

THE

TRAILBLAZER

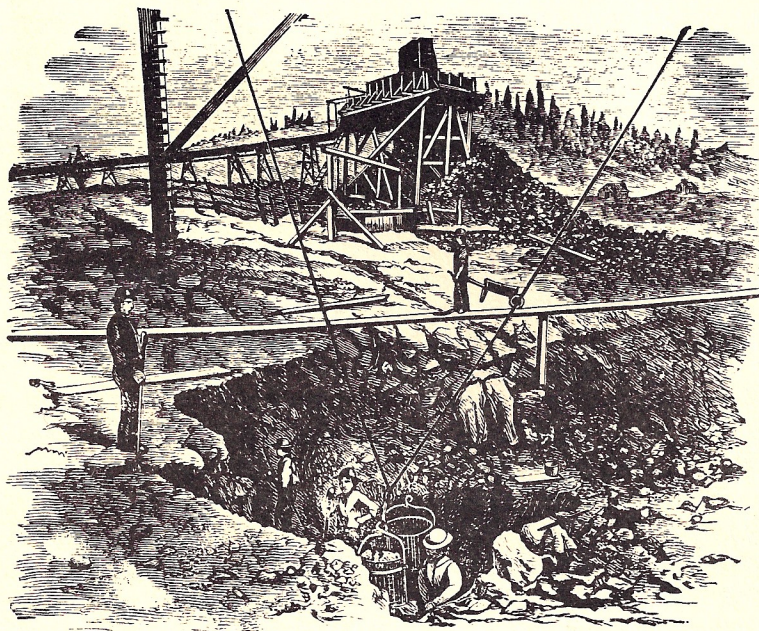
QUARTERLY BULLETIN
OF THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

INCORPORATED 1875

Volume 18

February 1978

Number 1



PLACER MINING.

MURPHY'S RICH DIGGIN'S

WHALE BLAZERS

May 11, 1851 -- San Jose City Council

"Resolved that hereafter carpenters are commanded to take all shavings, chips and other combustibles to the street and burn them every night. Violations are to be not less than \$5.00 or more than \$20.00."

San Jose -- O'Briens, the supreme purveyor of lusciousness flourished on South First Street for eighty-two candied years. The local press in 1874 spelled out, "He has given us the finest place of the kind the town has ever known."

An O'Brien's garnished box of chocolates became the ultimate in gifts. For added star-dust, it was where you would take your best girl to perhaps ponder with a 1925 pretentious menu graced on real buckskin. Suggestions began with the elite "Opera" and "Society" Sundae Specials at twenty-five cents. Other exotic adventures included the Snowball and Carnation Float; or else the Manitoba, Poinsetta, Limousine Girl, and Egg de Cream Freezes - priced at 10 and 15 cents. Frothy punches like Grape, Fairy, Garnet, Tea, and Claret sold for ten cents. Huge chicken and beef tamales were O'Brien favorites for the less romantic at only 25 cents.

This long celebrated business closed its doors in 1956, but not to memories.

San Jose 1895 - The handsome Park Hotel was completed after a lingering two years. It was situated on the west side of South Market St., where the Civic Auditorium stands today. This well built three story hotel with its iron embellished store fronts was designed and built by Antone Zicovich and his crew of forty careful Slavic stone and wood artisans. Somehow the craftsmen were inclined to follow agricultural pursuits. It was only during the off-season when they applied their skills to the eventual completion of the hotel.

Prior to the hotel a kindergarten stood on the property directed by the McKenzie sisters. All the nice little boys and girls of the nice families went to McKenzie's.

The hotel was razed in 1933.

H.C.



Ralph Claypool was just a tike when he moved to San Jose from Hollister with his folks, the John Claypools in 1913. "In no time Dad was establishing Rt. I for the Temple Laundry with a horse and rig," says Ralph. "Dad did well. By 1914 he had a Model T panel flivver."

When high school hours permitted, Ralph loaded wet wash, or delivered a bundle of starched collars or perhaps a spotless tuxedo to some fine home on The Alameda. The Temple and valley blossomed.

The Temple Laundry first turned up at 14th & E. Santa Clara Sts. in 1908. It was the creation of the Labor Temple Association as the result of a lock-out. In a brief 2 years the washery relocated on the N.E. corner of 17th and E. Santa Clara Streets.

A Jan. 1912 newspaper account states the laundry was sold to a group headed by Mr. Erve Strickland who filed to incorporate. The new proprietors continued to operate the laundry with a union work force of 50 men and women.

In 1919 due to a growth surge the management purchased 7 lots on 15th & St. John extending back to 16th. Here was erected the foremost in laundry output. During its peak the laundry claimed 100 employees and 16 routes.

"The electric home washing machine plus a depression were the beginning of the end for the Temple, recalls Ralph thoughtfully thumbing a tattered family album.

By 1935 the Temple Laundry ran out of steam and folded its last sheet. The IBM Corporation used the building for a number of years. With an updated face-lift the old Temple structure still serves, in part, as a laundry for the San Jose Hospital.

H.C.

A SCHOOL NAMED MORELAND

By Eve Morton

Great-Granddaughter

Of a School District's Namesake

The Moreland School near Campbell is named for Zechariah Moreland who came to Santa Clara Valley in 1849. The school district is the second oldest in California and the oldest still in operation.

Zechariah Moreland, with his wife and children, crossed the plains in 1846. They had lived in Illinois. It is possible they joined the wagon train in Missouri as most trains are said to have started from there. Before reaching California they turned north and went to Oregon. They may have been with the Donner party which left Missouri in 1846. Part of that group left the Donners and went to Oregon.

The Morelands stayed in Oregon until sometime in 1848, then went to the Mother Lode Country in Northern California. Tom Moreland, son of Zechariah and father of my mother, Minnie Moreland Ashcraft, worked at mining for a short time. Apparently the Morelands were agricultur-

ists, not miners. After they left the Mother Lode, they came to Santa Clara Valley and bought property on the corner of what is now Saratoga and Payne Avenues.

There was a private school in the neighborhood operated by Samuel Curtis Rogers. He is said to have taught a class of twenty-three in his home in 1851. It was called a subscription school, the parents contributing to pay the teacher's salary.

On November 13, 1852 a meeting was held and plans were made to start a public school. The Morelands had recently moved into a new home on Saratoga Avenue. The committee voted to buy the vacated Moreland house. Some sources say the price was \$300.00, but my mother always said it was \$150.00. Zechariah contributed \$50.00 to the purchase price. My mother told me that Zechariah gave the land to the school, but that the gift was never recorded in his name.

Zehariah donated lumber for two benches and a plank for a writing table. My grandfather, Tom, hauled the lumber from the Santa Cruz mountains to be made into furniture.

M r s. George Payne showed me the school register dated September 25, 1852. Mr. Rogers was the teacher. There were six Moreland children in the class. The others were over school age.

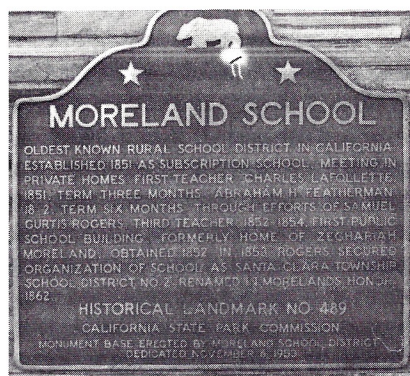
Mr. Rogers built most of the furniture, put in the new floor, and paid for part of the supplies out of his own pocket. Each parent was supposed to deliver a fourth of a cord of wood or its equivalent, about \$3.50, for each child at the time of enrollment. However, there was so much trouble collecting from the parents that he abandoned the system and tried to collect \$10.00 per pupil for thirteen weeks of schooling. However, this didn't work too well either. The records show that he had trouble collecting his pay. I was told that he was given a bank draft by the county treasurer for \$396.50 which was due him. He was unable to collect this. I have been told, because the treasurer absconded with all the county funds.

In 1854 Mr. Rogers returned to his home in Indi-

ana to bring his family back to California, but he never returned.

My mother, who was born in 1871 and grew up further south in California, had very little recollection of her father's family except the things he told her. We know that her grandmother, her Uncle James, and a cousin who died when a baby are buried in the Santa Clara Cemetery. When Zechariah died and where he is buried we have never been able to learn.

The school is long gone, but the district is still in operation.



State Historical
Plaque No. 489 at Saratoga
and Payne Avenues honors
Moreland.



John H. Murphy.
of San Jose

MURPHY'S RICH DIGGIN'S

BY R. COKE WOOD



OLD TIMERS MUSEUM MURPHY'S, CALIFORNIA

"The remarkable fortune of a person in mining, now a resident of San Jose, was so much like the Arabian Night's tales, that I cannot refrain from detailing it. Had he kept his fortune, he would, by its increase, have been one of the wealthiest men of the nation. But his bump of generosity was too great; he was too benevolent, and the fortune came too easy to be appreciated. I refer to Mr. John Murphy. He left San Jose, in April, 1848 and went to Weber Creek, in Placer County. He employed a few Indians who belonged to the Mission, and they induced many of the wild ones to accompany them, until Mr. Murphy had, at one time, nearly one hundred and fifty of them working for him. His influence with them was as productive of gold as the exclamation of "Open Sesame" by Ali Baba, at the cavern door of the forty thieves. After working a few weeks at the first location, they moved to what was called dry diggings where Placerville is situated. A part of the Indians were from Stanislaus County. About September, Mr. Murphy sent the Indians from that section back to their old grounds to seek for gold. They went, and shortly returned, saying that they had found plenty of it. Murphy then moved to that new place, and there remained until December, 1849. He had buried in the ground nearly two millions of dollars worth of gold. But at that time, it was sold cheaply. Coin was scarce, and most of the people, for a long while, did not know its real value. It was customary to sell the gold at four dollars per ounce, which was intrinsically worth over sixteen. It was not unusual for Mr. Murphy to take in at his store, twenty-five pounds of gold per day. When he first went to Weber Creek, but two other white

men were there. His brother Daniel, and one Dr. Isabell were his partners; although it was not then known, except between the three. No man ever asked Murphy in those days for money, without obtaining it." *

John Murphy had come to California overland in 1844 with the Stevens-Schallenger party, the first party to bring wagons all the way into California. He settled in San Jose and Santa Clara County and became a man of prominence as mayor, sheriff and then a dry goods merchant and dealer in real estate and insurance.

In the early fall of 1848, the Murphys brothers moved their mining operations to the area that is now known as Vallecito in Calaveras County and employed the Miwok Indians to wash the gravel of Coyote Creek. This location was the first Murphys Diggings. Shortly afterwards, the brothers made their way up Coyote Creek about four miles and over a low ridge and discovered that the gravel in the little valley was very rich in free, placer gold. Daniel Murphy left the diggings in December, but John Murphy set up a trading tent, mostly to supply his Indians who were digging for gold, and this became Murphys Camp. For a time, the Vallecito area was referred to as "Murphys Old Diggings" and the new discovery as "Murphys New Diggings."

John Murphy, it is claimed by a statement in Bancroft's History of California, was very successful in getting the natives to work for him because "he married the daughter of the local Miwok chief." This was not an official marriage because he married Virginia Reed, survivor of the tragic Donner party in 1850 in San Jose.

He remained in Murphys until December, 1849, when the rains started and then loaded his gold on "Seventeen Mules" and returned to San Jose. His name remained under various combinations such as Murphy's Camp, Murphy's Diggings, Murphy's Rich Diggings, and Murphy's Flat. Later on the "Camp" part of the name was dropped by the Post Office Department and the name became Murphys. John Murphy probably never again visited the lovely little mining town that was named for him. He died in 1892 and is buried in a cemetery in San Jose. (The San Jose cemetery is Oak Hill Memorial Park. - editor)

*These quotes are taken from Hall, Frederic, History of San Jose and Surroundings, San Francisco, A. L. Bancroft and Co., 1871, pp. 192-93.



Carolyn de Vries

The spring of a new and different year is almost upon us. No longer are we involved in planning the many bicentennial activities that kept us so busy in 1977. Now, our fond memories of the celebrations behind us, we go forward as all pioneers do in seeking out ways to do service in the future.

Our pioneer society has, in its 103 years of existence, become a vital part of the history of Santa Clara County. May we continue to be leaders in the community as new challenges are presented in which we may pay homage to our glorious past, and at the same time focus on what we can do to influence decisions regarding our future. As 1978 continues to unfold, those of us who have been so fortunate to live in this "valley of heart's delight" need to remember that the preservation of our past must continue for those generations who will follow.

May God bless us all in 1978!

Historical Essay Contest Announced

Pioneers:

This will be the third year the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County have joined with the Sourisseau Academy for California State and Local History to sponsor the Santa Clara County Historical Essay Contest. There will be two categories of awards in order that all interested people in the community may participate. These categories are: Secondary (high school level) sponsored by Sourisseau Academy with first prize of \$150, second prize of \$75, and third prize of \$50; and General (which includes college level and all other participants) sponsored by the California Pioneers with a first prize of \$150 and a second prize of \$50. Dead line April 28, 1978.

Interested persons may contact Lynn Vermillion, 2176 Cherrystone Dr., San Jose, CA 95128 for rules and regulations. 248-9790 between 2 & 5 P.M.

Chairpersons: Lynn Vermillion, Don DeMers, & Janice Paull.

LOOK FOR IT HERE

TOUR RESERVATIONS are made at the Quarterly Meetings or by phone calls to Ruth Gross at 294-9830 between the hours of 9 and 12 Monday through Friday. After confirmation by Ruth that space is available, then send checks, payable to "The Californians," to 100 Serena Way, Santa Clara, CA 95051. Trip brochures are available through Ruth Gross.

April 22 & 23 .. Overnite Surprise - an "innovation" for the Californians .. one bus limit

May 4 & 5 .. Yosemite .. one bus limit

May 27 thru 30 .. A special 4 day Memorial Trip (Northern California) .. one bus limit

July 1 thru 4 .. 4 days in the Mammoth Lakes area .. one bus limit

Sept. 22 - Oct. 8 .. Austen Warburton leads into Southern Arizona & New Mexico .. 1 bus

Lots of one day trips

Fall of 1979 .. Make plans for a month in Alaska

DUES of \$3.00 each for 1978 are now due. Check your ID card to avoid loss of membership. Call or write the Financial Secretary, Byron Bullard, 1085 Tasman Dr. Sp. 404, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 or phone 734-0481.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE. New active members upon payment of \$1.00 initiation fee will have the option of paying the \$3.00 yearly dues or purchasing a \$45.00 Life Membership, (\$75.00 for husband and wife subscribing at the same time).

The same Life Membership privileges are extended to present members.

Hear this! Mrs. Eleanor Dale who turned 92 this last January has been a Life Member for just a year. Our Life Membership roster now numbers fourteen.

JOURNALIST DICK BARRETT HONORED WITH LIFE MEMBERSHIP. Dick Barrett was a mid-teenager when he arrived in San Jose from Republic, Wash. in 1925. San Jose was so small and personal then you could almost cup it in your hands

and hold it to your heart. This Society extends to Dick the same heart and hand for his 49 years of devoted journalism which brimmed with memorable yesterdays and a meaningful future. For his pleasure-giving cavalcades we are grateful. Welcome Dick!

"Old Willow Glen" Here is a delightful history of this suburban neighborhood. Author Elizabeth Giarratana captures happy bits evolving long time residents plus visits to vintage homes. Photographs are bountiful. Crossroad names recalling old settlers like Cottle, Coe, Hicks, Britton and Settle are made known. This 283 page softback (\$4.95) is something to come home to. Available at most book stores or from the author at 2469 Marsha Way, San Jose 95125.

A prime apricot orchard was donated to Saratoga by Mr. Frank Nelson. This five acres will be maintained to make certain "the art of apricot planting, growing, tending, harvesting, drying and shipping is not lost to future generations of Californians."

Your generosity at our Dec. 12th Luncheon amounted to \$176. Our Board of Directors have forwarded this contribution to the Santa Clara County Children's Shelter to befriend our abused children. Thank you.

Souvenir wine glasses of the dedication of PELLIER HISTORICAL PARK can be obtained from the Smith & McKay Printing Co. at 96 Santa Teresa, San Jose.

ATTENTION

Members, please be more conscientious about sending in change of address. If this task is left to the Post Office, we are charged 25¢ for each returned Trailblazer.

THERE CAN BE NO MORE MEANINGFUL BEQUEST
THAN ONE THAT HELPS SAVE HISTORICAL INFORMATION
AND ARTIFACTS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

ARTIFACTS

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SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM 287-2290.

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To assist LOU'S VILLAGE it is important we know
the exact number of reservations
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Thank You

Welcome New Members

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Clara Boe	Dorothy Holgard	Eleanor Robison
Werner Boe	Beryl Larick	Robert Robison
Rose Bournazian	Carl Larick	Arthur Rolandetti
John Buck	Johanne Larsen	Kathleen A. Sciba
Laurance Burdette	Anne Marie Martin	Linda Sharman
Ruth Burdette	Janet C. McKean	Madeline Signorelli
Mildred Byerly	Sarah J. Meyer	Sarah Signorelli
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Ralph Claypool	Lester Morrison	Vera Soderstrom
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Barbara Daugherty	Adeline Piazza	Rosa Lee Warren
M. Lucille Edis	Genevieve Plesse	Dorothy Wuss
Louise Gallo	Walter Plesse	Peter Wuss
Marcella Gurries		Roxie Yeram



Beyond the sunset

Alma I. Gard, J. Helen Johnson, Robert B. Maxwell, Bessie McCaustland, James Norton, Gladys E. Phillips, Louise M. Plumb, Andrew J. Rhineland, Mary-Margaret Wallace, and Florence Whidden

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