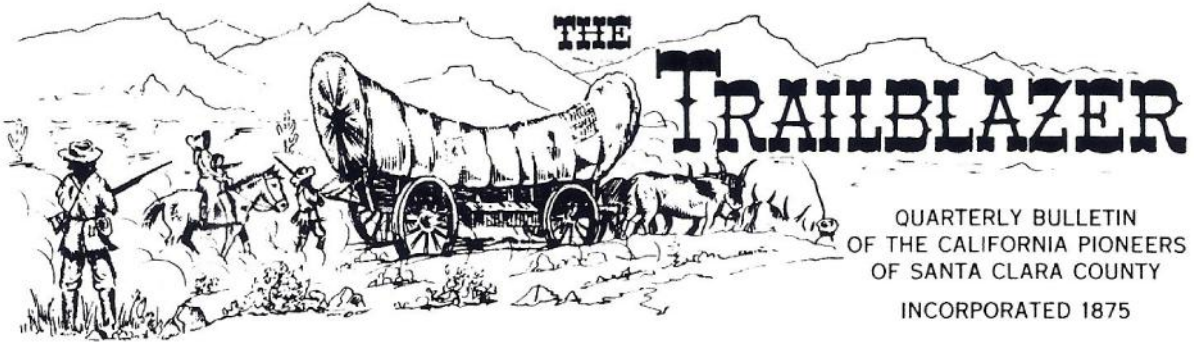


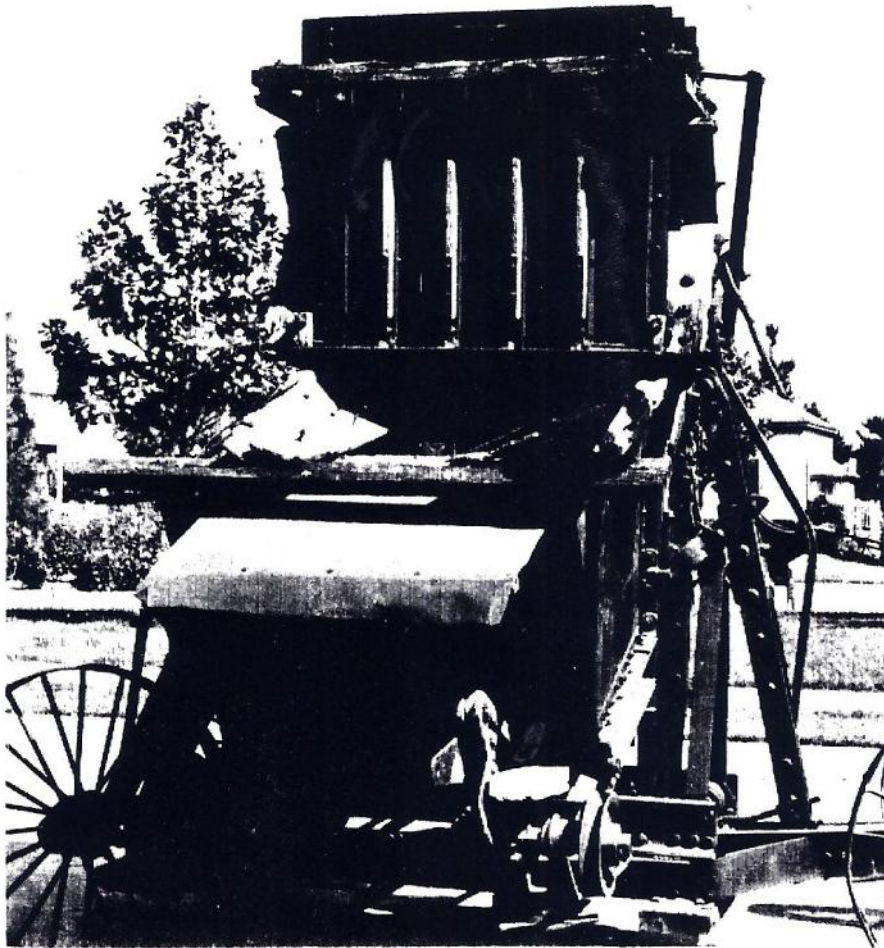


QUARTERLY BULLETIN
OF THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY
INCORPORATED 1875

Volume 19

August 1979

Number 3



Bernal's 'Monarch'



Retired Hay Press

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM



WHALE BLAZERS

San Jose — Oct. 15, 1853: — California's first inter-city telegraph service had just linked San Francisco with San Jose. The first message tapped out between the two cities was far from stirring. It was an order from San Francisco for ten half-barrels of "clean pork."

San Jose — Oct. 2, 1876: — James Lick, millionaire and philanthropist, was dead. In his \$500 casket the body of the departed man was surrounded with more costly fittings than in a lifetime he spared for his personal comfort.

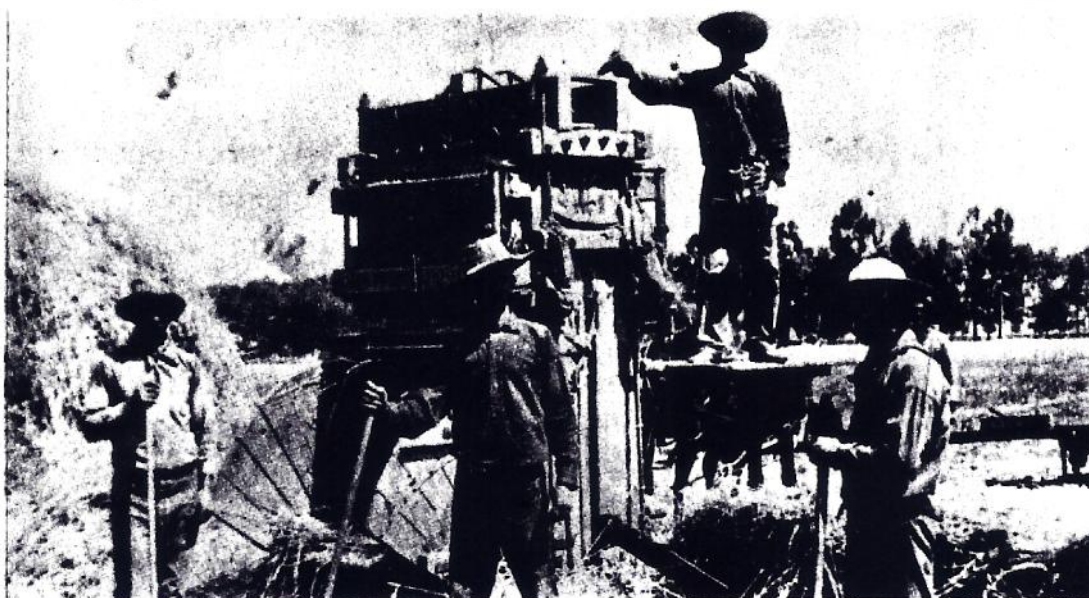
San Jose — July 1892: — Work on the Alum Rock Park bath house was progressing and a new tank house was being considered for a sum of \$370. The swimming pool was built by C. L. Otto for \$1500 on plans furnished by Jacob Lenzen, free of charge.

San Jose — July 1892: — Police Officer Reed said a horse without a driver found untied downtown would be conducted to the nearest livery stable, where, on payment of 25 cents, the owner could recover his rig.

San Jose — August 17, 1892: — The squirrel tail bounty had just expired after three months. The bushy tail marauders were money in the bank for those who hunted them down. According to reports 126,000 tails poured into the county office where a bounty of three cents was paid for each tail.

San Jose — August 1892: — A San Josean favored a proposal which was a success in Southern California. He recommended the city plant walnuts or seedling oranges and other fruit-bearing trees along city streets. It was the belief that in 10 years, in the case of walnuts, or five years with the oranges, the return from the trees would pay all expenses of city street work and improvements.

San Jose — Sept. 28, 1892: — Four carrier pigeons were released bound for Chicago. The birds were brought here by a salesman for Marshall Field Co. of Chicago. Attached to the pigeons were clothing orders for the local Hobson & Co. store.



Valley historian Gene Vennum shares this yesteryear photo of the four Kelihier brothers, John, Bill, Dan and Dennis, of Evergreen with their new hay press. Evergreen produced much hay and grain in the early days says Gene, who was related to the Kelihers.

THE GOOD OLD HAY PRESS DAYS

By 1895 it was “high noon” for the valley’s hay baling circuit as crews were proclaimed the kingpins of the vast sweep of the hay ranch regions.

During the Spanish American War the demand for valley hay soared as tons left Alviso by barge for shipment from San Francisco for the Philippines.

According to a 1901 newspaper account the competitive hay presses of the day, the Petaluma and the Monarch, were belching 30 to 40 tons per day with their crews of six or eight. “And they were not the banty-sized bales a Boy Scout can toss into a station wagon today,” says Clyde Arbuckle whose family were already hay press veterans the early part of the century.

Matt and Theresa Coronado, who operate their popular boarding stable on Piedmont Road, say they are paying \$65 a ton for today’s “instant” mini-bales of 125 pounds that old timers called the “half bale.” “But our boarders still eat like horses,” quips Theresa.

Hay press hands were in clover seventy to eighty years ago, claiming 15 to 18 cents a ton in wages. The grower paid a dollar a ton to the press owner leaving the hay rancher with a respectable market of \$12 to \$14 a ton for himself. Price varied little among early balers; the charge often depended on the amount baled. To move an outfit a short distance for a few tons cost the grower more.

Joe Dempsey on Metcalf Road speaks of the World War I years and how his brothers, Al and John, the late Municipal Judge, teamed on

their father, John F. Dempsey's well seasoned hay press operation. "Bales were well over 200 pounds but a top baler handled them like candy bars," says Joe who recalls those youthful high-g geared seasons with enthusiasm when it was strictly all man and non-mechanized horse power.

Charlie Espinosa, retired San Jose Public Works foreman, likes to reminisce on the active stint he put in with the Dempsey's in 1911. "I worked with the champs of their day," beams Charlie. Espinosa also recalls Ramon Chaboya and his sons Ray, Bill and Polly who made impressions with their Union hay press near Evergreen around 1908. The hay press era indeed earned a place in the hearts of the Espinosa household; the five Montoya brothers who worked a Petaluma in the Uvas district after 1905 were related to Marie, Charlie's wife.

Hugh Edes, a Morgan Hill native and retired San Jose detective sergeant remembers well the Byer brothers, Justin and Morse, who did a heavy share of hay pressing with their rig in the Gilroy area about 1912.

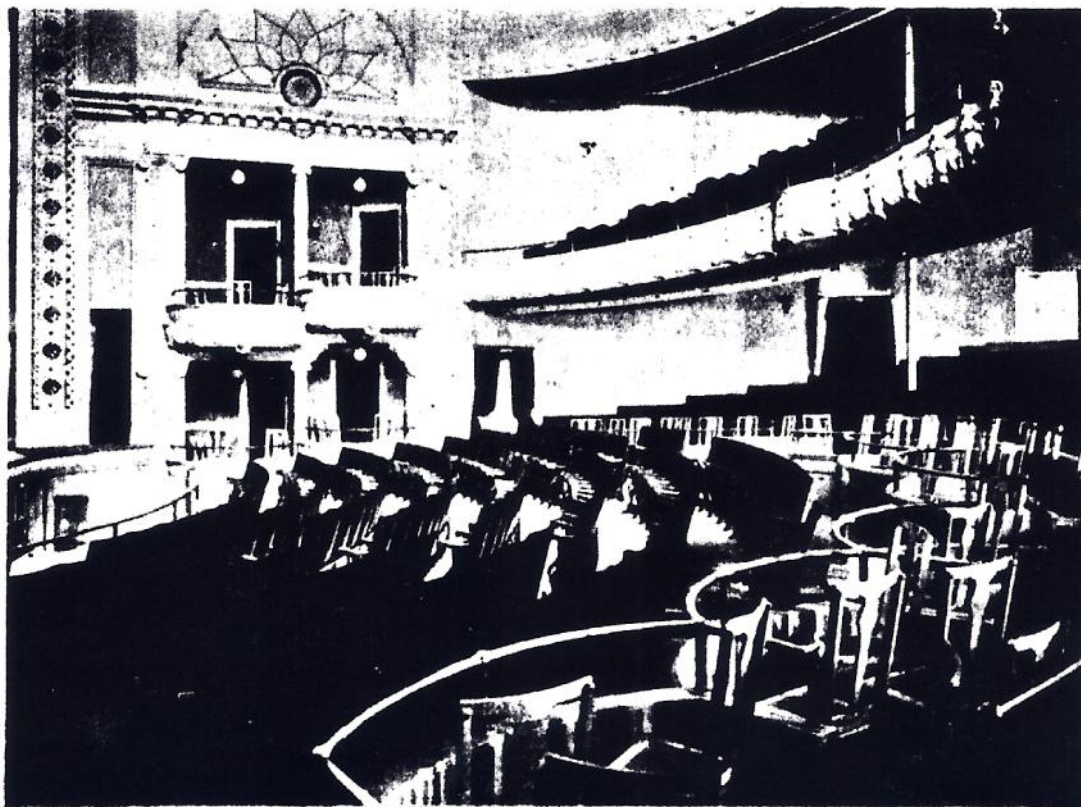
Baling rope was used as a bind for years, taking up to six pounds per ton. For a time the San Francisco Hay Association refused to buy wirebound hay. However, when rope increased in price, the Association soon bowed to wire as it proved to cinch deeper and ship safer.

The grower fed the work animals, but not the men, unless a special agreement stated otherwise. This is when the cook wagon was put to use, often presided over by the press owner's wife. The hay gang's long day created whooping appetites amounting to five "breaks" a day, all resulting in substantial stuffings.

The late John Rogers with his horse drawn butcher van often supplied hefty meat cuts to the Overfelt and Bernal hay press cook house wagons in the East Valley around 1918. Years after, John was still an avid hay press booster. "Best place in the world for top hand chow," he often recalled patting his well-extended paunch.

Old time hay balers worked from the time they could see in the morning until dark. The hay stack was where they bedded down. The saying went that a California hay baler would think himself everlastingly disgraced if caught sleeping in a store-bought bed while out with a crew.

An 1892 news item stated how Tony Guyton, a hay press foreman in Milpitas, challenged any and all hay press crews in the county against time for a week. We do not know the results of Tony's hay quest, nonetheless, according to farm reports of the day an 80,000 ton hay region output kept hay press troops, like Tony's, bustling in the good ole summertime until the drastic decline of the old gray mare, the harnessmaker and the Horseshoers' Alliance Association.



VICTORY THEATRE FIRST-NIGHTER-1899

BY FRANCES L. FOX

The theatres of San Jose that were famous in an earlier era are now names packed away in the lavender of remembrance.

An event ranking high on the list of San Jose's great social events was the gala opening of the Victory Theatre on the evening of February 2, 1899. An exuberant audience rose in tremendous spontaneous acclaim for the opening performance of "School for Scandal" with Harry Langdon who later went on to international fame.

The Victory Theatre, named in honor of Admiral George Dewey's victory at Manila Bay in the Spanish American War, was built by San Francisco's mayor, James D. Phelan, who later became United States Senator in 1915.

An elegant souvenir keepsake program for the opening night featured an embossed photograph of Admiral Dewey on its cover. Mayor Phelan gave the dedicatory address while Manager Charles P. Hall reassured the audience bookings for the season included music, comedy, tragedy and drama.

Advertising embellished with Victorian Art throughout the program revealed the life style of San Jose. For instance, Dashaway Stables, 130 S. Second Street, featured carriages finely equipped with the best of service; A. A. Schoenheit, Drugs and Photo Supplies, 72 S. Se-

cond Street while Dr. C. C. Marckres, dentist, offered "improved electrical appliances used, combined with the latest methods." Angevine, the Tailor, at 39 S. Second Street, announced his services through an imaginative ditty:

"Clothes do not make the man perhaps,
But if he's poor in dress,
The world is bound to notice it
And somehow love him less."

Alviso was still an active seaport as late as 1899. The Steamer F. M. Smith of the Commodore Line urged people to take a delightful trip on the Bay with special attention given to hunting and bicycle parties. This fast boat, equipped to carry 250 passengers, could accommodate 100 sleepers and had handsome social rooms, piano and all conveniences for salt water baths. Meals were 25¢, berths 25¢, and salt water baths 25¢.

For the next 22 years the Victory Theatre offered the cream of eastern dramatic attractions booked for the Pacific Coast. Included in the list of celebrities who played here were: Maude Adams, Billie Burke, Blanche Bates, Sarah Bernhardt, Ethel Barrymore, Anna Held, George M. Cohen, Otis Skinner and several opera companies.

Mary Doeltz donated the Victory Souvenir Program to the San Jose Historical Museum for its library. Her grandmother attended the opening night festivities.

SARATOGA SUNSHINE

In 1900 a group of involved Saratoga citizens prepared a booklet filled with informative questions and answers usually asked by interested parties back East. It was called *Saratoga Sunshine*.

Q. How much would a pleasantly located, eight-room, two story cottage cost in your area?

A. To build such a house would cost from \$1500 to \$2500 according to finish.

Q. What is the price of board in the average good class boardinghouse?

A. From \$3 to \$12 a week according to accommodations and tastes.

Q. Are there many insects; as flies, mosquitoes, fleas, etc.?

A. Flies and mosquitoes are not excessive. A lively dog can corral most of the fleas on a small ranch.

Q. What is the price of a good carriage horse?

A. A good horse can be had for \$50. A \$100 horse is sometimes worth more than twice as much.

Q. What is the price of a single seated carriage (for two)?

A. From \$75 to \$150 for a new carriage, second-hand at large discounts.

Q. How are houses lighted?

A. Tallow and sperm candles, coal oil, gasoline and acetylene gas; electricity and coal gas in the towns.

Q. What is used for fuel, and is it expensive?

A. Wood is from \$3 to \$8 a cord; coal from \$7 to \$12 a ton. Cooking and lighting by gasoline for an eight room house costs less than \$60 a year.

Q. What is the price of board at the nearest mountain resort?

A. Prices at Congress Springs, one mile from Saratoga are \$10 to \$14 a week.

Q. Could bees be kept with profit?

A. If you knew how to get them, there are honey and money in bees.

Welcome New Members

Doris Adamo
Joseph Adamo
Christie M. Barrie
Barbara Benevento
Benjamin Benevento
Forrest M. Brown
Jane Brown
Doris E. Carr
Nancy Ann Carter
Mildred E. Cooley
Joy E. Cusick
Doris B. Dunphy
Estelle Estensen
Laverne D. Farnese
Marietta Good
Nellie Grau

Claude Harrison
Edna Harrison
Tillie Ignoffo
Elaine E. Johns
Vivian D. Juarez
Jessie H. Kay
Dorothy Lew
Harry T. Lew
Dorothy Marcyes
Vernie Marcyes
Helen S. Martin
Wilna B. Martin
Ida Merrill
Ann M. Mestice
Madeline V. Mestice

Josephine E. Mitchell
Rose M. Norton
Dorothy N. Osman
Marie Paddock
Charlotte Palmer
Leona Silva
Antone D. Simas
Mary Simas
Jean M. Stilwill
Alfred Tarot
Grace Watts
Rose Tootelian
Angela Walter
Standley Walter
Ethel M. Whiteman
Mary Zuccaro



Beyond the sunset

Alfred L. Batchelor
May Etna Hoover

Donald G. Keener

Theresa Lance
Annie T. Peters



Donald O. De Mers, Jr.

FAMILY HISTORY

At the last quarterly meeting, an excellent example of research and writing of a family history was presented by Wilma Tognazzini. Dealing with life on a farm in Southern California and in the Santa Clara Valley, her paper used original photos and letters to depict in detail a way of life that is now gone from the experiences of most of the people now living in the Valley.

Very few people are authors in a professional sense, but how many times have you come across letters, scrapbooks and photographs from your family that have a wider historical application? Did your parents or grandparents ever visit Alum Rock Park and record their visit with a camera? Did your relatives ever visit Mt. Hamilton using the exciting and sometimes dangerous stage road and live to write the story to their more sedate eastern cousins?

Look around your attic, garage, barn, or dresser drawers! You too may discover the very items that can make history live again.

* * * * *

On April 22, 1977 St. Joseph's Church was designated a State of California Historic Landmark. Three plaques commemorating its honored status will be mounted shortly. A scroll is to be sealed within the plaque monument containing signatures of all who wish to donate toward the restoration of St. Joseph's. For further details call Margaret Zaro at 244-7317 or Agnes Solari at 264-8593.

The Trailblazer is happy to announce that James Bernard of Leland High School and Joyce Link, a former librarian, received the \$200 premium awards in our organization's recent Annual Historical Essay Contest. Bernard's essay focused on the Almaden Branch Railroad of 1886. Mrs. Link, a descendant of the pioneer Reed family, took first in the general category with "A Letter from an Immigrant." Our congratulations!

A recent item in the Trailblazer on the Lyric Theatre brings this memento from Mrs. Ruth Butcher of Santa Clara. "My husband, Roy M. Butcher, bought the Lyric Theatre in 1912 and operated the moving

picture machine. He went to San Francisco each morning to get the days' feature. After we were married, I sold tickets and my sister Vera peddled the player piano. We showed such pictures as "Perils of Pauline" with Pearl White. On these occasions we raised the price from ten cents to twenty-five cents and there was a great grumble about that! "

Austin Warburton, our own scholar and wit, made the recent Mission Excursion with The Californians a memorable one. With the El Camino Real and venerable Missions as a backdrop, we companioned the by-ways of earlier Californians. At San Miguel we learned of a San Jose educator, M. R. Trace, after whom a school and a street in San Jose are named, had called San Miguel his home. Trace taught and was principal of the San Miguel Grammar School built in 1888. The Wayland family, five boys and three girls, were San Miguel natives. Charles, Clyde and Ray went on to become highly regarded physicians in San Jose.

The current issue of "Real West" magazine tells of a San Jose boy who went on to become a high-caliber western movie star. He was Leo Daniel Maloney, born here in 1888. He attended Santa Clara College excelling in dramatics. In 1914 Leo made his movie debut when the industry was just catching on. In the early twenties he began his own production company called Leo Maloney Productions. Leo's "Overland Bound," produced in 1929, was one of the first all-talking westerns.

Several inquiries came up at our last Luncheon on the Bayside Canning story. Thanks to the March 1970 issue of The California Historical Society's Quarterly, we can respond. "In 1929 ten asparagus canneries operated near Walnut Grove, Isleton, and Rio Vista; there were three in 1950; none in 1955. The asparagus season in the Delta lasted about a hundred days from March to June."

The original New Almaden Mining Co. Store, destroyed by fire in 1973, will be rebuilt shortly. Kitty Monahan, a New Almaden resident and a member of the County Heritage Commission says Stanley Pfeiffer, who owns the site, will finance the undertaking himself after some disheartening attempts in seeking a Federal grant. Mr. Pfeiffer's family added much to the early day environment in the New Almaden area.

Our Society's Hacienda Cemetery at New Almaden is presently being graced with a number of long lost mining family grave markers by Boy Scout Troop 225. This thoughtful restoration effort by the Scouts will hopefully earn them their Eagle Scout Award.



TOURING WITH THE CALIFORNIANS

Sept. 26-27: — MY FAIR LADY with Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Enjoy this superstar show at the spectacular Sahara Reno.

Nov. 10-11-12: — YOSEMITE ! This peaceful time will offer lush greens, shades of gold, russet and reds. Sounds beautiful? Join us!

December 31 - January 1: — NEW YEARS CELEBRATION ! Cruise on a riverboat from San Francisco to Sacramento. Lodging will be near "Old Sacramento." New Years Eve Dinner in the elegant old "Firehouse" in Old Sacramento. Hurry for this!

Reservations on above trips will be accepted on and after the Sept. 8th Pioneer Luncheon. Please do not call Ruth Gross until Sept. 10th. Thank you.

Say! Be on the alert for the following planned goodies in our Sept. trip brochure: An afternoon at the Grand National at the Cow Palace in San Francisco; The Ice Capades; and Lunch at Carmel Highlands.

Sept. 11, 1980: — ALPINE ADVENTURE — Two weeks — Featuring the OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY presented every ten years — Tours — Lake Excursions and leisure time as we visit the picturesque old world of BAVARIA, GERMANY, AUSTRIA, LIECHTENSTEIN and SWITZERLAND. For more details send for the brochure on this amazing tour. Please send a self addressed legal size envelope to The Californians, 100 Serena Way, Santa Clara, CA 95051. Reservations now being taken for this Alpine Adventure.

Have you any suggestions, especially for the one or two day trips? Barbara Johnsen and the Tour Committee welcome the help of any members interested in planning tours. Just call Ruth Gross or write to The Californians.

FOR TOUR RESERVATIONS: Call Ruth Gross at 294-9830 between 9 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday ONLY. When confirmed, make check payable to "The Californians" and mail to 100 Serena Way, Santa Clara, CA 95051.

NOTICE

PLEASE check your membership card.

Does it have 1979 on it? If not please send three dollars (\$3) each for your membership to the Financial Secretary, John Clark, 1900 Emory Street, San Jose, CA 95126.

Phone 294 - 3176

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE New active members upon payment of \$1 initiation fee will have the option of paying the \$3 yearly dues or purchasing a \$45 Life Membership, (\$75 for husband and wife subscribing at the same time).

The same Life Membership privileges are extended to present members.

ad

**Sept. 8th. IS OUR
LUNCHEON DATE
Phone 247-6606**

*This is a 24 HOUR SERVICE
PLEASE Make Reservations
3 Days Before Luncheon.
If you must cancel..CALL
this same number.*

DOORS OPEN AT 10:30
LUNCHEON AT 12

*A Special Program
is scheduled*

PLEASE USE THE REAR PARKING
LOT AT LOU'S VILLAGE *Thank you*

ATTENTION!

Members, please be more conscientious about sending in changes of address. If this task is left to the Post Office, we are charged 25¢ per RETURNED TRAILBLAZER.

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