

VOL. 47 NUMBER 2

June 3, 2006

PIONEER LUNCHEON

Saturday, June 6, 2006 at Noon

Mariani's 2500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara

Reservations MUST BE MADE before

Monday, May 26, 2006

Call: 408-554-7587

Cost: \$18.00 *(Make checks to Mariani's)*

Tenderloin of Roast Pork • Mashed Potatoes

Spring Vegetables • Green Salad

Orange Chiffon Layer Cake • Coffee or tea

***Mariani's Restaurant is located
on the south side of El Camino Real,
two blocks west of San Tomas Expressway
in Santa Clara.***

The June Meeting is dedicated to the winners of the ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST. If you are interested in writing an essay for next year on Santa Clara County History, do check the filed papers at the California History Room of the new public library. There are many people and subjects that have NOT been addressed before. This year there were five entries submitted to the judges, Pat Loomis, David McKinney, and Kathryn Philp.



**FOLLOW IN THE
FOOTSTEPS
OF THE PIONEERS**
Join us for the **2006
Donner Party
Commemoration**

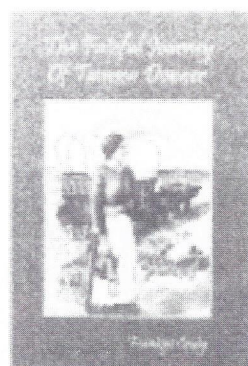
Join **FRANK MULLEN JR.**
and other emigrant trail and
Donner Party authors and
historians.

OCT. 14-15—Commemoration & Seminar
OCT. 6-15—Cross-country Bus Tour

The *On The Trail With The Donner Party Tour* is an experience you will cherish for a life-time. Walk in the ruts of the wagons, visit the landmarks, learn the history of the emigrant trail and the Donner Party's ordeal. The tour follows the emigrant trail from Independence, Missouri, to the sites where the party was trapped by snow in the winter of 1846, near Truckee, California.

**NOW AVAILABLE: THE LATEST
DONNER PARTY BOOK: *The
Fateful Journey of Tamsen
Donner.***

Journey along with the Donners as they cross the continent. By putting Tamsen Donner at the center of this saga, author Frankye Craig gives an exceptional poignancy to this tale of people pushed to the limits of survival. \$17.95



**Information—E-mail: FrankyeEBD@aol.com
Phone: Frankye Craig 775-747-1139**

COYOTE VALLEY

by Lauren Lazarovici for *the Newsletter of the
California Federation of Teachers*

Margaret Rodrigues and John McPherson team-teach fifth graders at Los Paseos School. They could not find much on the Coyote Valley, where they live, so they innovatively guided their students to an in-depth study of the area. They included history, geography and the ecosystem studies into a technological presentation of the area. The students produced a sophisticated Power Point exhibit and a documentary film entitled, "Two rivers run through It." That refers to Coyote Creek and Fisher Creek, the lifeblood of the valley. The film won a prize at the California Student Media and Multimedia festival. Using historic and contemporary photos, music and primary sources, the students traced the history of Coyote Valley from the time it was inhabited by the Muwekma Indians to the conquest by the Spanish to the rancho era of the 1870's.

"The kids love it," said Rodrigues, noting their enthusiasm for not only the whiz-bang technology, but also for the field trips they get to go on and interviews they conduct. "The kids realize they have history right here, where they live," she says. "It's not just the history book off the shelf."

The 6,800 acres of Coyote Valley have been called "the last relic of San Jose's rural past" by the local weekly newspaper. "In a huge metropolis of the Bay Area, it is one little greenbelt," says McPherson. To developers, Coyote Valley represents an opportunity to build 25,000 homes and attract 50,000 jobs. Builders have been drawing up blueprints of an urban village connected by mass transit. To environmentalists, however, developing Coyote Valley would lead to more sprawl.

Into this fray come the 39 fifth grade students. They volunteered to be part of the project, coming in after school and on Saturdays. The two teachers soon realized that very little had ever been recorded about the history of Coyote Valley. "We could only find bits and pieces of information in books. So we had to travel to museums, historical sites, as well as rely on interviews with residents, use of old diaries and photos. It was like a great treasure hunt.

The students research integrated the state's English and history academic standards. Their investigation of the valley's ecosystem helped satisfy the science standards.

One of the interviews the students conducted was with San Jose City Councilman Forrest Williams. If he was expecting an ordinary visit to an elementary school classroom, he was in for a surprise. "Within five minutes, the kids started asking him such high level questions, like details about Coyote Valley's water treatment plant, that he invited us to the city council," laughs Rodriguez. Some of the students' recommendations for preserving the legacy of Coyote Valley include an animal habitat, a Native American cultural center, and preservation of an historic railroad station that could be rebuilt to serve present day commuters.

"The kids want their vision implemented," says McPherson. "We felt that our students should have a say in Coyote Valley's development." Rodriguez adds, "As they will probably be its future citizens."

McPherson and Rodrigues have been teaching together for 19 years. During the next three years, they will guide future students in studying the health of the creeks, using the same project based technology approach. They are well versed in using technology in the classroom. They attended a technology training program for teachers at the Krause Center for Innovation at nearby Foothill College. McPherson also earned a Masters Degree in instructional technology from San Jose State University in 2004. A local non-profit group, the Live Oak Foundation, gave the teachers a \$1,900 grant for software and equipment to support the Coyote Valley project.

"Kids got into the new technology big time," said McPherson, but he stressed that teachers shouldn't use technology for its own sake. "The wow factor for the students is over. Now we are using the technology for a project that emphasizes problem solving skills, critical thinking, synthesizing information and learning to work in teams."

Last year, the district named Margaret Rodrigues teacher of the year.



The Pioneers will give a special award to these two teachers whose innovative local history project has come to our attention. We would like for all teachers to be inspired by their talents, no matter what level they are teaching. We know that you will also be inspired and gratified to see that history is being made interesting and relevant to the younger generation. We hope that those in city hall and the county building will also take note.

A Message from the Membership/Financial Secretary 2006 DUES ARE NOW OVERDUE

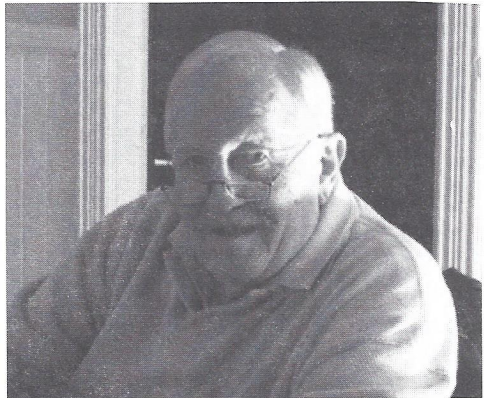
Did the rainy season keep you from sending your dues? Did you forget? A number of our members received a notice that your dues are delinquent. I hope that you are now current as the Pioneers will be going places and doing things, and we need your help. Dues are \$15.00 per person each year and are due in January of each year. Please remember that we only send notice if you become delinquent. If you have already sent your checks and are current, thank you for your response.

If you are moving or if you need applications, please contact me by phone or e-mail.

Melita Kelly
460 North 15th Street
San Jose, CA 95112-1725
Telephone 408-292-2385
melikel@pacbell.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My January 2005 message to the members suggested a course of action that had been discussed by the Board at my first meeting as President: to become more relevant to the 21st Century, to proceed on our mission to collect and preserve the ... works of early pioneers ... to transmit to



future generations a faithful and correct history, and to find a place for Mrs. Jackson's art work, furniture and memorabilia where the public will be able to view it. It is now time to report the progress to the membership.

We have had some success!

The Jackson Ranch is now in escrow, an agreement was reached to sell the ranch to the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority. As soon as the weather clears, we shall remove all of Mrs. Jackson's "stuff" to storage at History San Jose' to await the upgrade of the Paulson House.

Through the kind offices of Barry Swenson (Barry Swenson Builder) and Chuck Toeniskoetter (TBI) plans are now being drawn for the work on the Paulson House where we shall be able to display our gathering of artifacts and establish a research library. As soon as the blueprints are available and the city permits obtained, we shall start!

Our work with the Digital Clubhouse is dependant on the completion of the Paulson House. Now it looks very probable that we shall meet the deadline to be functional in the house in time for the Symposium on President Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms" that will be held here the first week of August. It will be sponsored by the City of San Jose, The Digital Clubhouse, Stanford University, Santa Clara University, San Jose State, and of course, The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County!

So, Bev Fisher will be looking for help with the window covering (curtains). Bev will be taking names of the volunteer seamstresses at the June luncheon.

Our A.P. Hill painting is once again back from the City Hall waiting to be hung in the Paulson House!

Our membership roster is once again approaching the 600 mark!

Again, I would remind everyone that your board meets at 2 pm the second Monday of each month in the Pacific Hotel at History San Jose.

Every member is invited to be there to observe and participate in the sometimes lively discussions. The more input, the better we can function!

Jerry Rosenthal, *President*

PAT LOOMIS RECEIVED THE AUSTEN WARBURTON AWARD FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, 2006



by Virginia Hammerness

Patricia Loomis, an original member of the San Jose Historical Museum, contributed two membership premium books for the museum: *Signposts* and *Signpost II*, a compilation of articles she wrote once a week for the *Mercury News* from 1971 to 1979. Neither book is now available. She also wrote *A Walk Through the Past*, a history of Oak Hill

Cemetery and pioneer families buried there, a book on Milpitas and another on San Jose Airport.

Pat was also an enthusiastic member of two committees of the Museum: the Book Committee, which selected the membership premiums for each year; and the Development Committee, which was involved in needed repairs, restoration of buildings on the grounds, and planned projects to enhance the Museum.

She spearheaded the painting of the interior of the Chiechi House, leading many volunteers from Clyde Arbuckle's history group, "The Argonauts." She organized the Argonauts to participate in building a tool shed for garden tools and equipment. She decorated the exterior with antique farming and gardening equipment and named the shed "Taj Jr." (after Taj Mahal).

Pat is an avid gardener who made sure "heirloom" and "old" varieties grew in the Museum's garden. For example, she planted an elderberry tree, an old and useful variety. The garden was a big hit with visitors, especially at Halloween when tombstones with weird names and sayings dotted the garden.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alice Arata,
Arline Beck,
Eunice Bennett,
Lin Nealon Corpus,
Marcella Costello,
Sara Heisinger,
Joanne Heisinger,
George James

Patricia Moorhead
Walter Moorhead,
Dona Mae Neu,
Barbara Peddy
Milt "Tim" Peddy,
Donald Renelle,
Cyrus Solon,
Danforth Sturges
June Winslow



TOURING WITH THE CALIFORNIANS

Rose Crimi Muench – *Tour director*
Marie Rider – *Phone reservations and cancellations,*
(408) 251-7887, M – F, am
Beverly Fisher – *Treasurer, 3435 Yuba Ave.,*
San Jose, CA 95117-2966
Pauline Hawkins – *Luncheon reservations*

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER TRIPS begins at the June 3 luncheon, 11:00 a.m. at our new location at Mariani's Restaurant. Checks are preferred or exact cash. Preference is given to California Pioneers members to register at the luncheon. Non-members and guests may sign up starting June 12. Note: We request that members register absent members after the luncheon, so that members present have the opportunity to register first.

PHONE RESERVATIONS or CANCELLATIONS: call Marie Rider. After reservations are confirmed, send check payable to The Californians to Beverly Fisher.

PICK-UP POINT: Valley Village, 390 North Winchester Blvd. Santa Clara on Dolores Street.

DAY TRIPS

JULY 5, 2006, WEDNESDAY FOSTER CITY and REDWOOD CITY

Craig Smith will be our guide as we explore two diverse peninsula communities. Foster City was built in 1964 by developer Jack Foster as a self-contained city on what was Brewer's Island in San Francisco Bay. We will tour the twelve islands and learn about planned communities all over the world. By contrast, Redwood City was settled during the Spanish and Mexican era, and became the county seat of San Mateo County. The 1908 County Courthouse has been restored and is now the County Historical Museum. It features one of the largest stained glass domes in the state, and the 1891 mosaic of the Great Seal of California. Exhibits illustrate peninsula history from the days of the Ohlone Indians to the present. A special treat is the collection of 20 hand-carved ship models. The second floor courtroom will come to life with a costumed reenactment of the infamous 1931 Constance Flood trial. We will also visit the Lathrup House, the restored 1863 Gothic Revival home with period furnishings and costumes. Our included luncheon will be at Alana's Café housed in the 1874 Dielman House. Also browse the art gallery next door in the 1857 Offerman House.

Depart: 9:30 a.m. Return: 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$48

AUGUST 1, 2006, TUESDAY MONET in NORMANDY at the LEGION OF HONOR

We return to the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco for a major visiting exhibit of Claude Monet's impressionist paintings. He spent much of his life in Giverny, Normandy, where the countryside, towns and villages inspired his art. Over 50 paintings will be on view, including his famous water lily pond views shimmering with colors and reflections. Admission to the Museum and the special exhibit is included. Optional audio phone narration is available. Enjoy lunch on your own at the Museum Café any time you wish. To accommodate the summer diners, an outdoor tent will be set up with several food stations. You will have time to enjoy the galleries of the permanent collections and the Gift Shop.

Depart: 9:00 a.m. Return: 4:00 p.m. Cost: \$21

AUGUST 31, 2006, THURSDAY MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

After 20 years of operation, the Monterey Bay Aquarium completely revamped its galleries last year with the opening of “The Ocean’s Edge: Coastal Habitats of Monterey Bay”. Additions include a walk through wave-crash, an expanded aviary, and a large display of giant octopus. Other major displays feature penguins, sea otters, sea turtles, sharks, touch pools and a soon-to-close exhibit: “Jellies Living Art”. Admission to the Aquarium with in-and-out privilege is included. Enjoy lunch on your own at any time at the self-service Portola Café or at the Portola Restaurant with an extensive menu of appetizers and entrees including many seafood choices.

Depart: 9:00 a.m. Return: 4:00 p.m. Cost: \$37

EXTENDED TRIPS

SEPTEMBER 13 – 23, 2006 ALASKA’S INSIDE PASSAGE

(Golden Gate Tours) Cruise aboard the Regal Princess departing from San Francisco. Ports of Call are: Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Victoria B.C. Inside cabins, \$1335 and \$1350. Ocean view cabins, from \$1635 to \$1750. Cost includes: RT bus transportation San Jose/San Francisco pier (no air flights!), all meals and amenities on board, port taxes and fees, and stevedore tips. Brochures are now available.

DECEMBER 30, 2006 – JANUARY 3, 2007 NEW YEAR’S EVE in NASHVILLE

(Golden Gate Tours) Celebrate New Year’s in Grand Ole’, Nashville Tennessee, with a gala champagne dinner at the Opryland Hotel. Sightseeing includes: Country Music Hall of Fame, General Jackson dinner cruise, Radio City Rockettes show, Ice Carvings and Sculpture display, tour of The Hermitage, President Jackson’s home and gardens, and more. Four nights at the Opryland Hotel with its nine acres of enclosed gardens, daily breakfast, and RT airfare from San Jose, \$1575 per person. Brochures are now available.

THE CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Conference of California Historical Societies (the Pioneers are members) is a 52 year old organization made up of many small historical societies all over the state. They have 3 meetings a year, October in the North, February in the South, and the Annual Meeting in June alternates.

This June, the meeting is in Redwood City, close enough for all of you to attend. The Saturday meeting is in the restored Courthouse. Other meetings are at the hotel which is the Doubletree at San Francisco airport.

The speaker for Thursday, June 22 at the 7 p.m. dinner will be Professor Mark Still on the 1906 earthquake in San Mateo County. He is an excellent and interesting speaker. The dinner speaker for Friday, June 23 7-9 will be Mitch Postel, executive for the San Mateo County Historical Society. He will speak on the origin of San Mateo County now celebrating its Sesquicentennial. It was cut off from San Francisco County in 1856 and now SF has its airport, water & jail in San Mateo County!! The early elections are legendary. I'm sure he will talk about them. They had three times more votes than they had people! Mitch is an experienced and interesting speaker also.

Saturday begins with the Genealogy Breakfast with a speaker from the National Archives in San Bruno at 7 a.m. Buses will leave the hotel for tours of the history museum in Redwood City and the Awards Luncheon from 12-3. That will be followed by a workshop on Grant Writing by Patti Pace of the Peninsula Community Foundation. Dinner on Saturday will be an installation of officers and a brief program at the hotel.

If you are interested in going to some or all of this Symposium, you can find it on the CCHS Web page or call the San Mateo County History Museum at 650-299-0104. I have been an active participant and officer since I was given an award for teaching in 1974. call me for the brochure.

Mary Lou Lyon (408) 253-9514

THE CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

ANNUAL MEETING 2006 SAN MATEO COUNTY PROGRAM SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2006

12 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Registration
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Board Meeting
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Rest and Change for Dinner
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Social hour <i>Drawing ticket sales</i> <i>Drinks available at hotel bar</i>
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Dinner <i>The 1906 Earthquake and Its Impact on San Mateo County</i> Speaker: Professor Mark Still

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2006

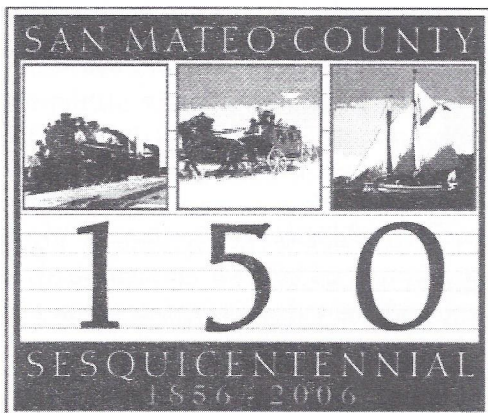
12 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Registration
8 a.m. - 9 a.m.	RVP Meeting Breakfast is on your own. <i>At hotel or neighboring hotel coffee shops</i>
9 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Annual Meeting
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Presentation: <i>The Great Estates</i>
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Lunch on your own <i>At hotel, neighboring hotel coffee shops or FILOLI's café.</i>
1:15 p.m.	Bus trip to tour FILOLI, Woodside OR
1:30 p.m.	Alternate: Bus trip to visit the National Archives in San Bruno <i>Space limited to the first 25 who apply.</i>
4 p.m.	Buses return to hotel
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Rest & Change for Dinner
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Social hour <i>Drawing ticket sales</i> <i>Drinks available at hotel bar</i>
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Dinner <i>The Origin of San Mateo County</i> Speaker: Mitch Postel, President of the San Mateo County Historical Association

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2006

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. | Genealogy Breakfast
Speaker from the National Archives
Bus Departs to San Mateo County History Museum, Redwood City
Self-guided tour of History Museum
<i>Gallery Guides available</i>
Also
Tour the Lathrop House
<i>Next block at 627 Hamilton Avenue</i> |
| 9:30 a.m. | |
| 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. | |
| 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. | Awards Luncheon
<i>Buffet Line in the Atkinson Meeting Room</i>
<i>Eat and Meet in adjacent Courtroom A</i>
Workshop on Grant Writing
Speaker: Patti Pace,
Peninsula Community Foundation
OR
More time to tour the History Museum
and Lathrop House
Bus departs History Museum for hotel |
| 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. | |
| 4:15 p.m. | |
| 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. | Rest and Change for Dinner |
| 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. | Social Hour
<i>Drawing ticket sales</i>
<i>Drinks available at hotel bar</i> |
| 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. | Dinner
Installation of Officers
Brief Program |

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2006

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Before 8 a.m. | Breakfast on own |
| 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. | Al Minard's General Meeting
<i>Open to all</i> |
| After 10 a.m. | Explore San Mateo County's Historic Sites on Your Own |



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