the Peralta Adobe downtown.

(Continued pg. 2)



A still of Melbourne taken from the Australian 1940s films

movies taken in Australia by a "mystery tourist" in 1940. As of December, 10,000 viewers accessed the Australian footage. Helin hoped that the viewers would then be directed to our collection of vintage films on the "SCCPioneers" Youtube channel.

The 1940 films of Melbourne and Australia caught the attention of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Once O'Riley's efforts bought the vintage videos to the attention of the media, they were featured on National Melbourne News. The next day the film footage was featured on The Age newspaper site. The Age stated that many of the vintage shots illustrate huge changes in Melbourne. Port Melbourne is almost unrecognizable. The streets are identifiable but are a reminder

Headlines Down Under (Continued)

The Pioneers are gratified that through her, Australians viewed historical videos of their country in color and that our digital film archive program is becoming world famous.

Australian websites to visit about these vintage videos:

National Melbourne News site:

www.9news.com.au/National/2014/11/19/15/14/Lost-movies-reveal-1940-Australia.

Australian National newspaper site:

www.theage.com.au/victoria/hello-kangarooland-mystery-tourist-films-melbourne-around-1940-20141119-11pp6d.html.

New Zealand

Historical 1940s footage of New Zealand was enjoyed by New Zealanders during the last two months of 2014.

Rick Helin also edited and posted these silent 16 mm movies that were taken by the same American couple who took the Australian films. Their holiday journey covered Auckland to Rotorua,

Napier, Wellington, Christchurch and the South Island.

Helin was interviewed about the restored films on the New Zealand radio broadcasting company on Nov. 25th.

A New Zealand Herald article described the films on November 24th. The footage includes trams, panoramic views of suburbs, playing cricket at Auckland Domain, the Ellerslie Race-track and the Botanic Gardens.

There are also scenes of life in Rotorua, soldiers marching and popular attractions such as Pohutu Geyser, Lake Ta-rawera, Fairy Springs, Waimangu and Whakarewarewa Village. Some of the village children in the footage may still be alive today. Helin says that the village "Chief" has seen the films and can identify some of the people in the films but can't remember their names.

Helin would like to be able identify the "mystery tourist." He guesses that they were a fairly well-off couple who brought their automobile with them on many of their vacations. The reels of

vacation films run a span from 1939 until 1948 and also include interesting footage of the United States. The heirs of the estate sale had no idea who took the vintage movies and said the owner of the house never had a camera. The estate sale was held at the home of the late San Jose Police Captain, Ray Lee, near Blossom Hill and Harwood Avenue. If anyone knew Captain Lee and can add information regarding this mystery please contact us at info@CaliforniaPioneers.com.

To listen to the **New Zealand radio** interview with Rick Helin go to:

www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/20158599/new-zealand-in-the-1940s-27s-rick-helin

To read the **New Zealand Herald** article and see the video, visit:

www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11363641

And for other vintage film footage courtesy of **California Pioneers of Santa Clara County** visit:

www.youtube.com/sccpioneers ❖

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Anza Marker Dedication—New Date

On March 28, 2015, the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) will be placing an historic marker at the site of the Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition Campsite #92. Anza's group camped here along the Llagas Creek on March 24, 1776, where the City of Morgan Hill stands today.

The dedication will take place at 2:00 pm at the intersection of Santa Teresa Boulevard and Llagas Creek in Morgan Hill. There will be a shuttle from the Villa Mira Monte (Morgan Hill House)

to carry visitors to the dedication since parking at the site is limited. The Morgan Hill House and Museum are at 17860 Monterey Street in Morgan Hill at the intersection of Monterey and Wright Street. Take Cochrane Exit from 101 to Monterey Road. For questions call Sally Holcombe at 925-938-9137 or send email to historian@californiadar.org.

For more background on the Anza Marker see the December 2014 Trailblazer, page 6. Trailblazers can be accessed at www.CaliforniaPioneers.com. ❖

Message from our President



Photo: Tim Peddy

Ken Machado, President
California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

The lead story in this issue of the Trailblazer describes the unlikely and amazing impact made by the actions of two individuals who decided to save a piece of history. I think the story exemplifies some things for all of us to consider when we contemplate the importance of historical heritage and preservation. It also shows us how small events can sometimes create large reactions.

The story starts with the curiosity of one of our longtime board members and volunteer extraordinaire, **Tim Peddy**, who had the foresight to acquire, essentially sight unseen, some very old 16 mm films from an estate sale in San Jose. Little did he know the global effects that said acquisition would have on a society living on the other side of our globe. These films chronicled the travels of an unknown American couple throughout Australia and New Zealand and other locals circa 1939-1948.

Tim had the foresight to hand these films over to fellow Pioneers board member and historian, **Rick Helin** who spends many of his waking hours away from home, painstakingly preserving and digitalizing home videos and films such as these in the “film lab” at the Roberto Adobe and Suñol House. Rick and his band of merry film archivists have added a new dimension to the Pioneers and exposed our organization to a worldwide audience through their publication of the acquired films on YouTube and other internet sites. (See www.youtube.com/sccpioneers for some evidence of their handiwork.)

Rick lives for a good mystery and the mystery surrounding the unknown filmmakers and their connection to the home in San Jose where the films were discovered is sure to be a puzzle that Rick will seek to solve.

To me, the best part of the story is the realization of the impact that the preservation and ultimate distribution of these films has made on our neighbors down under. The television reports, newspaper articles and coverage of these films in Australia and New Zealand have proven that people are interested in their past and fascinated by what came before them. It is further evidence, not that we historians need it, that history is important and worth the effort to preserve.

An almost surreal supplement to the story is that after Rick’s posting

on YouTube, the film footage came to the attention of a local Australian historian by the name of **Annie O’Riley** whose own internet re-posting of the films helped them gain even wider recognition and “viral” status. The circle had been completed by this transplanted daughter of the late **Leonard McKay**, former Pioneer President and well regarded San Jose Historian who must be smiling down at the “coincidence” of this cosmic occurrence.

Somehow I think it was not so coincidental and that there may have been a spectacted spirit in a funny hat guiding the hands of a fellow Pioneer that day when Tim picked up those films and said: “I will buy these.” Anyway, that’s my theory. ❖



*Happy
Valentines Day*

Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Saturday, March 7th, 2015

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT

Banquet Room—1547 Meridian Ave. in San Jose

Luncheon Presentation

“Where's the Historic Lenzen Rail Yard?”

presented by

Rod Diridon, Sr.

California Trolley & Railroad Corp. Emeritus President

Make Reservations by Wednesday, March 4th

Email to scpioneers@aol.com

or call 408-554-7587 with your menu selection

If, after reserving, you cannot attend the Luncheon
PLEASE call or e-mail to cancel your reservations.

We have to pay for no-shows !

Luncheon cost is now \$30

Please make checks payable in advance to
California Pioneers and bring to Luncheon.

Menu Selections

Three Flames Special Steak

tri-tip steak topped with sautéed mushrooms

Grilled Salmon

Above served with Anna Potatoes and fresh vegetables

Pasta Mostacioli

Penne Pasta in a sun dried tomato cream sauce

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.*

About Our March Luncheon Presentation

“Where's the Historic Lenzen Rail Yard?”

In the early 1860s Santa Clara and San Francisco Counties sold bonds to build the second rail line and the oldest in continuous operation west of the Mississippi.

The original narrow gage Basset Street round house, turntable and supporting facilities were soon inadequate. By the end of the century a vast new standard gage rail yard and maintenance and dispatch facility was developed at the end of Lenzen Avenue. The site is to the east of The Alameda where the Caltrain maintenance base now stands.

In the mid 1990s, the Southern Pacific's Lenzen roundhouse, turntable, water tower, switches, signals and trackage were archivally moved to the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds with a promise to be rebuilt as a railroad museum for the region.

What happened? Where is that vast amount of historic material and those plans now? What's the next step in recapturing our railroading history? ❖

**Reminder: Quarterly Pioneers luncheons will now be held on
the first Saturday of March, June, September and December.**

Workday at the Adobe

An unscheduled workday spontaneously broke out at the Roberto Adobe/Suñol House on Jan. 5, 2015. After eating breakfast out, Rick Helin, Bill Foley, Tim Peddy and Jim Zetterquist went over to the Adobe to do a little work. But as usual, there was more maintenance than anticipated. They cleaned out the gutters, made sprinkler repairs, and pruned back the fig tree, said to be the oldest, fruit-bearing tree in Santa Clara County. The Pioneers thanks Rick, Bill, Tim and Jim for all your hard work and care of our treasure on Lincoln Avenue. To see a video of the workday go to: <http://youtube/CDHoksSJtjo> ❖

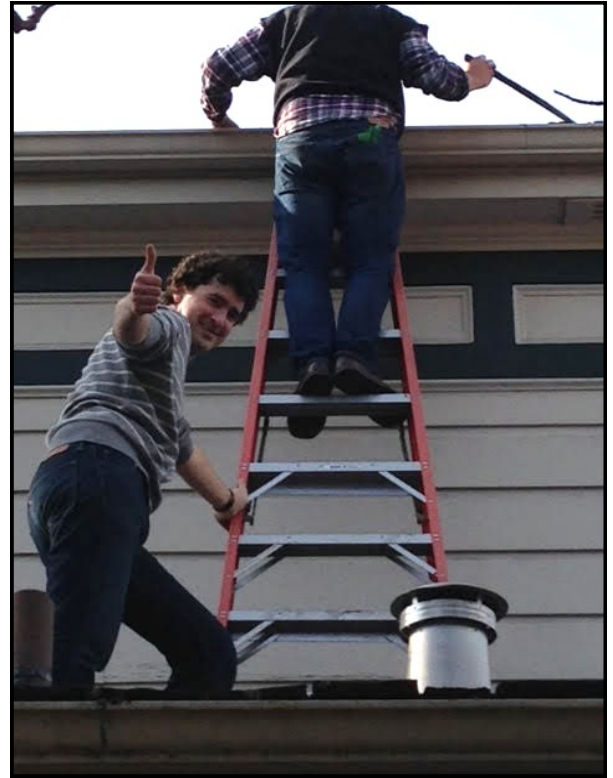


*Top right,
Bill Foley with a
thumbs up and
holding the ladder
while Rick Helin
cleans out
a gutter.*

*Left, Tim Peddy
pruning the tree.*

*Right, Jim
Zetterquist shovel-
ing out a drain.*

*(Photos: Tim Peddy
and Rick Helin)*



San Jose Gets Its Own Movie

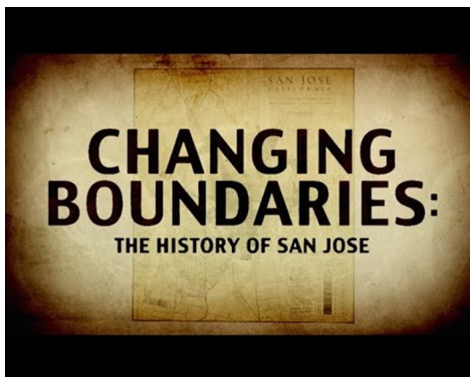
On Thursday night, Jan. 22nd, guests were treated to a first-ever documentary movie about San Jose's history and progress. The premier of *Changing Boundaries: The History of San Jose* took place at the iconic California Theater on S. First Street.

The movie was made by Norman Kline Productions, CreaTV San Jose, and History San Jose. The film was directed by Tricia Creason-Valencia and featured an original musical score by Grammy nominee Robert Berry of Soundtek Studios.

The premier was sold-out and before *Changing Boundaries* began, the buzz inside the theater was enthusiastic. The almost 90-minute film opened with dialogue on Native American Ohlones and then moved into the Anza expedition, a time of San Jose's birth. Paul Bernal explained the expedition and reminded us that J. Joaquin Moraga brought families of settlers here in 1777. San Jose was defined as Pueblo Uno because we were the first non-Indian civilian settlement in California. The audience laughed when he added, "Los Angeles was Pueblo Dos."

Many of our historical highlights were touched upon such as James Reed from the Donner Party, San Jose as the first Capitol of California, effects of the gold rush, the early businesses, San Jose's movers and shakers in the early years, the agricultural boom, the development of downtown with numerous photos and much more.

The movie included interviews with an array of local historians, authors and professors, each explaining a piece of San Jose's history. Pioneers Board member April Halberstadt was interviewed in the Paulson House kitchen



and revealed the importance of hops and beer making in early San Jose. Apparently our water was excellent and the hops grew well here so breweries were big business. The audience enjoyed her humorous comment, "San Jose was full of big thinkers and big drinkers."

Halfway through, the film moved into the middle 20th century and discussed important events with various ethnic/cultural groups. Norman Mineta discussed the difficulties of the Japanese San Joseans being sent off to camps. Blanca Alvarado talked about Cesar Chavez and the early days of fighting for Hispanic rights. Early films were included of a Tommy Smith interview and his Olympic race. San Jose politics were discussed along with the tremendous growth period during Dutch Hamann's reign. There was even a segment on early rock bands that formed in San Jose. Did you know that the Grateful Dead's debut performance took place right here in a house near San Jose State?

The movie presented hundreds of vintage photographs, maps, documents and art, giving the audience a tangible view

of the past. History San Jose was the primary source of these treasures that enhanced the stories. A long list of "firsts" for San Jose rolled across the screen but too quickly to read them all.

After the movie ended a panel of the creators of *Changing Boundaries* discussed the production and stressed that the movie could not have been made without the many, generous corporate sponsors. Several of the panelists commented on the difficulty of choosing which of the voluminous material made the cut into the film. There was no way all the San Jose history could be included in 90 minutes. Unfortunately, much history, influential people and cultural groups were left out.

Norman Kline was asked about the future of the movie. He believes the movie can be entered into film festivals, shown on PBS and in schools. He also stated that this film just touched the surface and hopes more movies are made about San Jose. Look for *Changing Boundaries* to be shown at Camera 12 in February. Many of us will want to see it again. ❖

-Gayle Frank



Norman Mineta, former San Jose Mayor, Congressman and Secretary of Transportation, speaks in *Changing Boundaries*.

Photo: CreaTV.org

Tomato Paste Land Rush

By Robert Bowdidge

If you research canneries in San Jose, you'll find a sudden explosion in tomato canning starting around 1915, and lasting through at least 1920. One cause was the new Italian immigrants who considered tomatoes essential for their American dinner tables: three million Italian immigrants had arrived since 1900. In previous years, those immigrants bought imported tomatoes from the old country.

By 1915, World War I raged. Italy placed export restrictions on canned tomatoes to feed its people and France did the same. Italian immigrants were desperate for tomato paste. Prices doubled and tripled to 10 cents a can, much more than the average immigrant could pay. The Santa Clara Valley canners stepped up to fill that market, and did so in ways that sound awfully reminiscent of modern day Silicon Valley.

The Pastene vs. Greco lawsuit tells one of the stories - full of drama, and direct quotes, with a cast of canners stepping on the witness stand to support one side or another, horror stories from the engineer trying to make experimental machinery work, and arguments over a farmer's size estimates for the "tomato crop that got away."

The two principals were Victor Greco of San Jose and Peter Pastene of New York. Greco was a new tomato canner and marketing genius, responsible for "Toma-butter" tomato paste and "Grepo" grape syrup, and was billed as the world's largest tomato canner during World War I. In 1916, three years after he started his cannery on Autumn Street in San Jose, Greco figured he could make a fortune by making tomato paste. Peter Pastene

was an East Coast wholesaler looking desperately for a source of tomato paste. And just like Silicon Valley, these two men ended up in court because sometimes plans go awry.

How Hard Can It Be To Make Tomato Paste?

Local canners were already good at growing and canning tomatoes. When the demand for tomato paste shot up, Greco wondered how hard could it be to evaporate more water and successfully make tomato paste on the stovetop. To scale the process, Greco traveled to San Francisco with drawings of the evaporators used by the finest canners in Naples. Greco convinced the Oscar Krenz Manufacturing Company to manufacture Neapolitan-style vacuum pan evaporators. But there was risk in Greco's plan: novel machinery, an untested process, smaller cans to match the Italian style - even cardboard boxes to save weight over wood. That's very Silicon Valley - it was a new product with multiple risks, but Greco thought he could pull it off.

Then he hit snags. Greco chose the vacuum pan approach (boiling the tomatoes in a partial vacuum) because it concentrated the tomato flavor better with less heat. Greco's variant on the machinery was a 750 gallon cooking

vessel eight feet tall with one inch tubes to circulate the liquid near the heat. Unfortunately, the prototype's narrow tubes - appropriate for reducing sugar solutions - were too small for the thick tomato paste. The paste burned inside the tubes, forcing the repair crew to shut down the process and clean out the entire machine.

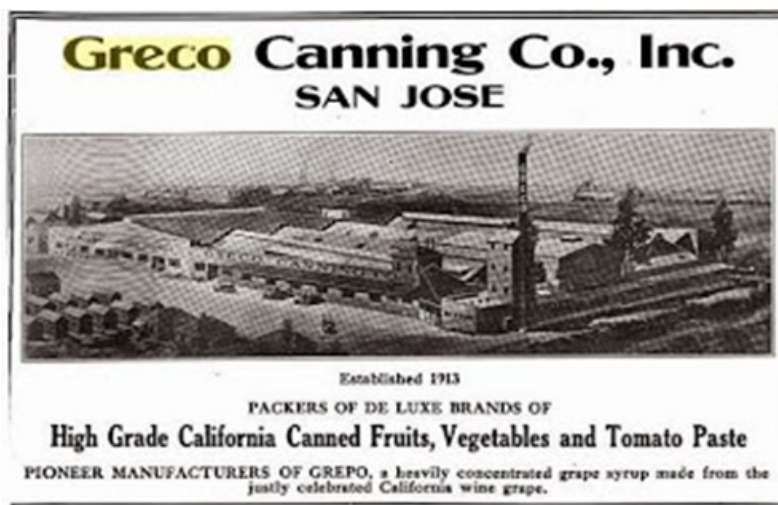
It didn't help that 1916 was a bad year for tomatoes. Late frosts in May killed off seedlings while early rains in October ruined crops. The ten week season was a month shorter than usual, with many tomatoes failing to ripen. William Greer, a local farmer, delivered 3.5 tons per acre to the cannery, but six times that amount was left in the fields, spoiled. J. L. Mosher, a farmer and orchardist, testified to an equally bad year, delivering two tons per acre instead of 12 and stating, "I have not been in the tomato business since."

Pastene had visited the west coast in April and signed on, requesting 3,000 cases in 6 ounce cans, with a basil leaf on the top or bottom. Greco's initial letters were optimistic, claiming, "As we are Italian and know what the Italian people must have and being very

familiar with the method of manufacturing this article, you can rest assured it will be the equal of that imported from Italy ..."

Greco's original sales pitch noted: "Regarding Naples Tomato Sauce ... in view of the present conditions in Europe

(Continued on pg. 8)



Tomato Paste (Continued)

which makes it almost impossible to receive any of this commodity from said country, we are contemplating to pack about 60,000 cases ... which will be sold as a substitute of the Imported. P.S. We are located in the heart of the Santa Clara Valley where some of the finest tomatoes in the world are grown."

As production began, Greco's problems and reality set in, so he only contracted for 18,000 cases of tomato paste that season (down from his 60,000 case goal.) Pastene was one of the buyers.

The Lawsuit

When the lawsuit over the missing and substandard tomato paste made it to court in 1920, Greco testified, "It was a defect in the machinery." The farmers reported how the rain and frost forced them to leave behind a good part of their crop. Several canners, including Elmer Chase from Richmond Chase, R. W. Crary from California Cooperative Canneries, and Charles E. Hume of the G. W. Hume company, defined a "short pack" and how equipment failure was a valid reason for a canner to not deliver product.

H.T. Rigg, the engineer hired away from San Jose Ice and Cold Storage to run the vacuum pans, shared stories of drilling out blocked tubes and warning Greco that they weren't going to meet deadlines. Rigg revealed the following:

"The first date is October 10th when I began [keeping a production diary]. That day I was delayed two hours and ten minutes on account of the pulper, that is, the machinery on the lower floor. Then we were delayed two hours cleaning the pans, No. 2 vacuum that same day. The delay of the pulper necessarily stopped the vacuum ... There was a total stoppage on that day of four hours and ten

minutes ... And on the 11th we started at 6 a.m. in the morning and stopped at 9:20 in the evening and stopped two hours for the pulper again. Stopped another hour and 30 minutes for lunch. Then we stopped again to clean No. 2 vacuum pan ... On the 12th No. 1 pan stopped 23 hours for cleaning ... We worked during the night cleaning the pans. Mr. Greco was there off and on around where I was working. I cleaned it out by using an electric drill. The product had so caked and burned inside of the tubes that it had to be drilled out ..."

For the opposing side, Charles Bentley of Del Monte declared, "... no problems finding tomatoes to pack in the 1916 season." He also doubted any tomato field in the Santa Clara Valley could deliver 25 tons per acre. Charles Davis of the California Conserving Company in Oakland described that he'd had fine luck with the closed kettle style of tomato paste production in the 1916 season, and that he'd treated "salsa de pomodoro" as an experimental product in his first season. When the judge asked him about the Greco machinery, Davis sounded a bit mystified about their new machinery.

Judge: "And the process involved a forcing of the material being treated through a set of tubes, instead of being boiled in pans ..."

Davis: "No, that's a new one on me."

Judge: "Your method did not involve that?"

Davis: "No, nothing of the character."

The lawsuit finally got settled in the early 1920's, with Greco paying Pastene for the sub-standard tomato paste. It didn't work out, and Pastene was right to demand reparations.

The Aftermath

Victor Greco's 1916 dash into the tomato paste market may have ended awkwardly, but he fixed the problem the next year, replacing the old vacuum pans with a new design that clogged much less often. Two years later, at the beginning of the 1919 season, Edith Daley of the San Jose Evening News (8/2/1919) visited Greco Canning. She hinted at the complexity of the machinery, with the "biggest boiler on the Pacific Coast ... big enough to 'boil' Lake Michigan, Saginaw included! ... Two immense storage tanks furnish food for a battery of twelve vacuum evaporators with a capacity of 1500 gallons each." After all he'd been through in 1916, Greco certainly would have shown off the new machinery with pride. With increased capacity, he could have produced a thousand cases of tomato paste a day and filled Pastene's fateful order within a couple days work.

By 1917 Greco had competition. Victor's brother, Anthony, left Greco Canning to start his own "Anthony Greco Cannery," producing \$105,000 in tomato paste that season. Upstarts like Contadina and Salsina Canning both started canning tomato paste in San Jose in 1917.

Gus Lambrosa, one of the founders of Salsina, explained to the Evening News, "This country sends every year about seven million dollars to Italy for tomato paste, which is used in macaroni. There is no reason why this money should not be kept in this country." Lambrosa got his wish. Contadina canned 150,000 cases of tomato paste in 1922, and Americans (immigrant and non-immigrant) got their tomato paste from California. Victor Greco, may not have made a fortune on that first

(Continued on pg. 9)

December Luncheon

Guests at the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County December Luncheon were treated to a preview of the recently published book, "From Medicine Man to Medical Doctor: The Medical History of Early Santa Clara Valley" by Elizabeth Ahrens-Kley, Gerald Trobough, MD, and Michael Shea, MD. Trobough and Shea both shared with the Pioneers enticing tidbits about early pioneer physicians and hospitals in the area.

Before lunch was served, long stemmed red roses were presented to guests who are our most seasoned Pioneers.



Michael Shea, MD



Pioneers member Linda Lester and her father Lee Lester enjoy the December Luncheon.

(Photos: Tim Peddy)



Gerald Trobough, MD

Tomato Paste (Continued)

tomato paste crop, but in a very Silicon Valley ending, he at least got to brag about the fortune that he'd almost caught.

This is a very Silicon Valley story. Victor Greco grabbed at a big market opportunity. He rushed to make tomato

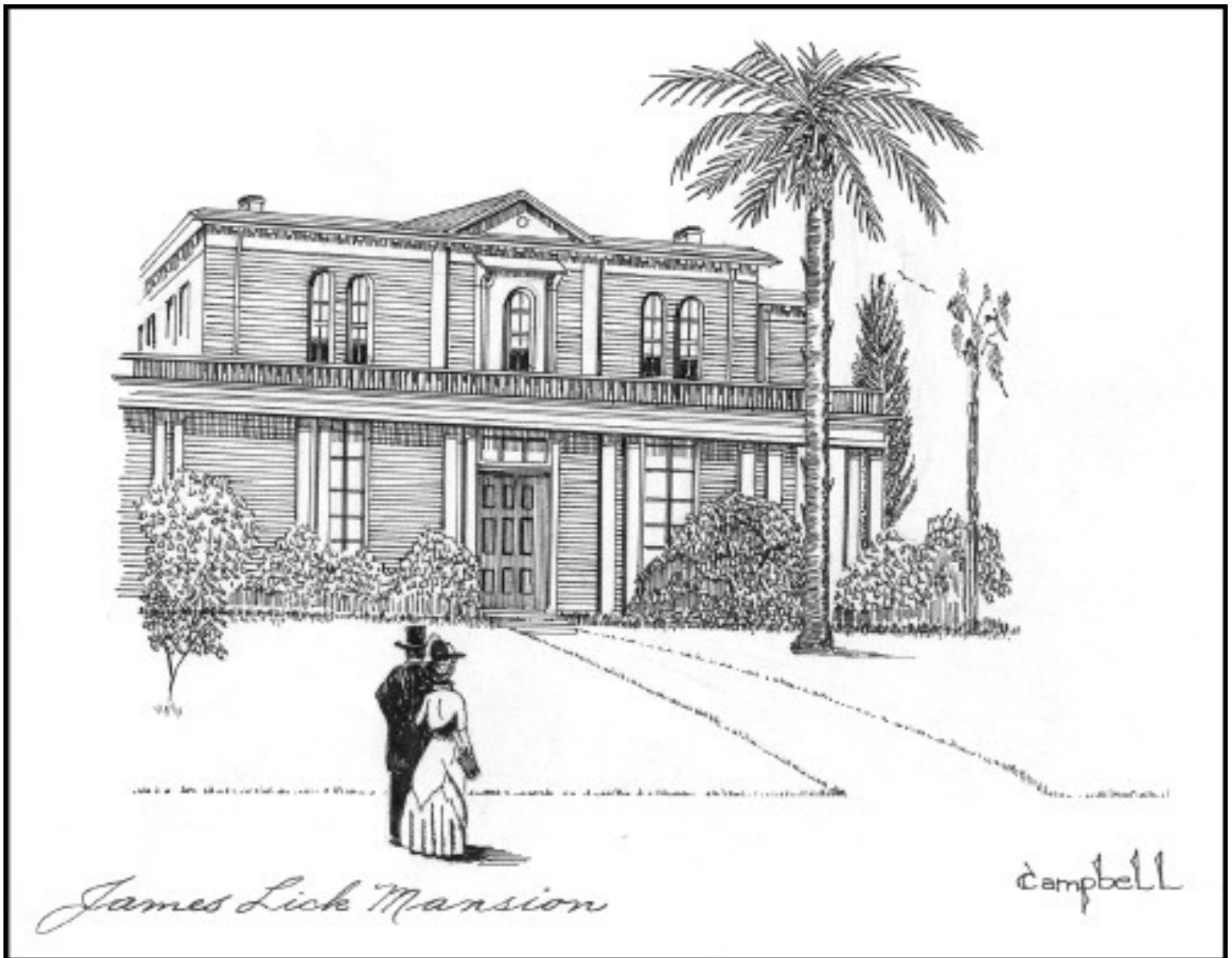
paste, and assumed he'd work through any snags. All the Greco schemes, including "Toma-butter" branded tomato paste and Grepo grape syrup, suggest that Victor Greco was trying for the new, big score. He would fit right in with the modern Silicon Valley. ❖

Source: P. Pastene & Co. vs Greco Canning: transcript available at <http://bit.ly/1DHuOeg>

This article was originally written for Robert Bondidge's blog:

<http://vasonabranh.blogspot.com> where he writes about San Jose history and railroads.

James Lick Mansion—A Sketch By Jim Campbell



The Lick Mansion was constructed from native redwood in 1858-1860 in the late Victorian-era Italianate architectural style. It still exists today at 554 Mansion Park Drive in Santa Clara. The interior of the two-story house originally held 24 rooms in 8,650 square foot of space. Because Lick was an experienced wood worker, the woodwork in the house is exemplary. The paneling of mahogany, imported cedar and California laurel was installed by Lick. Marble fireplaces are another prominent feature of the residence.

The nearby brick granary still exists and were part of the original 1855 flour mill Lick built, powered by water from the Guadalupe River. The Mill was famous for its beautiful mahogany woodwork but it burned down in 1882 after being sold and used as a paper mill. Lick was also well-known for his farm, gardens and horticultural talents.

James Lick (1796-1876) arrived in California in 1848 from South America where he spent many years manufacturing pianos. He was originally from

Pennsylvania. In San Francisco and San Jose he made his fortune in real estate during the gold rush years and became California's wealthiest man at that time.

Although Lick was eccentric, anti-social and sometimes difficult, he contributed large amounts of money to those less fortunate such as San Jose's Home of Benevolence. His most famous legacy is the Lick Observatory on top of Mount Hamilton where he is buried. He is considered one of California's greatest benefactor. ❖

(To see the Lick Mansion today, go to page 12.)

San Jose's Opera Pioneer

By Gayle Frank

One dictionary definition of a pioneer is, "to originate or take part in the development of something new." Certainly the woman who brought opera to San Jose exemplifies this definition of a pioneer. Irene Dalis was the founder and guiding light of Opera San Jose, a company that introduces young and upcoming opera singers to the world, nurturing them and casting them in leading roles that might otherwise be difficult to achieve in their early careers.

Irene Dalis was born Yvonne Patricia Dalis on Oct. 8, 1925 in San Jose. Her Greek father was a hatmaker and her mother was from Italian heritage. She grew up on Delmas Avenue along with her four older siblings. All the children were encouraged to take up a musical instrument.

Irene Dalis graduated from San Jose State College with a piano and music education major and then received a master's degree at Columbia's Teacher College in Manhattan, intending to return to San Jose and teach music. But New York instructors were dazzled by her voice and encouraged her to pursue a singing career. In 1951, through a Fulbright scholarship, she studied voice in Italy and made her debut in Germany in 1953.

After a successful few years in Oldenburg, Germany and then Berlin, Ms. Dalis debuted at the Metropolitan Opera in 1957. A New York reviewer stated that Ms. Dalis's debut was "one of the most exciting in recent seasons." The dramatic mezzo-soprano was praised throughout her career for her rich voice with "color and fire" and her accomplished acting ability. She performed in 274 performances at the Metropolitan Opera Company for 20 seasons, often with other world renowned artists. She also performed on many other stages including the San Francisco Opera House, Covent Gardens and Europe.



Irene Dalis in the California Theatre, 2014

After Ms. Dalis retired from the Met in 1976, she returned to San Jose to become a Full Professor of Music at San Jose State University. Her success with talented students grew into an Opera Workshop that eventually evolved into founding Opera San Jose in 1984. As founder of the company she continued to play a primary role in operating Opera San Jose as General Director until this year and as its chief officer she was proud of its fiscal stability. The company was modeled after the program in Oldenburg, Germany where Ms. Dalis sang leading roles at a young age.

Opera San Jose performs in the beautifully restored California Theatre on S. First Street. It has been described by Opera News as "the only opera company in the U.S. entirely dedicated to developing the careers of emerging young artists." It has been reported that Irene Dalis treasured her work as an instructor and Opera San Jose director more than she did performing.

Beginning in 2007, Ms. Dalis established the Irene Dalis Vocal competition in San Jose. Each spring 10 finalists compete for \$50,000 in cash prizes. Many of the finalists have advanced to successful careers.

Ms. Dalis has received numerous awards and honors including the SJSU Tower Award in 1974, Woman of Achievement Award from the San Jose Mercury News and League of Friends of Santa Clara Commission on the Status of Women in 1983, inducted into the California Public Educators Hall of Fame in

1985, Honored Citizen of the City of San Jose in 1986, the San Francisco Opera Medal in 1998, Honorary PhDs from Santa Clara and California State Universities, and many other awards—too many to mention here.

In March of 2009 Irene Dalis spoke at the Pioneers luncheon to celebrate Women in History Month.

(Continued on pg. 12)



Irene Dalis as Princess Eboli in Verdi's "Don Carlos" at the Metropolitan Opera, 1957

(Photos courtesy of Opera San Jose)

Opera Pioneer (Continued)

Ms. Dalis passed away on December 14, 2014 and will be greatly missed. She was truly a pioneer in the field of opera and music education and was a strong advocate for San Jose. She is survived by one daughter, two grandsons and one great-granddaughter. Her late husband, book editor George Loinaz, passed in 1990. ❖

Right, Ms. Irene Dalis in 1966



James Lick Mansion Today



Today the James Lick Mansion (left) can be seen in the midst of the Mansion Grove Apartments in Santa Clara. It resides at 554 Mansion Park Drive off of Lick Mill Boulevard.

It is not open to the public but the exterior can be admired up close; the interior can be viewed through the windows. Inside, elements of the beautiful woodwork, archway, and tall doors can be seen but time has taken its toll. Next to the mansion sits the circular brick granary. Both the Mansion and Granary were included in the Historic Trust Zone in 1987. ❖

(Photos taken 2015: Gayle Frank)

Right, Lick Mill Granary—Excerpts from Plaque

“This granary is a remnant of the lavish mahogany paneled flour mill built by James Lick on this site between 1855 and 1857. This circular brick structure is 66 feet in diameter, with walls 2 feet thick and 22 feet high ... In 1873 the buildings were converted into California’s first paper mill. The steam driven paper mill supplied paper products to the growing fruit industry of the Santa Clara Valley. In 1882, a fire destroyed the original mill and damaged the granary. A new mill was built and in 1902 it was converted to a plant for the manufacture of alcohol ...”



Meet One of our Docents

Eric Kristofferson has recently started volunteering as a docent at the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County's Paulson House at History San Jose.

Eric was born in San Francisco and has lived in the Santa Clara Valley for most of his adult life. He recently retired as a librarian and researcher. He lives only a few blocks from the Roberto Adobe.

His attention was brought to the Pioneer's need for docents for the Roberto

Adobe by his wife, whose family has lived in the Valley for more than a century.

Until the Roberto Adobe is open to the public Eric has been working as a docent at the Paulson House. He has enjoyed learning about the Paulson family and home and sharing that information with visitors of all ages. ❖



Eric Kristofferson

What's in the Paulson House?



Pictured left is a pickle jar that sits as part of a pair in the dining room of the Paulson House at History San Jose. In the Victorian days, pickle jars (also called pickle castors) were a common accessory to daintily serve pickles at the dining table. The Victorians were masters at combining form & function. The Victorian table, when fully set, featured a trove of utensils and serving pieces in ornate patterns and styles.

The Victorian pickle jar was first used around the early 1870s. As silver plating became more prevalent these decorative jars became popular with the middle class Victorian ladies.

A great variety of stands and colored glass inserts can be found attesting to their popularity and usefulness. The colored glass protected the pickles from direct sunlight.

This long forgotten serving piece is a highly collectible art form. The pickle jar can be found in many sizes and shapes, usually made with a pressed glass pattern, a silver plated lid and a silver plated holder. Many pickle jars include tongs or a pickle fork. ❖

Docent Opportunity

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County Paulson House Museum in San Jose's History Park is an example of life before the birth of Silicon Valley. Come join our group of docents who educate, learn and share with others our knowledge of history.

- 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 History San Jose surroundings and the beautiful Paulson House

For more information or to volunteer, contact
Jonna Baker
at (408) 533-3256 or
J234belle@yahoo.com.

Welcome New Pioneers Members!

Sylvia Hew is a native of England who arrived in California in 1979. Sylvia has lived in Willow Glen for over 34 years. She is interested in the Paulson House and the Roberto Adobe/Suñol House and would like to become a Pioneers docent.

Her membership was proposed by Jonna Baker.

Richard Grialou is a native Californian and lives in San Jose. He is a software engineer. His pioneer ancestors, who came to California in 1910-1912,

are: Ernest & Bertha Grialou and Jean & Gabrielle Costedoat.

Patricia Burrow is married to new member Richard Grialou. They have a family membership. ❖



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 GayleFrankCA@gmail.com and you will receive an email with the Trailblazer link as soon as the newsletter is ready. Using less paper means saving trees and reducing water consumption from paper manufacturing.



Have you paid
your 2015 dues?

They were owed on
January 1st, 2015!

Membership Report

The membership dues for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are due on January 1st every year. If you haven't yet paid your annual dues for 2015, please mail them to CA Pioneers, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA, 95155. Dues for 2015 were owed on January 1st.

Members who have not paid their dues will not receive the Trailblazer after February. Your mailing label for the Trailblazer will indicate when your dues

were owed. For example, if after your name it says, Dec-14, that means your dues for 2015 still have not been paid.

Additional donations or higher membership levels are always appreciated. And please don't forget the Pioneers in your estate planning.

If you have questions, please contact April Halberstadt at 408-293-2860 or email her at aprilhalb@gmail.com. ❖

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County Membership Categories

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

Time Travel *(Past news from San Jose Newspaper archives)*

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."

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 are soon to be displaced by paper containers according to 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 pollination period."

Pioneers Sunshine

If you know of a California Pioneers of Santa Clara County member who is ill or needs a bit of cheer, please notify Madeline Streight, our Sunshine Chair. She will send an appropriate card to the member. You can contact Madeline at 408-259-4422 or send email to: madeline.streight@att.net.



Visual San Jose **2015 Historic Photo Contest**

Enter your photo of a San Jose historic building, site or artifact taken between July 2014 and April 2015

Submit by April 17th

For details visit

VisualSJ.com

Hosted by PAC*SJ

Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills



*Beverly Hesse
Sally Howe
Joseph Walter*



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California Pioneers of Santa Clara County 2015 Board of Directors

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Jim Campbell, Resident Artist for Calif. Pioneers of SCC

Madeline Streight, Sunshine Chair, 408-259-4422 or
madeline.streight@att.net

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.