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Landmarked Log Cabin in Alarming Condition

A few months ago while walking through Alum Rock Park, Jim Zetterquist, President of California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, came across one of our city landmarks, the Log Cabin, which was in great disrepair. Logs are missing and wide gaps would allow entry from animals or humans. There is a window missing, termite damage, and the roof needs replacing.

Members of the Pioneers have contacted the Parks Department (PRNS), District 5 City Council Member Magdalena Carrasco, and the San Jose Planning Department to ask for repairs and restoration of the Cabin. As of now, we have not heard back on any action planned for repairs on the Cabin. We continue to advocate for the appropriate maintenance and recognition of San Jose's historic resources.

The little Log Cabin was a gift to the City of San Jose in 1916 from the Native Daughters of the Golden West, intending to provide an example of the physical surroundings in which past generations lived and worked.

Delving into the background of the Cabin, interesting details were discovered. The Native Daughters of the Golden West (Vendome Parlor) wished to commemorate their pioneer ancestors by building a replica of an early residence. The idea originally came from Tillie Brohaska, an active member of the community and Past President of the Native Daughters.

Over three years, the Native Daughters led a campaign to raise funds, with volunteers soon stepping up to assist. Local prominent architects, F.D. Wolfe and Theodore Lenzen supplied the design. Redwood logs from the Santa Cruz mountains were donated by Antone Matty of Wright's Station. During the Cabin's construction, lumber firms donated the doors, windows and floor of the cabin. Members of the carpenters' and bricklayers' unions donated the labor. Southern Pacific and San Jose Railroads donated transportation of the building materials. Finally, when completed, the log cabin was attractively furnished with donations from five local furniture stores. Within the cabin there

were plans to exhibit artifacts from the past pioneer days.

(Continued pg. 2)



**San Jose City Landmark—
Pioneer Log Cabin at Alum Rock Park in disrepair.**

(Photos:
Jim Zetterquist)

No Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

The normally scheduled Pioneers quarterly luncheon will not be held in June due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County hope you and your family are doing well during our county's slow return back to somewhat normal. Staying connected is especially important now and without our quarterly luncheons or events, we miss seeing and talking to you. Keep in touch with our website, Facebook page and other social media. We will be back together again soon, hopefully with a September, 2021 Luncheon.

Log Cabin (Continued)

Early in the planning stages for the Log Cabin, the Pioneers Association of Santa Clara County (now known as the CA Pioneers of Santa Clara County) held their annual basket picnic on May 10, 1913, celebrating the dedication of the chosen plot of land in Alum Rock Park where the cabin was to be built. Attended by hundreds, it was one of the largest events ever held by the Pioneers. Native Daughters and Native Sons of the Golden West and all heirs of early pioneers were invited, many arriving on the Peninsular Railroad train. The long day included music, speeches, dancing, games and prizes.

After lunch and a program, the plot of land for the cabin was dedicated with the raising of the American and bear flags, more music, and flowery speeches including one by Native Daughters Grand President Mamie Carmichael (who was also an honorary member of the Pioneers) saying, "In loyal and grateful



devotion to the pioneers of California and with love and loyalty to state and nation, by unfurling our star-spangled banner, we dedicate this plot of ground in one of California's most favored retreats to our own pioneers of Santa Clara County." (*Mercury News*, 5/11/1913)

Finally, the formal dedication for the completed Cabin occurred on Sunday, September 24, 1916, with a large crowd enjoying the famous Brohaska Orchestra concert, an original poem reading, a song (I Love You California) and a talk of California history by Judge W.A. Beasley. Then it was time for the Grand President and chair of the dedication

program, Mrs. Carmichael, to present the Log Cabin, a pioneer memorial, to the City of San Jose. City Manager, T. H. Reed, accepted the gift "with great pleasure...on behalf of the City of San Jose" (*Mercury News*, 9/26/1916).

The 30' x 32' cabin with a cobblestone fireplace, was placed in a location easily accessible by the elderly. Over time, the Native Daughters

sometimes gathered at the spot. The picnic grounds around the cabin were used by various local organizations and for private events such as birthdays and memorial services.

(Continued pg. 3)



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Log Cabin (Continued)

According to a chapter in "Historical Footnotes of Santa Clara Valley" by the late Jack Douglas, by the mid-20th century the little Log Cabin was ignored, hidden away in its wooded setting with many of the nearby historical structures of Alum Rock Park now gone, such as the merry-go-round, natatorium, penny arcade, dance pavilion, zoo, and picnic tables. By the 1960s-1970s, the Cabin was not being used and in very poor condition, so the Parks Department considered it surplus goods. In 1974 the cabin issue was brought to the Historic Landmarks Commission where it was determined to be of "no historical value."

Later, in 1982, when brought back to

the Landmarks Commission for demolition approval, the Commission instead recommended designating it as a city landmark! The Commissioners felt it qualified under four of the seven required criteria. The landmark application, submitted by the Native Daughters of the Golden West on the Commission's recommendation, was approved on June 15, 1982. A festive gathering at the Cabin, similar to the original dedication, was held on May 22, 1983. We assume that care was taken to refurbish the cabin at that time.

Douglas suggested that perhaps this signaled an emerging change in attitude about the importance of historic preservation—the realization that the wild west and the pioneer life were disappearing.

Around the country, log cabins were being built as memorials, historical organizations were increasing in number and population, there was an increased interest in the American Native American, and youth groups (i.e., Scouts, Campfire Girls) became popular.

Although, another reason to save the Log Cabin in 1982 may have been since it didn't impede progress—it was allowed to live on, unlike so many other historic buildings in San Jose.

The cabin is located along the main Alum Rock Park Road just before the Visitor Center. The Pioneers are monitoring the situation and will remain advocates for speedy repairs of the Log Cabin.

—Gayle Frank



Left, 1916 Native Daughters' dedication of the Log Cabin at Alum Rock Park.

(Photo: City of San Jose Park Rangers)

Quest for Flight May 24—7 pm

**Sponsored by the Saratoga
Historical Foundation and the
California Pioneers of Santa Clara
County**

Many believe that only the Wright brothers invented the airplane. Craig Harwood author of "Quest for Flight: John J. Montgomery and the Dawn of Aviation in the West" has written about John J. Montgomery, a California scientist who succeeded in flying gliders twenty years before the Wright's powered flights at Kitty Hawk in 1903. The presentation will be based on the book and reveals the amazing accomplishments of Montgomery who piloted the glider he designed in 1883 in the first controlled flights.

Free Zoom Lecture

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81285601473>

Meeting ID: 812 8560 1473
Passcode: 566642

CALIF. PIONEERS of SANTA CLARA CO.
Established 1875

2020/2021 History Essay Contest

Submittal Deadline was May 31, 2021

Winners will be announced in Fall, 2021

Pioneers' Position on the Fallon Statue

March 3, 2021

**To: Honorable Mayor Liccardo
and San Jose Councilmembers,**

Subject: Fallon Statue Solution

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County is dedicated to ensuring our valley's history is preserved, accurately presented, and not told solely from the "victors" perspective. In this vein, we strongly support your recent efforts to listen to those who take issue with the statue.

We also hope you do not rush to judgment with an easy solution to a very complex issue

Our organization was established in 1875 to celebrate the history of Santa Clara County. Our diverse membership of some 400 people, and our Board, include descendants of Ohlone, Spanish, Mexican, Californio, and early American Santa Clara Valley residents. I descend from pre-statehood Ohlone and Hispanic San Joséans.

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County believes in due process and fairness, as well as integrity when reviewing the historic record. Input from all should be considered before public policy is set.

With creativity and a little effort, this challenging controversy can bring about a win-win outcome. Viable solutions are available to utilize the statue as a teaching tool.

For example, on the sidewalks that surround the statue intersection, new signage with QR codes could be installed. The QR codes would take visitors to videos of personal stories told by a diversity of people sharing all aspects of statehood. In this way, all people may take ownership of the statue and the story it tells.

To some, Fallon represents a demon; to others he represents a hero; yet others believe he was something in between.

If he really represents the symbol of statehood, he also represents the problems of statehood. Many have never formed an opinion about Fallon or how the earliest residents of this region were affected by statehood. The QR codes with website videos would be a powerful vehicle for education, healing, free speech, democracy, and understanding,

The statue presents a unique opportunity for us to show the world San José is open to all viewpoints, rather than takes the easy path of expedient proposals. We should not sweep controversy under the rug and thus cut off

the discussion—which is what will happen if the statue is removed. We know it will take a lot of hard work to ease the pain generated by this statue, but we strongly believe it is worth the effort. As president of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, I pledge our unwavering support in listening to and including all perspectives. A fair, accurate, and inclusive story of the good, the bad, and the ugly of statehood is imperative. That is what history should be about. That is what San José should be about. We hope you and our community do not squander this rare opportunity.

Respectfully,
Jim Zetterquist, President; on behalf of
the entire Board of Directors,
California Pioneers of Santa Clara
County

(Plaque and text on pg. 5)



The Fallon Statue on Julian Street commemorating the second raising of the U.S. flag in San Jose on July 14, 1846, after the start of the Mexican-American war. By then, the U.S. flag had been raised in Monterey, Sonoma and Sutter's Fort. (See the plaque/text on the next page.)

Suñol House ADA Upgrade Almost Complete

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County work on the Americans With Disabilities Act Compliance Project at the Roberto Adobe and Suñol House is progressing well. This project is being partially funded by a generous grant from the County of Santa Clara's Historical Heritage Commission Grant Program. Many members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and members of our community wrote letters on our behalf and in support of this project. These letters were instrumental in our receiving this grant. Thank you.

The work on the bathroom is now complete. We have begun work on the exterior of the building, including leveling the path

of travel to the rear entry door, construction of the handicap ramp and installation of the handicap parking space and signs. At the present time, we anticipate completion of the entire project sometime in June.

The Roberto Adobe and Suñol House has been closed due to the pandemic and will remain closed until the completion of the project, reopening only when COVID 19 regulations will allow.

Many thanks to Pioneers Board member Tom Kearney who completed the grant proposal and is overseeing all the work done! ❖

Statue (Continued)



Above, Plaque at the base of the Fallon Statue; its text is below. (Photos: Gayle Frank)

“This statue of Captain Thomas Fallon was commissioned in 1988. It memorializes the raising of the U.S. flag in San Jose in 1846, when California was still part of Mexico. Scheduled to be installed in 1990, the statue generated an intense controversy. Supporters of the artwork believed that it commemorated an important historical event in San Jose's history. Opponents of the statue responded that it represented a troubling moment in American history, when the United States used the Mexican-American War as a reason to annex California from Mexico. To address the issues arising from the controversy, the City appointed a

Historic Art Advisory Committee. The Committee recommended that the City's public art must represent all perspectives of the City's history. Four additional projects* were recommended—artworks commemorating the Ohlone Way of Life, the life of Dr. Ernesto Galarza, the Founding of the Pueblo, and the Agricultural History of the Valley. These works have been installed in various locations around the city. This artwork is a reminder that a community's historic events can be interpreted in many ways, depending on one's perspective.” ❖

** See page 6 about one of these additional projects.*

Where Art Meets History in San Jose

The San Jose Public Art Program has installed art pieces around our city that not only enhance the civic landscape but strive to reflect the City's diversity, its historic richness, and envision its present and future.

"The Weavers' Gift" is a public art exhibit commemorating and celebrating the indigenous Costanoan-Ohlone Peoples, especially the Tamien Ohlone Indians who lived along the Guadalupe River where San Jose stands today. The site-specific sculpture pieces were designed by artist Alan Counihan and installed in 2001 on the north side of West Santa Clara Street between Delmas and Highway 87, next to the Arena Green area. It appropriately is located along the west bank of the Guadalupe River, near the Santa Clara Street bridge.



There are four elements within the exhibit: 1) There are 54 names of Ohlone tribes who inhabited California into the late eighteenth century that are inscribed on the pre-existing granite seat walls; 2) There are two halves of a 5' carved granite

mortar—broken to represent broken tradition; 3) There is a stone representation of an unfinished coiled basket inlaid into the paving with inscribed text about the history and future of the Ohlone People; 4) The fourth piece, a 4' carved granite basket representing the functionality and creativity of the Ohlone culture, has been broken and is not at the site at present.

Right, two halves of a 5' carved granite mortar and a granite replica of a woven basket which is not on display because of damage.



The artist, Alan Counihan, lives in Ireland and has worked with stone, his medium of choice, for over 30 years. It is his goal to find a connection to the spirit of a given site in such a way that the resulting work enriches rather than disturbs the essence of that place.



Above and left, the inscribed granite seat walls.

There is another piece of public art paying tribute to the native Californians—a bronze sculpture of an Ohlone woman in a tulie reed boat. It is located at the Almaden Community Center and Library, 6445 Camden Ave. The artist, Lisa Reinertson, created this 6' x 7'5" x 2'5" sculpture in 2007. The woman and boat are supported with a bas-relief illustrating the early landscape and scenes depicting the progression of time which impacted the Ohlone's way of life (images of the ocean and Spanish Galleon, a mule and miner, orchards, free-way and cityscape, and a woman gazing at a computer screen).

The Public Art Program was established by a 1984 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development.

In the next Trailblazer issue, 'Art Meets History' will discuss "Commemoration of the Founding of the Pueblo San José de Guadalupe" on Market Street.

—Gayle Frank



“When San Jose Was Young: The Miracle Ranch, Part I”

This is a reprint of a 1916 series about local history written for San Jose's *Evening News* and attributed to Cora Older.

“The Santa Teresa ranch began with a miracle. There are still miracles at the Santa Teresa. It is about three miles east of Edenvale, and has been longer occupied by one family than any other ranch near San Jose. It is still the valuable property of Mrs. Ygnacio Bernal, who has more than three hundred acres left of the nine leagues¹ granted to Joaquin Bernal, great grandfather of the present generation of Bernals. Joaquin Bernal received it as a gift from Charles III because he was the first assayer of mines in California.²

The first miracle at Santa Teresa was seen by the Indians before the Bernals came to California. After Joaquin Bernal took possession of his grant he lived in a cabin while building an adobe house. The Bernal vaqueros became friendly with the Indians by giving them bandana handkerchiefs and other little gewgaws. Then the Indians confided in Joaquin Bernal that miracles were in the great spring back of his house.



Santa Teresa Springs pond

Whenever an Indian was ill a lady in flowing robes with a white bandage on her forehead came over the hills, took some spring water from the deep spring that gushed from the rocks under the oak trees near Joaquin Bernal's cabin and healed the sick.

This story Joaquin Bernal related to the padres, who often came from Santa Clara to say mass under the trees on the ranch and to gain converts. The padres were greatly impressed by the miracle of the lady of the hills. They decided that the lady

on the Bernal ranch was no other than Santa Teresa. So that was how the name came nearly a hundred and fifty years ago [as of 1916].

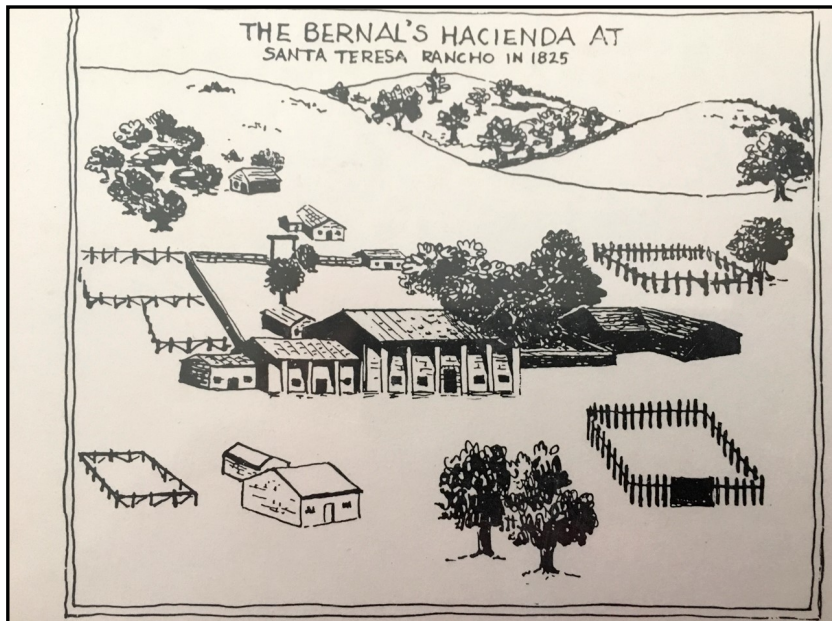
With such a beginning one is prepared for any future for the spot. One treads softly lest one should step on fairies. One would not be surprised at anything at Santa Teresa. There is \$10,000 in buried treasure on the ranch.³

Not long since outcroppings of quicksilver were found on the place, it is said that the far-reaching tunnels from the Almaden [mines] have almost reached the Santa Teresa.

Miracles don't often bring profit, but Mr. Pedro Bernal, great grandson of Joaquin Bernal, the first settler, has for years sold the Santa Teresa mineral water to the people of San Jose.⁴

The other miracle was discovered by Mr. Pedro Bernal. He had often noticed on the hills back of the house that close to the surface were decomposing shells. As a boy these shells used to thrill him. He knew that they told the story of the day when Santa Teresa was covered by the sea. When Pedro Bernal went abroad a few years later he saw the lime marl pits in England from which vast quantities of carbonate of lime marl fertilizer had been made. It was

(Continued pg. 8)



Pedro Bernal's depiction of the rancho hacienda in 1825 with several adobe buildings, pens and corrals below the Santa Teresa Spring. (Photo: Paul Bernal)

The Miracle Ranch, Part I (Continued)

almost a joke. They had the very pit at the Santa Teresa.

On Mr. Bernal's return to Edenvale he had the deposits on his mother's place assayed. It was the same fertilizer they had used so widely in Europe. The hills were one vast clam bed. When these decomposed clam shells were crushed into powder, they produced carbonate of lime marl.

There are a hundred acres of natural fertilizer on the Bernal ranch, enough to manufacture forty tons a day for eighty years. Among all the wrecked Spanish families, Pedro Bernal and his sister have been able to survive commercially. They have marketed miracles."

—San Jose Evening News, 10/19/1916

¹ Original grant was listed as 9,647 acres.

² Descendant Paul Bernal states Rancho Santa Teresa was a Mexican Land Grant (not Spanish) from Governor Jose Figueroa (not King Charles) to Joaquin Bernal in 1834. It was for 2 square leagues (9,647 acres) not 9 leagues. Joaquin Bernal came to Alta California in 1775 as a 13 or 14 year old member of the Anza Expedition."

³ Rumors told of a mysterious treasure of lost gold coins buried in the 1800s.

⁴ "Mr. Pedro Bernal who manages the Santa Teresa Springs Water Co., erected a new filling station on S. Market Street similar to the station used by the oil companies." The water was said to "have unusual medicinal qualities." (SJ Mercury Herald, 11/14/1915)

Roberto Adobe & Suñol House

Saturday Free Tours
suspended
until further notice



The Bernal—Gulnac —Joice Ranch today.

The Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch in the Santa Teresa County Park Historic Area takes you back in time, through a historic ranch house, gardens and barn, all restored and equipped with furnishings and tools typical of California farm life in the 1850s to 1900. Originally part of Rancho Santa Teresa, the ranch and surrounding 20-acre property are what remains of a nearly 10,000-acre parcel granted to Jose Joaquin Bernal by the Mexican Government in 1834. The Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch was continuously owned and worked by Bernal descendants as a family-operated ranch until 1980.

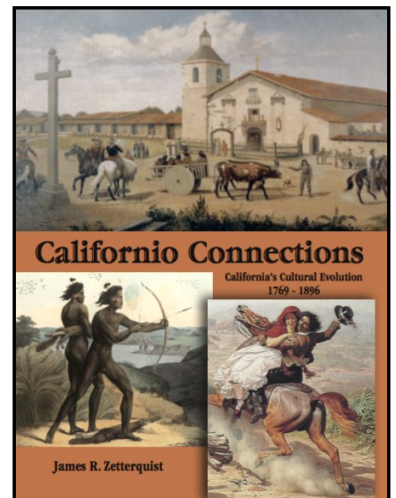
For now, outside areas are open, but all buildings are currently closed and programs are suspended until further notice due to COVID-19.

Directions: From highway 85 take the Cottle Road exit and head south past Santa Teresa Hospital. Turn left on Santa Teresa Boulevard (east) and make your first right on Camino Verde (south). Continue on Camino Verde through a residential area and you will come to the ranch on Manila Drive. ❖

“Californio Connections”

Our President of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, Jim Zetterquist, has completed his much anticipated book, *Californio Connections*, which takes place in the San Francisco and Monterey bay areas from 1796 to 1896. The book is now finally for sale through our website. His is a riveting story as seen through the lives of his Ohlone and Hispanic ancestors. His use of interludes, which chronicle his five decades of research, makes this work highly unique. All profits from the sale of this “must read” local history book go to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County.

(www.CaliforniaPioneers.com)



Maynard Mansion—A sketch by Jim Campbell



The Maynard Mansion is located at 1151 Minnesota Avenue in Willow Glen, San Jose, and was built in the late 1890s from a George F. Barber design. This beautiful Queen Anne-style mansion was built by B. E. (Edward) Maynard (1844-1900), who made his fortune investing in mining silver ore at the Comstock Lode in Nevada. The Maynard family owned the house until 1944.

This fine example of a Queen Anne style with Carpenter Gothic and Eastlake details is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The most distinctive feature of the house is the western corner tower with a hexagonal turret, conical roof, and a small widow's walk. Also note the stone

and brick 3-story chimney with a small window inserted at the second level.

Willow Glen began as the home of the Ohlone Native Americans. In 1844 the area became part of two Mexican land grants, the Rancho de los Coches (northern Willow Glen) and the Rancho San Juan Bautista (southern Willow Glen).

In the 1860s, the area was mostly farms, which grew wheat, barley, hay, tobacco, and hops. The fertile land of this area was priced 10 times higher than other valley farmland. By the 1880s, fruit and nut orchards flourished along with canneries, drying sheds, and warehouses for storing produce. Once known for its profusion of willow trees and the rich,

marshy land that provided fertile fields for growing fruits and row crops, Willow Glen today has a Norman Rockwell-style charm that makes it one of San Jose's desirable neighborhoods.

Over the years, Willow Glen has metamorphosed from orchards and canneries to a popular region featuring many stately Victorians and well-kept homes. Willow Glen is like a small town in the middle of a big city. The neighborhood retains its small-town character with a thriving commercial district. ❖

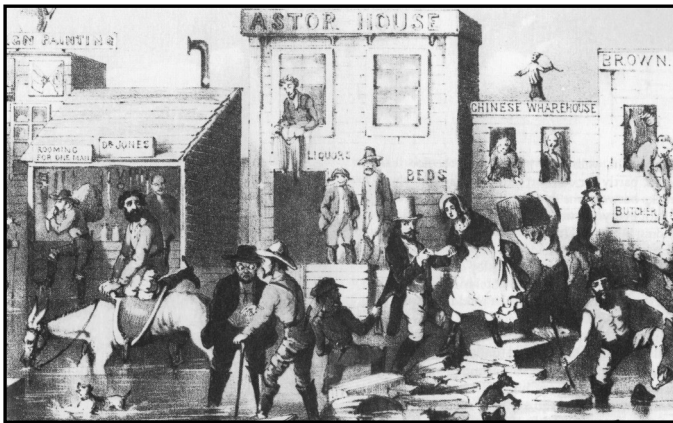
Source: "Down Memory Lane; Illustrations of San Jose & Surrounding Points of Interest," by Jim H. Campbell, 2015.

Sidewalks

By Jim Zetterquist

Since the pandemic came to our shores in 2020, many Americans have taken up hobbies to lessen the impact of isolation. Some have honed their skills as bakers, chefs, and puzzle builders, while others have become proficient gardeners, poets, and photographers. My wife (Lynn) and I have become avid walkers, traveling as far as sixteen miles in a single day. After walking neighborhoods numerous times, we switched our focus from the homes we passed to the underappreciated and ubiquitous sidewalks beneath our feet.

Although Anatolians, Greeks, and Romans incorporated roadside pedestrian paths into their communities long ago, the need for sidewalks in the Bay Area did not become apparent until the very wet winter of 1849-50, when muddy streets became the consistency of taffy. Before the citizens of San José had a chance to install wooden sidewalks, state representatives voted to move California's first state capital elsewhere. Like most major American cities, sidewalks did not become integral features of San José until the late 19th-century.



Mid-1800's cartoon mocking San Francisco's lack of sidewalks.

California's earliest sidewalks served many purposes. They kept pedestrians safe from horse-drawn vehicles or equestrians, and separated them from the mud and disease-carrying horse waste or human urine that permeated the streets. At the end of the Great Depression, the Work Projects Administration assisted San José's efforts to install new sidewalks. Several "WPA 1941" stamps remain on Dana Avenue, across from Lincoln High

School as evidence of the Federal Government's assistance. Bay Area sidewalks became prolific following WWII when returning veterans moved into housing tracts built in the suburbs. The sidewalks allowed children of the baby boom era to bike and roller skate safely away from automobiles, while ensuring much-needed mobility for wounded veterans.



Our walks helped us appreciate how sidewalks regularly serve as social spaces for vendors and musicians, and provide outdoor dining space during a pandemic. And when we took note of handprints, signatures, and "works of art" embedded in old sidewalks, we came to see wet concrete as a blank

canvas, beckoning youngsters to leave their mark.

Most unexpectedly, I realized sidewalks act as historical resources that reveal valuable information about our

homes and neighborhoods. Dated contractor stamps may divulge when a contractor built a housing tract, when sidewalks were added or repaired, or when and where sewer lines were connected.



While most San José stamps include the year, a few also recorded the month. Uniquely, A. J. Raisch added the exact day he poured each segment of sidewalk on University Way, in the tony Rose Garden neighborhood. When I questioned why dated concrete contractor stamps were more prevalent within the original city boundaries of San José than in the then-unincorporated areas of the county, the long-time owner of a construction supply business surmised the city of San José had early on required sidewalk stamps as a means of quality control. The county evidently had no such requirement.

(Continued p. 11)



John Doyle's 1931 street name stamp on Ayer Avenue in the Vendome neighborhood survives because he placed it in the sidewalk rather than in the corner curb.

Sidewalks (Continued)

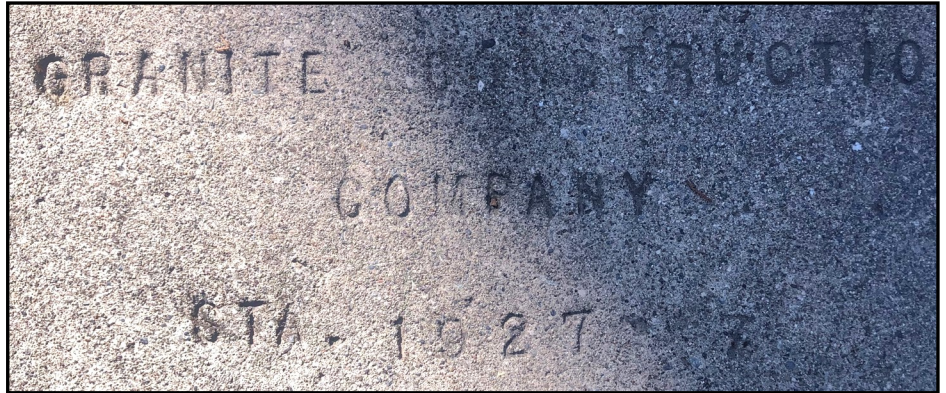
Fortunately, however, both early city and county contractors regularly stamped street names into their corner curbs. One particular contractor's curb stamp told a story of Willow Glen's transition from a county neighborhood to an independent city, and finally its incorporation into the much larger city of San José.

As a teen, I could not figure out why the corner curb on Newport Avenue was stamped Washington Avenue. I later learned the street was initially named Washington Avenue in 1909, when Willow Glen was an unincorporated part of the county. The street remained Washington Avenue after Willow Glen briefly became an independent city in 1927, but when officials had insufficient revenue to build sewers and a high school, Willow Glen citizens voted to incorporate into the city of San José in 1936. Since there was a Washington Street in downtown San José, Willow Glen's Washington Avenue was eventually renamed Newport Avenue. Washington Avenue remained embedded in the curb until recent ADA modifications were made.

While the greatest threat to sidewalks is tree roots, during the first half of the 20th century, orchardists and cannery owners daily pumped millions of gallons of water from the aquifer, causing the ground to settle and the concrete sidewalks of the Valley of Heart's Delight to crack. Additionally, from the 1950s thru the



Sidewalk damage



1980s, entire blocks in the downtown area were bulldozed in the name of urban renewal, and sidewalks were replaced when older streets were widened to accommodate more traffic.

Out of curiosity, I set out to find San José's oldest sidewalk stamp, assuming the earliest stamps would be downtown, in front of our oldest homes. To my chagrin, I discovered the oldest neighborhoods had some of our newest sidewalks. Even worse, I learned contractors were no longer using dated stamps. When I inquired why stamps were no longer allowed, a high-ranking San José official said he assumed the city considered such stamps an improper use of public property. Evidently, at the turn of the 21st-century, some city leaders came to believe the stamps were nothing more than an inexpensive way for contractors to advertise their businesses.

When I reviewed the hundreds of photographs of contractor stamps I had taken, I realized our sidewalks are as ephemeral as our earth-bound lives. Dated from 1927 to 2001, they spanned less than seventy-five years. The earliest stamp I found was dated July of 1927 (above), left by Granite Construction Company at the southwest corner of University Avenue and The Alameda.

In November of 1927, John Doyle left his mark (right) catty-corner from the July Granite Construction stamp.

Another Doyle stamp was embedded up the street, near the corner of University and Myrtle streets in the College Park neighborhood

In January of 1929, Doyle left his mark much closer to downtown, on North Morrison Avenue, between The Alameda and West Julian Street. The fourth oldest date I came across in San José was an S. Coronado Contractor stamp on Lupton Avenue. The stamp was embedded in August of 1929, as Willow Glen briefly served as an independent city.

I found a March 1929 Coronado stamp off West San Carlos Street, near the corner of Elliot Street and Raymond Avenue, but the stamp does not qualify as a San José stamp. This early 20th-century working-class neighborhood in the Burbank area, where contractor stamps are almost non-existent, remains an unincorporated pocket of county property that is surrounded by San José.

(Continued page 12)



Sidewalks (Continued)

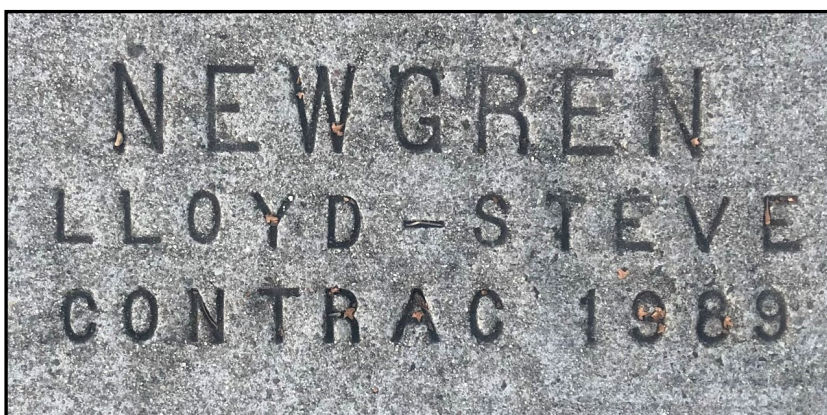
My favorite stamp, placed by a longtime family friend, is on Cottle Avenue across from Willow Glen Middle School. The “Lloyd Newgren Contractor 1961” stamp (right) is not different from many Newgren stamps I have seen, except “STEVE” is scrawled next to Lloyd’s name in what looks like a child’s printing: Lloyd’s son Steve would have been nine years old that year. Each time I walk past that stamp, it conjures up the vivid picture of a boy going to work with his father and leaving his mark for everyone to see. Lloyd officially added Steve’s name to the company stamp in 1989 (lower right). When Lloyd passed away in 2004, his obituary included, “He was a local cement contractor for over 50 years.” Although Lloyd and his business are now long gone, I am thankful Lloyd and Steve left their mark on our community.

In an effort to encourage members to discover more about San José’s sidewalks, the Pioneers are offering to the first five members who can locate a sidewalk stamp older than 1930 (other than the ones mentioned in this article) their choice of one of many local history books recently donated by Pioneers member Missy Ryan. To claim a book, members need to email a picture of the stamp with the address of where it can be found to: thewoodencrown@att.net. Remember, only sidewalk—not driveway or patio—stamps are eligible. Hopefully, the sidewalk stamp search will inspire one of you to submit a paper about the history of local sidewalks to the Pioneers essay contest for next year.

Good luck, and remember to enjoy the journey,

—Jim Zetterquist

See Sidewalks Epilogue on next page.



Above, Newgren stamps, 1961 and 1989.
Below, other photos of sidewalk “art.”

(Photos: Jim Zetterquist)



Members 2021 Paid* Dues —Thank You!

Baker, Jonna
Bacich, Damian
Carroll, Sylvia (Loomis Level)
D'Aloia, Marilyn
D'Aloia, Vito
Enrique Aning

Faulkner, Angela
Faulkner, Gary
Fischer, Rachel
Hettler-Smith, Lisa
Holman, Charles
Leonard, Jeffrey

Maille, Joseph
Morris, Jacqueline (new member)
Prolo, Martin
Michael Shea
Smestad, Greg
Sutherland, Jean

Taylor, Charlotte
Tom, Barbara
Walden, Terry
Wool, Bruce
Wool, Jennifer
Zittlow, David

** Paid between 1/26/21- 4/28/21*



(Photo: Ken Middlebrook)

Restoration at HSJ

History San Jose (HSJ) has eleven antique motor vehicles (eight are over 100 years old) in its collection at History Park. Ken Middlebrook, Curator of Collections, tells us the 11th vehicle, a 1907 Mitchell runabout pictured left, will be restored next. It has not been operated in over 50 years. Concerns over the front axle's condition led HSJ personnel to use the HSJ's forklift to lift the front end of the Mitchell while transporting it into the HSJ Shop. ❖

How to Make Pioneers Payments 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.

Sidewalks Epilogue

Two months after Jim Zetterquist submitted his article about San José sidewalks to the *Trailblazer*, he came across a 1925 W. I. Sinclair contractor's stamp (below) at the intersection of Carolyn and Garfield Avenues in Willow Glen. He, however, came across what is likely an even older brick sidewalk on Almaden Road (pictured left). Up the way from the New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum at Casa Grande, not far from the Pioneer's Hacienda Cemetery, a historic marker states, "The brick sidewalk was constructed so that children could walk to Hacienda School without muddying their shoes." ❖



Loss of Two History-loving Pioneers Members

Fred Gardner

Fred Gardner was a Lifetime Member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County since 1975. Born in 1924, he attended San Jose High School back when it was on the campus of San Jose State. Before graduating from high school in 1943, Fred and other students raised money for the war effort by selling iron from fences, railroad tracks, keys, & locks.

During WWII from July 1943 until March 1946, Gardner served his country in the United States Army. During WWII, he spent time overseas in New Guinea and then for the last 14 months was assigned to the Army Coast Artillery Core-Mine Planter Service and worked on a mine planting ship to place 2-ton mines at the bottom of the ocean outside the Golden Gate Bridge.

After returning home to San Jose after the war ended, Gardner went to work

for the Bank of America for 14 years and was proud to be one of the initial employees at that branch.

Fred Gardner was born in Saratoga as were many of his ancestors. In fact, there is a marker on West Valley College land that honors the history of the Gardner family and their involvement in Saratoga. Gardner's great grandfather, Daniel Gardner, and his wife bought 167 acres in 1862, planting apricots and other fruit on the land.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Fred Gardner served as an active docent at History San Jose and even conducted five different San Jose downtown walking tours. He had lived on W. San Fernando and Vine and knew the history of every building in the area. He also trained and evaluated docents for History San Jose and volunteered at the Japanese Friendship Gardens.

Gardner's wife, Marilyn, also a Life



Fred Gardner

Member of the Pioneers, passed away in 2017.

About a year ago, Fred generously donated books maps, posters and ephemera to the Pioneers, along with numerous photographs of endangered homes in the area, many now long gone. His legacy lives on with these donations to the Pioneers. ❖

Pioneers Centenarian Passes—Dorothy Wuss

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County long-time member, Dorothy Wuss, recently passed away after celebrating her 100th birthday on February 1 at an outdoors get-together with facemasks and additional participants on video.

Dorothy grew up on Elm Street off The Alameda and graduated from Santa Clara High School in 1939. She worked at the downtown Woolworth's store until 1942. After receiving a secretarial degree from San Jose State, Dorothy met her future husband, Peter Wuss in early 1943 at a sorority dance, marrying later that year.

The couple had three daughters after WWII. By 1952, Dorothy returned to Woolworth's and worked there for 15

more years. Dorothy's daughters, Susan, Judy and Linda also held their first jobs at Woolworth's.

After husband Peter Wuss, a local architect, passed away in 1988, Dorothy volunteered at History San Jose as a typist, where she was inspired to research her family history. She discovered that her great-grandfather, John W. Kottinger, came from Austria and ultimately married Maria Bernal, whose dowry included part of Rancho el Valle de San Jose in the Pleasanton area. The Kottinger family lived both there and in San Jose.

Dorothy had previously organized family reunions and recorded her family history on YouTube.



Dorothy Wuss

The family is grateful for her research and uncovering their interesting history. ❖

Membership Report

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

If not already paid, please pay your membership renewal for 2021. Dues can be paid online (see page 13) 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-2021, your Pioneers membership is up-to-date until the end of 2021.

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
Walt Gill
wgil@cpi-re.com**

Time Travel (*Past News from Newspaper Archives*)

San Jose, Nov. 27, 1848: William O'Connor and Bill Wood were appointed San Jose constables at reported salaries of \$180 per month. "This outlandish high pay is because of the gold rush," barked indignant Alcalde Jim Weeks.

Santa Clara County, 1850s: The County once thought it might be possible gold country. Rumors caused the Coyote Creek Stampede in the 1850s. It produced nothing more than blisters but NO GOLD!

San Jose, 1855: San Jose schools as far back as 1855 were hanging by the thread of a schoolboy's britches—survival was in doubt. Schools pleaded for private tuition, public subscription, free will offering or anything to halt mounting expenses. The Moreland School considered paying its teachers in fire wood based on \$7.50 a cord.

San Jose, 1877: William O'Donnell converted his nursery and orchard at 9th and William Streets to create O'Donnell's Zoological Garden and Park. He publicized the resort as the finest in the state. It is best remembered, however, when a full-grown sea lion made his getaway on Sept. 23, 1877 creating quite a commotion. His freedom on land was short lived as he was soon flipping in the direction of Alviso.

By Aug. 14, 1887, the Garden/Park changed hands and was renamed Garden City Recreation Grounds.

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

Sunshine Chair

If a Pioneers member is ill
or needs cheering up notify

**Madeline Streight:
408-259-4422**

or madeline.streight@att.net

Santa Clara County 1908: Spanish explorers in 1770 called the nearby Santa Cruz Range "Sierra Azule" or Blue Mountains. By 1908 when additional Interurban stops were needed, the Peninsular Railway insisted on "Blue Hills" for a station name. Hopping mad residents complained, "No!" The latter turned a willing ear to the names Congress Springs and Vasona as way stations. ❖

Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills

Fred Gardner (2021)

Robert G. Winsor (2021)

Dorothy M. Wuss (2021)



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Jim Campbell, Resident Artist for CA Pioneers of
Santa Clara County

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

Our Mission is to promote, preserve, and celebrate
the history of Santa Clara County and the heritage
of its past generations. We collect, archive, educate
and encourage research and scholarship.