

Vol. 64, Issue 1
March 2023

Inside this issue:

<i>Storm Hits Adobe & Suñol House</i>	1
<i>March Quarterly Luncheon</i>	2
<i>President's Message</i>	4
<i>New Almaden Mines</i>	5
<i>Update on Cemetery gravesite</i>	8
<i>When SJ Was Young: Valley Land Grants</i>	9
<i>Roses for Lunch Guests</i>	10
<i>Sketch by J. Campbell: Reduction Works</i>	11
<i>History Class Visits Roberto Adobe & Suñol House</i>	12
<i>Meet Our New Board Members</i>	13
<i>New Members—Welcome!</i>	14
<i>Roberto Adobe & Suñol House Open</i>	14
<i>Donations</i>	14
<i>Membership Report</i>	15
<i>Time Travel</i>	15
<i>Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills</i>	15
<i>2023 Board of Directors</i>	16

Storm Hits Adobe/Suñol House Site

In the early morning of Tuesday, Jan. 10th, one of our worst local storms did damage to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County's Roberto Adobe & Suñol House Museum site at 770 Lincoln Avenue. The olive tree in the front yard cracked and a large part of the tree fell on our driveway gate and fence, damaging parts of the wooden gate and fence. Some of the fencing had recently been repaired with reproduced wood parts after a car drove into it several years ago.

There was also slight water leakage inside the Suñol House on the west side.

By the next day, Jan. 11th, President Tim Peddy contracted the removal of the tree and debris.

In addition to the storm damage, around Dec. 27th, a person was trespassing in the Adobe & Suñol House rear yard and threw objects at our back windows. Glass was broken and inside our vintage trolley-coin-deposit booth fell and was damaged. Then two days later, a person walking down the sidewalk in the front of the site threw solid objects at our front windows. The three broken windows were quickly replaced and the cost added to our maintenance budget. Fixing the trolley-coin-deposit booth will take more time and research.

It also was reported that our main sign in front of the house is in need of repair. It certainly does take a village to maintain a historic site.

(Continued pg. 3)



After splitting, a large part of the front olive tree crashed down on our driveway gate damaging the wood parts. Looking out from our driveway to Lincoln Avenue on January 10th.
(Photo: Tim Peddy)

Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Saturday, March 4th, 2023

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT

Banquet Room—1547 Meridian Ave. in San Jose

Luncheon Presentation

History of Schiele Subdivision and Alameda Park

By

**Krista Van Laan and
Kay Gutknecht**

Make Reservations by Wednesday, March 1st

Email to CaPioneerMembers@gmail.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 \$35

Pioneers do not make any profit from these charges.

Pay online or bring checks payable to
California Pioneers or credit card to Luncheon.

Menu Selections

Three Flames Special Steak

tri-tip steak topped with sautéed mushrooms

Breast of Chicken Sauté

Boneless breast with white wine & mushroom sauce

Grilled Salmon

[All above served with red potatoes & fresh vegetables]

Pasta Rosé

Penne Pasta, tomato-Alfredo sauce, mushrooms,
green onions and fresh basil

All 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 the separate banquet room entrance.*

Pioneers Luncheon Topic

The March meeting features authors Krista Van Laan and Kay Gutknecht, who will present highlights from their new book, *Schiele Subdivision and Alameda Park: History, Architecture, and Preservation in a San José Neighborhood*. The book tells the story of a historic San José neighborhood located less than a mile and a half from downtown, between The Alameda and Stockton Avenues.

The neighborhood was originally part of the Stockton Ranch. Founded in 1849, the Ranch was the site of much of San José's original agricultural development and home of early pioneers, including Judge Craven Hester, who settled on the big estates along The Alameda. In 1888, hotel owner and councilmember Charles Schiele created a namesake subdivision along what is today Schiele Avenue.

In 1922, Anthony Maderis developed a tract called Alameda Park on the surrounding land. Today, those two subdivisions are combined into one overlapping neighborhood with a strong community and charming architecture.

Along with the fascinating and sometimes surprising history of the area, the authors will show some of the neighborhood's architecture. The north side of Schiele Avenue is full of original Victorian homes including eight by Theodore Lenzen, who was San José's most important architect in the late 1800s. The Alameda Park portion of the neighborhood consists of Period Revival houses designed mostly by some of the best builders in San José.

(Continued Pg. 3)

Storm Damage (Continued)



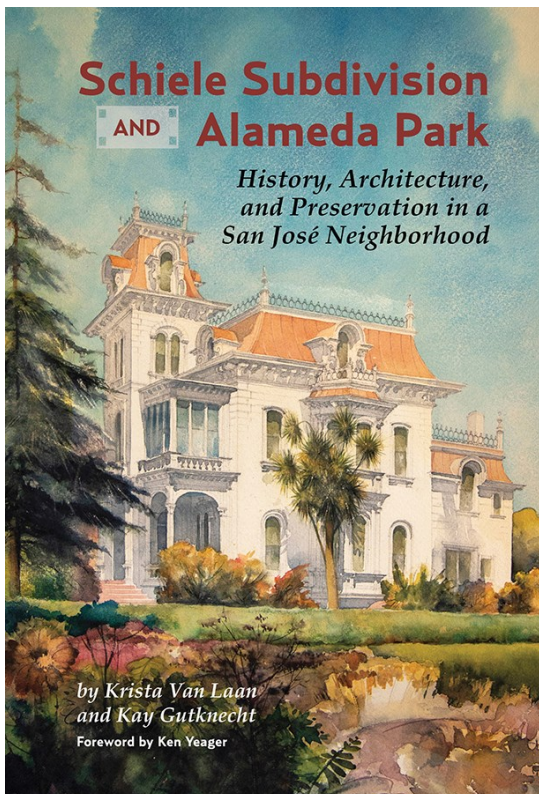
A large Olive tree branch broke off and fell on our gate/fence at the Adobe & Sunol House. Highway 280 is in the upper distance.

(Photos: Tim Peddy)



The newly restored decorative finial for the gate post sits on the ground after the storm.

Luncheon Topic (Continued)



Cover of the 2022 book, *Schiele Subdivision and Alameda Park: History, Architecture, and Preservation in a San José Neighborhood* by Krista Van Laan and Kay Gutknecht.

The cover is from a 1946 watercolor painting, by an unknown artist, of the Matilda Hill's mansion on The Alameda, built in 1870 and demolished in 1955. We'll hear the interesting story about the mansion and how the painting was acquired.

Trailblazer

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Gayle Frank, Editor

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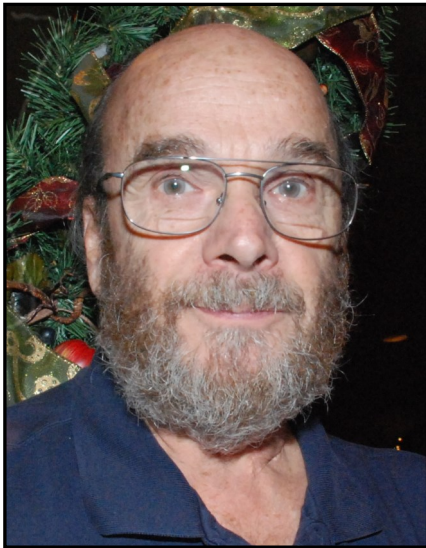
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President's Message

Congratulations to Tim Peddy, our new President of the CA Pioneers of Santa Clara County!

And a huge THANK YOU to Jim Zetterquist for serving as President for the last six years (2017-2022) and for previous additional terms as President in the earlier decade.



Tim Peddy, 2023 President

CA Pioneers of Santa Clara County

I want to wish you and your families a safe and Happy New Year. Thank you to the board for voting me president of this old (circa 1875) and prestigious historical group. It is my honor to serve and I will do my best to keep it going and growing as have the previous presidents that I am following.

To do this I will need your assistance by expressing yourselves as to what you feel is needed in this special and interesting organization. Working together we can get current projects completed and go on to more interesting historical endeavors to make Santa Clara Valley History interesting for all in our area.

We want to welcome new members and reach out to all letting you know

about our current and future projects through email and social media.

Most of our members now have e-mail capability, it was not always that way. In 2010 it was 21%; in early 2022 that number was 62% —however, there are 38% of our members who have not registered their email with us. If you know that we do not have your e-mail I would appreciate you letting us know. We promise your email address will not be given out and we reaffirm our pledge to not sell or reveal any personal information. Having your email address, we can keep you informed and you can let me and the board know your thoughts and ideas. It gives a line of communication that we don't have now.

I would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate Jim Zetterquist. The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County Board of Directors and I would like to thank Jim for his service to our organization for many years! We are grateful for his dedication to the Pioneers and our local history.



**Jim Zetterquist
Immediate Past President**

(Photo: Tim Peddy)

Jim and I have worked together on many projects since before 2010. He is a skilled craftsman of many talents, an author, and a proven lover of History. He is always available to assist and help. I have had the pleasure of his advice and counsel and hope to continue into the future.

Finally, 2023 is a new beginning for both the Pioneers members and me and I plan to do you proud. Hopefully I'll see you at our next quarterly luncheon on March 4th. ❖

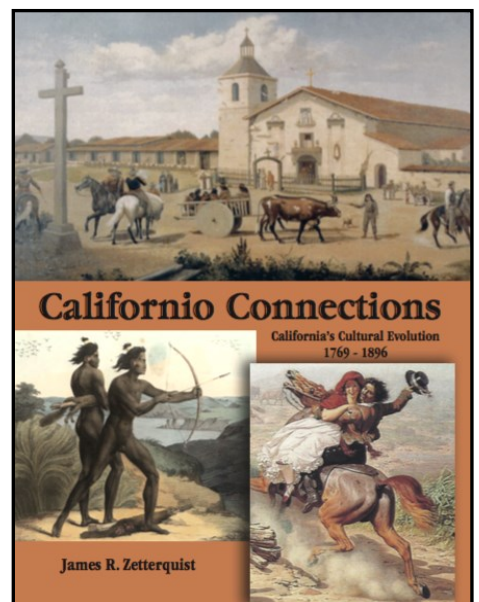
—Tim Peddy, President

Do We Have Your Current Email Address and Phone?

Send your new
contact info to

johnson2dee@gmail.com

Please notify us if you have a
new email address so we
can alert you to our events
or if we must cancel an event.



New Almaden Mines—December Luncheon Topic

Our Pioneers Holiday luncheon on December 3rd featured an outstanding presentation, “The Mercury Mines of New Almaden,” by Michael Cox, a geologist who has been working at the New Almaden Quicksilver Mines for over 40 years. He is an expert on its history and he brought samples of the ore (cinnabar) with early mining tools for us to examine.

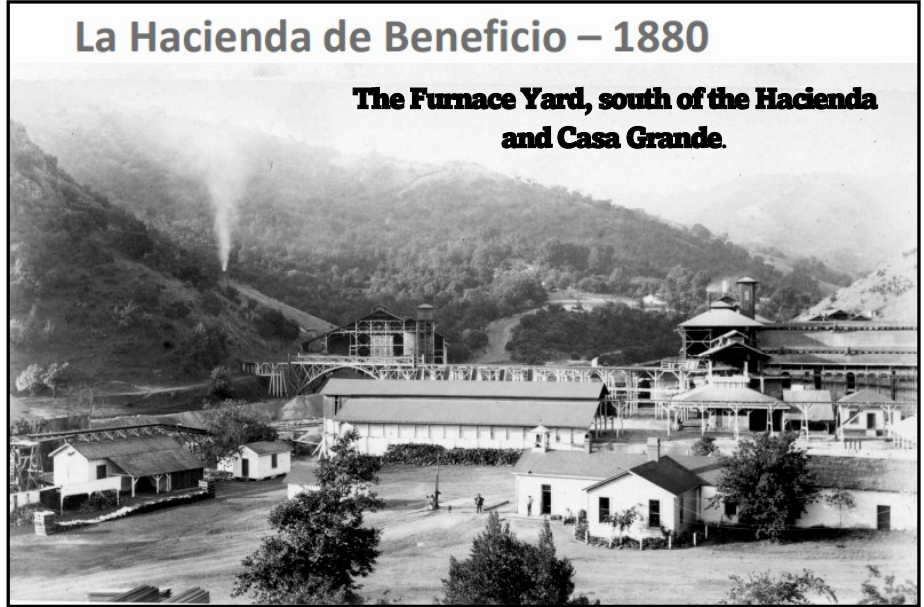
Michael began with information on mercury itself and where it is mined around the world. In previous times, mercury was a valuable and economic asset for separating gold or silver from ore. Spain had the world’s largest mercury mines—the Almaden Mine that was in production for centuries. With a nod to Spain’s facility, our local mine was called New Almaden which became at one time the world’s fifth largest mine in mercury production.

Michael explained that the New Almaden mercury mine, 12 miles south of San Jose, was “a big deal.” This important Bay Area industry was a significant chance for employment from 1854 until the late 1890s. It was the first official mining claim in California (1845), the largest mercury mine in North America, and the deepest in the world.

The New Almaden mines included a main mine with about 50 miles of underground workings. Six separate, smaller mines were also sources of cinnabar. The ore from this area contained the highest percentage of mercury per weight found throughout the world. In 1965, New Almaden and the mining lands were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Michael Cox
Nevada Mercury Mine,
2015 (Photo: C.A. Cox)

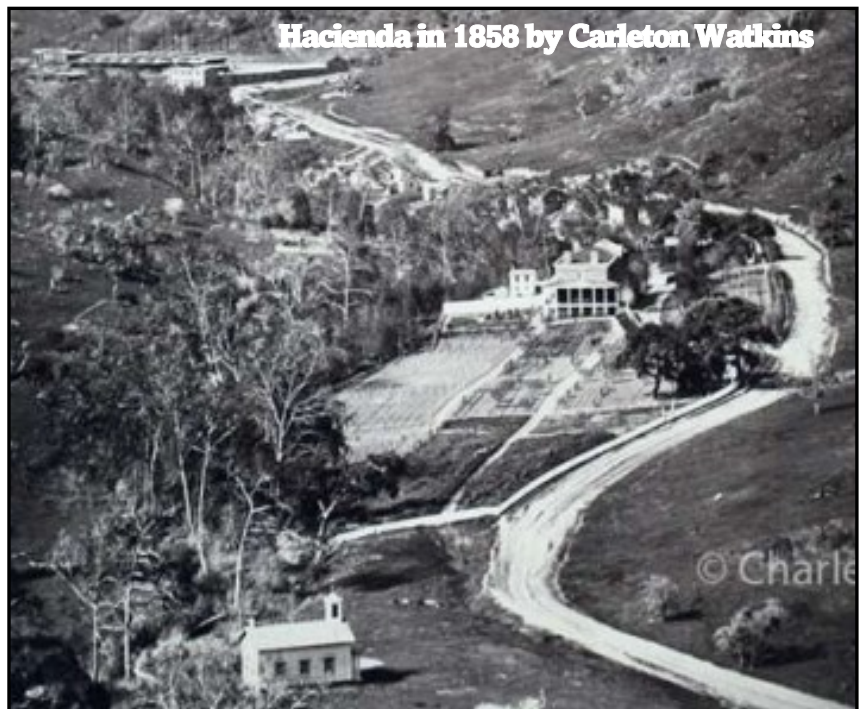


Locally, the indigenous people were well-aware of the cinnabar deposits for at least 2,000 years, using the ore for its vivid color in paintings, on skin, and decoration. The first non-indigenous man to learn of the cinnabar site was Secundino Robles, as you may have read about in *Californio Connections*.

Around 1845, owners Andres Castellero and his partners started mining the mercury with primitive methods, resulting

in highly toxic fumes produced. Basically, they used a huge whaling pot, heated up the ore with lime, collected the mercury vapor and then condensed it back to liquid. Castellero, a Captain in the Mexican Army, had to return to Mexico and while there, sold the mine to the English firm, Barron, Forbes & Co. that same year. The mine’s name Nuevo Almaden remained while Barron & Forbes installed new safer, more efficient brick

(Continued pg. 6)



New Almaden Mines (Continued)

Mexican Camp (Spanishtown) 1885



hours worked in the most hazardous environments.

Mined ore was delivered to the sorting sheds by mining gangs—each gang working as independent contractors who bid their set price for each 300 pounds of ore delivered to the sheds. Workers were paid in script and of course the prices at the New Almaden's two stores were higher due to transportation and management fees. At the furnaces after boiling the mercury into a pure vapor, it was condensed back into liquid and eventually poured into iron flasks for delivery.

The Hacienda village, north of the furnace yard, included the Superintendent's mansion (Casa Grande), which was to be a hotel in 1852-1854, but Superintendent Harry Halleck, who commissioned the construction, decided it was the most suitable place for him to reside. The village also held the Hacienda cemetery, the store, a school, a church, and larger cottages. The Casa Grande grounds were known for their lush gardens and a small vineyard. Casa Grande remained the Supervisor's residence for decades. The cottages close to the mansion were larger and usually inhabited by the mine management employees. *(Continued Pg. 7)*

batch furnaces by 1855, that enabled a better, higher yield production of mercury.

In 1850, Henry W. Halleck, who participated in the founding of California, was hired by Barron & Forbes to be New Almaden's Director General. (In 1861, Halleck left to be commanding general of the Western United States. In 1862, he became commanding general of all the Union armies and then Chief of Staff of the Army in 1864.)

In 1863, after years of litigation, Barron & Forbes was forced to sell the New Almaden Mine facility to the Quicksilver Mining Company of New York. Samuel Butterworth was now General Manager.

The miners at the New Almaden Mines lived at the hilltop workings on Mine Hill in Mexican Camp (Spanishtown) and English Camp (Englishtown.) The third settlement was the Hacienda. Spanishtown had an elementary school, a Catholic church, individual cottages, and boarding houses for single workers. Englishtown (the Hill) had the company's Hill office, store, library, boarding house, Methodist-Episcopal church, school, and infirmary. The Spanishtown

residents resented having to go to Englishtown to shop at the company store.

At first, the camps were rough and disorderly but by 1872, management took control, refurbished Spanishtown and ensured the two sites were more orderly and conducive for decent family living. The mining company installed Helping Hand Halls with books and a recreation area, one at the Hacienda and one on the Hill. The company also provided medical care while monitoring and limiting the

Englishtown – 1885

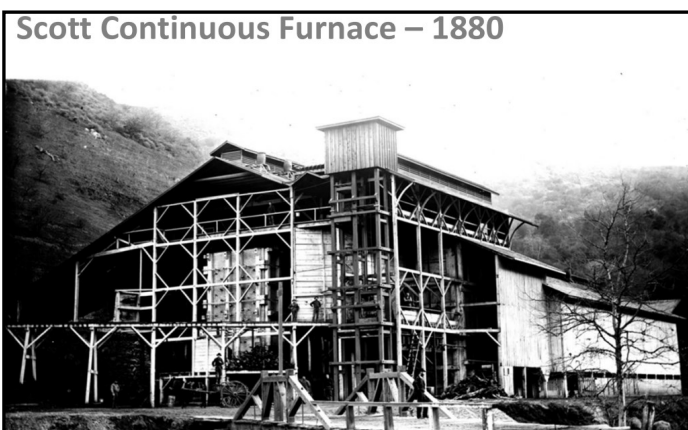


New Almaden Mines (Continued)

We also learned how the Chinese coveted our local cinnabar because of its slightly different composition; the red color was richer and more stable. To show their appreciation, around 1858, the Chinese shipped a beautiful Pagoda (called the Ting or teahouse) which was assembled and erected on the Casa Grande grounds by Chinese artisans. It was made from a rare Chinese redwood with inlaid pearl. By 1928 the Ting was disassembled but vandalism, theft and storms badly damaged what was left.

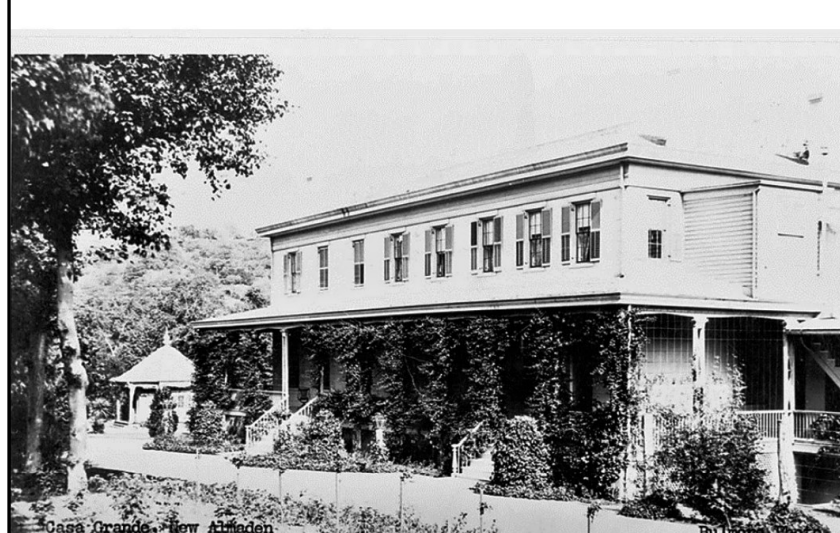
By 1875, the next best technological approach for recovering more of the mercury from ore, while being safer for workers, was the continuous Hüttner-Scott Furnace with a water-balanced system elevator for ore cars. It was still built with brick but was a success throughout the world's mercury mines by operating around the clock while economically roasting a much lower grade of ore. This resulted in a second wave of mercury production at New Almaden.

As the ore was depleted in one area, new sites were discovered to keep the New Almaden Mines alive. Under Superintendent James Randol a new, deeper deposit was discovered to the northwest but production here declined around 1885 until a reprieve came in 1892 when the great Harry ore body was discovered, tapping out around 1906.



CALIFORNIA PIONEERS TRAILBLAZER

La Casa Grande circa 1885



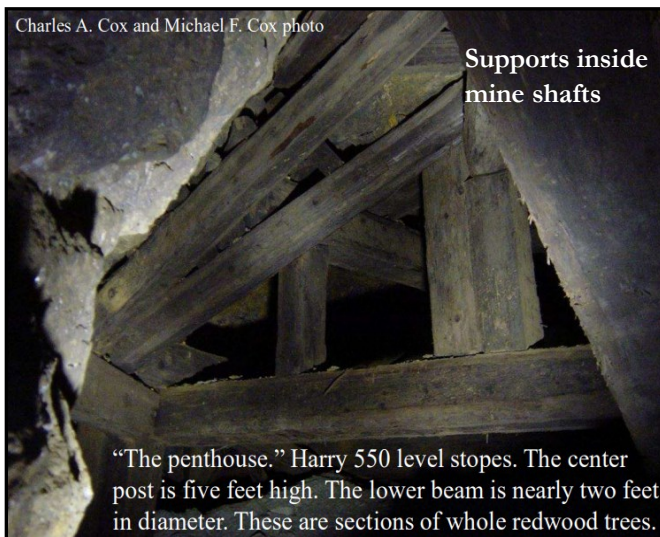
Note the Pagoda (Ting) to the left of Casa Grande

The next ore deposit discovery in 1916 was the Senator Mine farther northwest at the end of the property that supplied modest ore for about nine years. By then, mining was minimal; Spanishtown and Englishtown became ghost towns and production was significantly decreasing from about 1905 on. The company went bankrupt in 1925.

When WWII began, there was a renewed demand for mercury for explosives, munitions, and electrical devices. This resulted in a third wave of mining at New Almaden using open pits, huge amounts of low-grade ore, and the most efficient Herreshoff and rotary furnace kilns. The operation was now owned by The New Almaden Corporation and closed in November, 1945. The process was able to collect about five pounds of mercury per ton of ore, the lowest mercury content ever able to be economically processed.

Typically, the mine site could process 30-200 tons of ore per day, but the contaminated waste products, simply dumped on nearby hillsides, became a serious environmental concern.

In 1956, a 30-tpd (ton-per-day) furnace was installed for smaller mercury production by a private owner. In 1968, the final corporate attempt to mine more mercury from the New Almaden mines occurred when the New Idria Mining and Chemical Company purchased the site and reopened the mines after finding an ore deposit underneath previous workings. A new 100-tpd rotary furnace was built next to the older 30-tpd furnace which they refurbished. *(Cont'd pg. 8)*



Charles A. Cox and Michael F. Cox photo

Supports inside mine shafts

“The penthouse.” Harry 550 level stopes. The center post is five feet high. The lower beam is nearly two feet in diameter. These are sections of whole redwood trees.

New Almaden Mines (Continued)

It operated until 1972 and thereafter sold most of the equipment and leased the Hill area and the 30-tpd furnace, which alone remained, to individual miners until 1975. Much earlier, Casa Grande and grounds were turned into the popular Club Almaden in 1927.

The New Almaden mine officially closed in 1975, when all mining leases were cancelled. By then, significant mercury mining had ceased in the U.S. The site became a county park the next year. It took many years for the environmental clean-up, restoration of the land, and securing the mine shafts, but some mercury is still present at the site, bioaccumulated and persistent in the environment. ❖

—Gayle Frank

Michael Cox, a founding Board member of the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association (NAQCPA), has contributed to park projects such as mine closure, environmental investigations, and developed interpretive resources. He holds a BSc geology and a MSc international supply management.

Mercury Mining Interpretive Center



Left, award-winning photo of restored Casa Grande at New Almaden by Ron Hori.

Sources: *Thank you to Michael Cox for his New Almaden presentation slides and the use of his photos. Photos Copyright: M.F. Cox, distribute freely for non-commercial use.*

Visit www.newalmaden.org/ to learn more about the Quicksilver Park and the map of trails and historic sites. The recently (2009) restored 1854 Casa Grande is now a museum with part of the structure illustrating the interior mansion in the 19th century while the ground level holds the New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum, illustrating the early mining methods.



Update on December Trailblazer Cover Story

Here is the final result of Eric Johns' 7-month restoration of the Morántes gravesite at the Hacienda Cemetery in New Almaden.

Eric tells us, "The grave site was 13 inches off level, 25% of the crib had rotted away – and the wooden marker with its 5 deep gouges, gun shots, rot, split boards and many missing letters and words has all been restored – it will last a very long time."

The label on the crib states:

**Refugio Morántes de Rodrigues
Died August 23, 1866, age 23 years**

**The California Pioneers of Santa Clara
County heartily thank Eric Johns for this
beautiful restoration!**

(Photo: Eric Johns)

Roses for Luncheon Guests

The CA Pioneers of Santa Clara County have a policy of presenting roses to the most senior of our members at the December luncheon.

On Dec. 3rd, Roses were first given to those 90 years or more to Jan Paul, Rudi Herz and Carol Arnoldy.

More roses were given out to those over 80. Pictured right is Jim Zetterquist giving Bill Von Waden a red rose.

(Photo: Patt Curia)



“Original Land Grants” (Cont’d)

Peralta. Much of it is now owned by Maximo Martinez. Part of this land was the property of the Hotalings of San Francisco. Mr. Martinez’ daughter is now living in San Jose. She is very old, but she has a clear memory of the Corte Madera days and of her father’s war with squatters.

Editor’s note: There are two reasons this article does not cover all the ranchos. 1) The author titles this article Part II. Part I seems to be missing from the archives. 2) Back in 1916 when this article was written, rancho records were not complete. Below is a recent list of all the ranchos granted from New Spain/Mexico in Santa Clara Valley.

These are the most important Spanish grants, but they do not by any means include all the land of Santa Clara County. There were always great tracts near Saratoga and Los Gatos where, until the Americans came, the only title was possessed by the coyotes, bear, antelope and elk.”

—Evening News, October 31, 1916

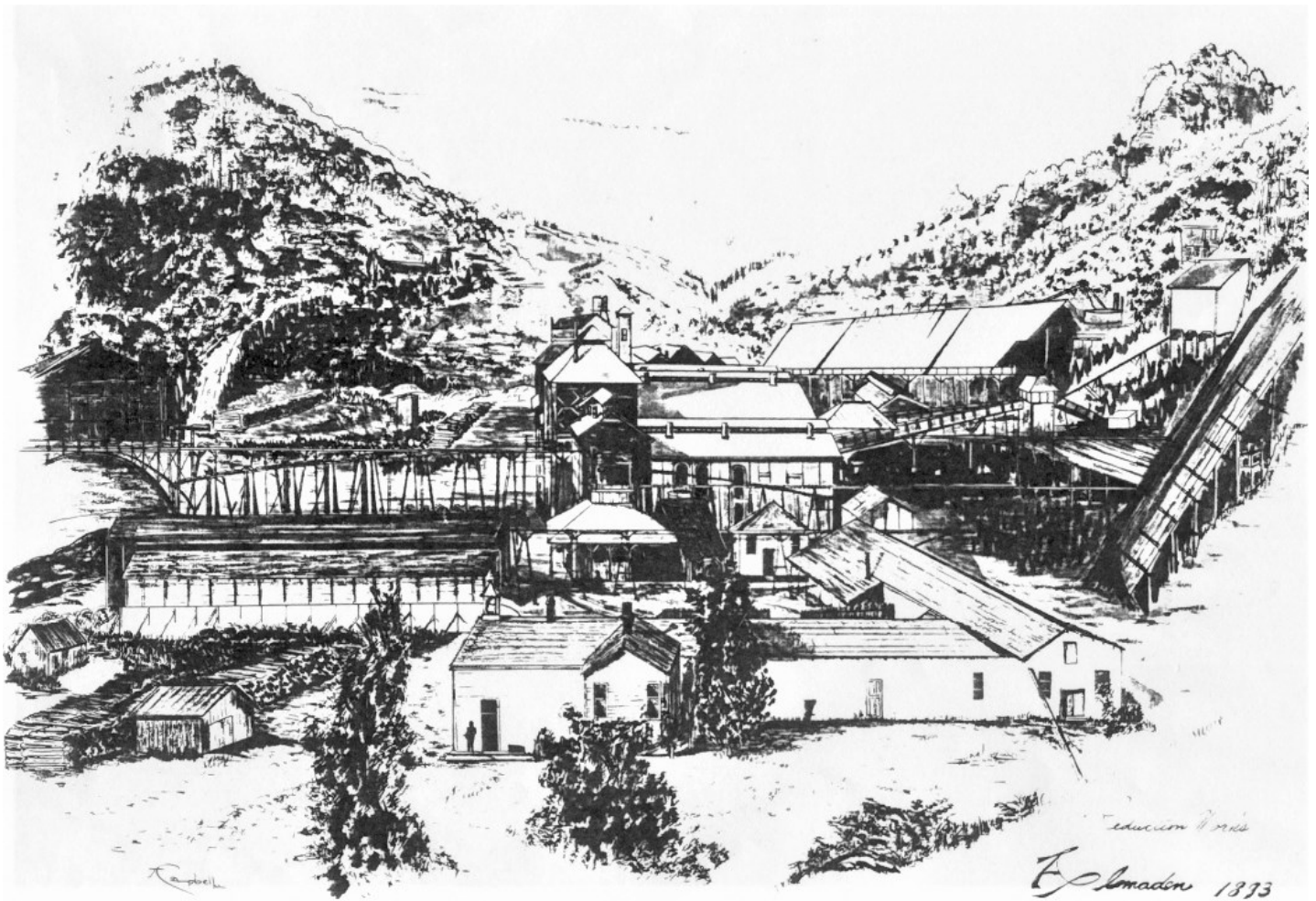
¹ José Maria Alviso built this single story adobe in 1837. The family remodeled and enlarged it with a wooden second story in 1853 (below). It has been beautifully restored and may soon be open for visitors.



39 Ranchos in Santa Clara Valley

- | | |
|--|---|
| Rancho San Antonio de Padua | Rancho Potrero de Santa Clara |
| Rancho Ausaymas y San Felipe | Rancho Quito |
| Rancho Cañada de los Capitancillos | Rancho Llano de Tesquisquita |
| Rancho Cañada de Pala | Rancho Los Coches |
| Rancho Cañada de San Felipe y Las Animas | Frenchman's Tower |
| Rancho Cañada del Corte de Madera | Rancho Rincón de los Esteros |
| Rancho Corte de Madera | Rancho Rincon de San Francisquito |
| Rancho Juristac | Rancho Rinconada de Los Gatos |
| Rancho La Purísima Concepción | Rancho Rinconada del Arroyo de San Francisquito |
| Rancho Refugio de la Laguna Seca | Rancho San Francisco de las Llagas |
| Rancho Las Animas | Rancho San Francisquito |
| Rancho Las Uvas | Rancho San Juan Bautista |
| Rancho Los Capitancillos | Rancho San Luis Gonzaga |
| Rancho Los Huecos | Rancho San Vicente |
| Rancho Los Tularcitos | Rancho San Ysidro |
| Rancho Milpitas | Rancho Santa Teresa |
| Rancho Ojo del Agua de la Coche | Rancho Solis |
| Rancho Pala | Rancho Ulistac |
| Rancho Pastoria de las Borregas | Rancho Yerba Buena |
| Rancho Posolmi | |

New Almaden Reduction Works, 1880—Sketch by Jim Campbell



This drawing is a slightly different view than the photo on page 5.

This illustration of the Reduction Works of Almaden was made from a glass photographic plate in 1880 when the mine was operating at high capacity.

The discovery of cinnabar (mercury ore) in the hills south of San Jose in November 1845 preceded the Coloma gold discovery of January, 1848 by 27 months. Christened “New Almaden” after Spain’s famous mining town of Almaden, the mines eventually produced over \$70,000,000 in quicksilver, which was essential in the extraction of gold from ore.

The front part of the building in the foreground, which was the mine office, was one of the last remaining buildings to stand. In its final days, it served as a dwelling occupied by a man named Harry Austin. Today nothing remains of this scene of 1880, but the memory of the heydays at the Hacienda of Almaden will last forever.

In an interesting sidenote: In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln was advised to evict the occupants and take possession of the New Almaden Mines for the U.S. This act would be an advantage for winning the Civil War.

In July 1863, the Federal Agent and Marshall arrived at New Almaden with the writ to eject. They were met with angry miners with guns. Federal troops were ready to roll from the San Francisco Presidio when Henry Halleck, General Chief of the Army countermanded Lincoln’s order and the troops withdrew.

Lincoln quickly recognized his mistake which would have resulted in California possibly joining the Confederacy over fears that all CA mines would be taken over by the U.S. By August, Barron & Forbes Co., an English firm, sold the mine to New York’s Quicksilver Mining Co. and all was resolved. ❖

Source: “Down Memory Lane: Illustrations of San Jose & Surrounding Points of Interest,” by Jim H. Campbell, 2015.

History Class Visits Roberto Adobe



Members of the Santa Clara Valley History class visit our Roberto Adobe & Suñol House on Nov. 16th.

(Photo: Stephen Meier)

The Santa Clara Valley History class took a field trip to the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House on Nov. 16th. The class is offered through CACE, Campbell Adult and Community Education, and continually runs through September to May.

Class instructor Paul Boehm, Mary Hanel, and Sylvia Hew were docents for the 28 visitors. In the photo above, guests are viewing the interior of the c. 1836 adobe built by Tamien tribe member Roberto Balermino who worked the land for Mission Santa Clara. He was born and raised on this rancheria. In 1844, Roberto was emancipated by Mexico's Alta California Governor Manuel Micheltoarena. As a citizen he was granted the 2,219 acre Rancho de los Coches (Ranch of the pigs) where he owned his adobe, corral, gardens, cattle, orchard and plows. Roberto also had his own brand to mark his cattle.

Reproductions of tools and the primitive furniture are on

display along with cooking tools in the center for those bad weather meals. Outside the Horno, a concrete oven, is an example of where Roberto and his family baked their food.

The Adobe is small with a short attic above its ceiling for storing food and sometimes sleeping. The Balerminos planted, harvested, herded, slaughtered and butchered, salt-preserved, dried, processed and cooked food. Other chores included making furniture, mending fences, and repairing roofs. The whole family helped and they often worked from sunrise to sunset.

The members of the class enjoyed the tours through the Adobe, and the Suñol House attached to the Adobe.

The museum offers a tour through many eras, and highlights the occupants who lived there. It is open on most Saturdays from 12-2 pm. *(See second photo next page)*

Meet Our New Board Members

Meg North Taylor

Meg North Taylor is a communications leader with more than 20 years of experience at corporations, startups, and agencies. Currently, she is a senior manager of internal communications at Advanced Micro Devices, the leader in high-performance computing and adaptive technologies.



Meg North Taylor

Excited about strengthening communities, Meg is the founder and volunteer executive director of Lending Promise, a nonprofit organization that provides microcredit to mothers in Nepal and India. She is also a former board member of the South Bay Historic Preservation Foundation and a former member of Rotary. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in journalism and economics from Indiana University before starting her career as an editor for Good Housekeeping Magazine in New York City. Meg and her husband, Arthur Taylor, a long-time Rotarian and retired counselor, have a daughter, Jamie, who is a student at Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass.

A native of New Jersey, Meg has called San Jose home for 22 years.

Welcome to the Board!

Rachel Fischer

Thank you to everyone who supported my nomination to the Board of Pioneers and my new assignment as Education Director. My educational background includes a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Oral Roberts University, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Rachel McDaniel Fischer

I am so excited to get started. I have been a dedicated public servant as a Deputy Probation Officer for the Santa Clara County Probation Department for the past 16 years. I live in Almaden Valley with my husband, Bill, of 18 years, my two sons, William and Christopher, and our beloved schnauzer Mr. Pickles.

I have been a member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and have served as docent for the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House since 2015. Fun Fact: William, Christopher, and I, along with several Pioneers volunteers helped place the large tree which is now housed in the Suñol Room at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House museum. I look forward to making the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County the best it can be.

Welcome to the Board!

History Class Visits Roberto Adobe

(Cont'd)

During their tour of the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House, Members of the Santa Clara Valley History class gather in the rear yard behind the Suñol House and Adobe. Note: our patio covering has been removed and the fig tree significantly trimmed back.

(Photo: Daryl Lee)



CA Pioneers of SCC New Members— Welcome!

Sandy Baily & John Townsend

Betty Faultner

Helen Johnson

Peggy Lehman

Elizabeth McGlaulin (Loomis level)

Ronald Royal

Donations

“In memory of Joe Melehan and in honor of Jim Zetterquist with gratitude for Joe’s award earlier this year (2022) and for all your work.

—The Melehan Family”

Joe played a very early and important role in starting the Pioneers film program, and was a co-founder of the Fruit Cocktail Club, which presented films from the Pioneer collection. The family would like to have the donation (\$2,500) directed towards the Pioneers’ new film equipment or a specific film project. Thank you!

Roberto Adobe & Suñol House

770 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose

NOW OPEN

Saturday Free Tours—12-2 PM
Not open on major holiday weekends



The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

**2023 dues for CA Pioneers of Santa
Clara County due
on January 1st, 2023**

Regular membership is still only \$35 (Family \$60)

Please Mail your check to: CA Pioneers of SCC.
Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208,
San Jose, CA, 95155
OR

Renew online at: www.CaliforniaPioneers.com

How to Make Payments to CA Pioneers of SCC Online

At www.CaliforniaPioneers.com, click on ‘Support’ at the top of the page and then ‘Contribute.’ Choose the amount you wish to pay (as an example, \$35 for regular membership renewal or \$60 for family renewal). Don’t type in the \$ sign. Then click the box saying “I would like this donation to go to a specific fund,” followed by choosing “Renew Membership” or memorial donations or contributions to certain projects.

Membership Report

The membership dues for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are **due on January 1st every year**. Basic dues are still only \$35 (\$60 for family).

If not already paid, please pay your membership renewal for 2023. Renewal notices were sent out in December. Dues can be paid online (see page 14) or mailed to CA Pioneers of SCC, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA, 95155.

Check your mailing label on your Trailblazer

and it will indicate when your dues expire. For example, if after your name it says, Dec-2023, your Pioneers membership is up-to-date until the end of 2023.

Additional donations or higher membership levels are always appreciated. Visit www.CaliforniaPioneers.com for more details. And please, don't forget the Pioneers in your estate planning and consider donating from your IRA's required minimum distribution to lower your taxes. ❖

**For Questions
contact
Membership Chair
Tudy Johnson
at
johnson2dee@gmail.com**

Time Travel *(Past News from Newspaper Archives)*

San Jose, 1867-8: The rainfall here was high enough to give thoughts of a Noah's Ark. Unofficial records indicate over 40 inches fell while several houses left for Alviso without their owners' permission.

Gilroy, 1870: Gilroy operated a brewery using local malt and hops while barreling over 1100 kegs the first thirsty year. To boot, the San Filipe Tobacco Co. was providing our country neighbors with a popular cigar. Also, two business-bent comrades went to scraping alkali off the edges of San Filipe Lake (Soap Lake) and ventured into soap production.

San Jose, 1884: A.J. Fowler, an Evergreen rancher, contributed the seedling eucalyptus trees which sky-scaped and double-rowed the Alum Rock Avenue until the 1950s. The Avenue was established by the Santa Clara County Supervisors in June 1866.

San Jose 1902: The Remillard Brick Company on Story Road began operations on May 5, 1902. The total capacity, the largest in the state, was 82,000 bricks per day, or a total of 10 million bricks for an average season's run. Fall and winter rains usually curtailed operations.

San Jose, 1906: Plans were made to plant the Penitencia Creek at Alum

Rock Park with 50,000 hatchery fish for the benefit of the excursionists according to Game Warden Koppel.

San Jose, 1915: Residents and visitors should not overlook the Blossom Loop Trolley Special. Interurban cars departed from the Bassett Street Depot and began a 65-mile moving picture whirl through the heart of the valley—all for one dollar. Ads proclaimed, "It's like going through heaven" ❖



Interurban electric R.R.

Sunshine Chair
If a Pioneers member is ill or needs cheering up, notify Madeline Streight at:
408-259-4422 or madeline.streight@att.net

Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills



Nancy Clish
Mildred Fitzgerald
Irene Johnson

Dennis Mena
Susan Sargent



CALIF. PIONEERS of SANTA CLARA CO.

Established 1875

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Additional Positions

Jonna Baker, Volunteer Coordinator, Paulson House

Rick Helin, Pioneers Film Archives

Phil Johnson, Roberto Adobe/Suñol House Supervisor

Jim Campbell, Resident Artist for CA 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