



Volume 8

Winter 1968

Number 1

A WHOLE PENNY TO SPEND

Marjorie B. Fisk

The penny, minted in 1897, lay on the table. The profile of Big Tree, Chief of the Seneca tribe, marked the copper coin as a collector's treasure.

A whole penny to spend for candy! Memories of childhood years bring back the joy found while staring through the glass of the candy case located in nineteenth century grocery stores, ice cream parlors and bakeshops.

"Take your time honey," the storekeeper would suggest. "I'll wait on your mother, while you make up your mind."

The glass barricade clouded by your breath, your nose pressed tight against the glass, your eyes roved from one tin tray to another.

Licorice whips, licorice pipes, marshmallow bananas, all day suckers, horehound sticks, chocolate cigars, red anise drops, tiny cinnamon drops known as "whiskey killers," jujubes, jaw-breakers with a spicy cardamom seed inside the ball built up by numerous colors of candy. Too, there was the tiny tin frying pan holding a wee fried egg made of candy with a tin spoon for scooping the morsel from the pan. If you think hard, you'll recall that the spoon always bent double.

Rock candy, a bit of twine through the center, sparkled in crystals of green, pink and yellow. For a long moment, the red and white striped peppermint stick candy held studied attention. A shining brass finger ring with a glass diamond, a ruby or a sapphire set, brought that bit of confection much consideration.

How about the hard balls of chocolate coated taffy,

one on each end of a rough twisted stick of sassafras root? That delightful candy dumb-bell, was far more than two balls of taffy. The sassafras root meant marvelous chewing after the candy was eaten.

How about the jellybeans, lemon drops, gumdrops and the tiny black licorice babies?

Indecision rose higher as a childish nose pressed hard against the glass candy case.

How about the crisp sugar candy, always found in the Christmas stocking, flared its varied designs for young eyes to see.

How did the candy maker get that red flower to continue its pattern all through that one piece of white taffy, and how did that ribbon candy keep its perfect loops intact?

In another tray, several pink and white peppermint hearts showed sentimental phrases, such as "Be my Sweet-heart," "Ever Thine" and "I love you!"

Candy coated peanuts, tiny boxes of candy, cigarettes, red raspberry candies filled with red syrup, pyramid shaped chocolate drops and of course the well known mixed candy that always sold for at least six pieces for a penny, these varieties were given careful consideration.

Costing more than a penny, were the crystal glass containers full of pill size pink and white sugar pellets, Pint size locomotives, fire engines, brakeman's lanterns and desk telephones meant hours of happiness to any child fortunate enough to own one.

"Well, Honey, have you made up your mind?" The small customer nodded and slid the Indian head penny on the glass.

"Yes sir! I think I'll have a whole penny's worth of that mixed candy. That'll be six pieces and there's six of us. We'll all have one!"

Quickly, a pink and green striped paper candy sack was held open for the six pieces of candy. A quick move of the storekeeper's hand and a tiny frying pan holding two fried eggs with a tin spoon tied to the handle, was dropped into the bag.

"A little present for you young 'un," the storekeeper said, "Tain't often I hear a young customer plan to share his bag of candy with his family!"

Do you remember such joyful experiences? Memories, every one, but recalling such joyous experiences surely brings warmth to the heart.

* * *



(The above picture of the electric light tower was loaned by John Lancaster through the courtesy of Leo Sullivan. Looking north at Market and Santa Clara streets. Near right hand corner, Hart's. Near left hand corner, Tower Saloon. Far right hand corner, Spring's. Far left hand corner, 5 story Rea building. Tracks are the Inter-urban railroad.)

PABST CAFE
Leo Sullivan

(My appreciation to City Historian Clyde Arbuckle, Bancroft Library and the San Francisco Library.)

The "Pabst Cafe," located on the ground floor of the New York Exchange Hotel, 69 North 1st Street, (now the Angelus) was owned and operated by Henry L. Hirsch.

An early attraction at Hirsch's Cafe was an orchestra composed entirely of young women, a rare novelty at the turn of the century.

Paul Egry, a later feature, was a Hungarian violin virtuoso, possibly the greatest Gypsy musician ever to appear in San Jose. Hungarian fiddlers differ from the regular run of violinists. Playing their Magyar airs, the Gypsy improvises embellishments on the theme, casually interpolating turns and trills, never playing composition twice the same way. In other words Romany musicians rarely follow the text, but interpret scores according to the mood of the soloist.

Egry, of swarthy complexion and medium build, although a likeable man, was by no means a prepossessing individual in appearance. But looks and pockmarks became of minor importance when the Hungarian started playing his native airs. Egry had the style, dash, vibrancy and brilliance of tone for which Gypsy violinists were noted.

Paul, while a great artist, had, a besetting weakness, whiskey, commonly known as "John Barleycorn".

When Paul was on a "spree", owner Hirsch had an employee chaperone the violinist to Alum Rock Park, where George Alexander and his wife, caretakers of the resort, did their best to keep Paul "off the bottle" so he'd be in shape for the evening performance.

Egry's parents sent their son an extra fine violin from Hungary, hoping the instrument might help Paul overcome his abnormal desire for "Demon Rum". The gift failed to achieve its purpose, in a month's time the Guanerius violin was in "hock".

Egry, thru overindulgence, gradually lost his rich lustrous tonal quality and flashy technique on the violin and became so slovenly in appearance and dissolute in his habits, owner Hirsch was compelled to cancel his star attractions engagement. Ere long, Egry received his two-weeks notice.

Now desperate, Egry found a job working nights as a "swamper" at the old Tower Saloon, then located at the

south-west corner of Santa Clara and Market streets opposite Hart's Department Store.

Egry often regaled the "bar flies" of the Tower Saloon with tales of his past glory and triumphs, while continually harping on the idea of suicide.

Late one rainy night when customers were scarce, the drunks told Egry they would help him "take the fatal step." Seating the swamper on a chair, one of the conspirators fired a blank cartridge close to the victim's head, while a confederate poured a bottle of catsup over Paul's shoulder. Egry fainted when he saw the amount of blood he had lost and was "out" for almost two hours. Escorting the "corpse" to his room in a nearby cheap hotel, the bar-flies left Paul to "sleep it off."

As a finale to our story, Paul Egry disappeared from his usual haunts and was never seen again in San Jose.

Epilogue

After the 1906 earthquake, Henry L. Hirsch moved to San Francisco and opened the "Heidelberg Inn" on Ellis, just off Market Street.

Hirsch prospered and widened the scope of his activities in 1913 by purchasing the Muller Brothers "Bismark Cafe", located in the basement of the Pacific Building at Fourth and Market streets.

"Henry L." transformed his new acquisition into one of the gayest and most popular restaurants in San Francisco, meanwhile changing its name to the "Hof Brau Cafe" and featuring Waldemar Lind, a top-flight violinist, as conductor of the orchestra.

Another earth-shaking event was to change the destinies of the "Hof Brau Cafe" and its owner, Henry L. Hirsch--The assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria June 28, 1914 at San Jedo, lit the torch of greater warfare. With the sinking of the Lusitania May 15, 1915 the American public began to look with suspicion at anything pertaining to Germanic culture, or having a Teutonic flavor.

Hirsch then decided to remodel the "Hof Brau" in 1917 and called it "The States Cafe". Naming the boxes or stalls of the Cafe after the 48 American States, brought Hirsch rich returns in trade and good will.

"The States Cafe" was a success and proved to be a mecca for travelers witnessing San Francisco rise phoenix-like from the chaos, ashes and rubble of the disastrous fire and seismic upheaval of 1906.

SANTA CLARA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Frances M. Klune

The Town of Santa Clara, which grew up around the Mission Santa Clara de Asis, was chartered by the State of California in 1852. Though library service of a kind existed as early as the 1850's, no history or systematic collection of records concerning its development has been made.

For this paper, the writer is indebted to Mrs. Kathleen Gleason Worsley, whose thesis, "A History of Public Library Service in Santa Clara, California," presented to the Faculty of the Department of Librarianship, San Jose State College, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a degree in Master of Arts, was invaluable and extensively quoted in this article.

Social libraries sponsored by literary and social organizations served the library needs of Santa Clarans between 1852 and 1903, when the Board of Town Trustees established Santa Clara Free Public Library. The earliest known library of the 1850's was a Lyceum library located in the office of Dick Jones, a Justice of Peace.

A reporter wrote: "It is not a little singular that among the many literary institutes of Santa Clara a public library is not found. This may be accounted for by the fact that we have six literary societies in town, and they being supplied with libraries meet in some degree, the demand for reading material."

The Santa Clara Library Association was formed in December 1870 to "provide a retreat for its members... and to found a library for the development of their mutual faculties." Members paid an initiation fee and \$1 a month. The library and reading rooms were located in the Odd Fellows Hall at the corner of Washington and Franklin streets. The rooms were described as elegantly furnished and the collection of books numbered over three hundred. The Association declared itself indebted to Martin Murphy of Santa Clara for a generous donation of books. A course of lectures was given in the "M. E." Church and the proceeds of \$60 were used to buy books and periodicals.

News of the Christian Temperance Free Reading Room first appeared in April 1879. The Reading Room was administered by a board of trustees; Mr. G. E. McGrew served as librarian. The Reading Room was located in the basement of the "M. E." Church until November when Mr. Grove offered the use of the hall on the northeast corner of Liberty and Main provided the library would be open to

the public. A fee of fifty cents a month entitled a subscriber to borrow books. Late in 1895, October 31, the Reading Room was closed.

In 1895, members of the Shakespeare Club formed the Santa Clara Book Club. A collection of books was first kept in a store, then in the News office, and finally in the former WCTU Reading Room at 909 Main Street. By 1901, the Book Club had 300 volumes, a membership of 108, and a circulation of 3,070 books. When the Town Library was established in 1903, the books of both the WCTU Reading Room and the Santa Clara Book Club were added to its collection.

The period of attempting by petition to have the Board of Town Trustees establish a public library began in 1893 and lasted until a library was established ten years later in 1903. The petitioners appreciated the work of the managers of the WCTU Reading Room, but claimed that "only a quarter of the people will go there, because they consider it a charity concern or a sectarian institution." The managers of the Reading Room wanted "to have it established as a public institution, where everyone would feel they owned a share and had an equal right to its use."

In 1901 the question of establishing a library came up again. This time, the Town Trustees decided to submit the matter to the voters. On March 10, 1902, the Public Library was defeated by a vote of 222 to 196. A year after the election defeat of the Library, Judge Bond expressed a willingness to interview Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the philanthropist, who had helped to establish many area libraries, among them San Jose, which received a grant of \$50,000. Before he left on a trip to the East, Mr. Bond offered to donate a site and 500 volumes for a Carnegie Library.

Mr. Delos O. Druffel in his 1902-03 president's message wrote: "The Library proposition crops up yearly. It is not considered the proper caper by the Board of Trustees to invite Mr. Carnegie to invest his money in a library building in Santa Clara when the Town possesses no books to fill the shelves...But the physical impossibility of raising the amount of money per annum which Mr. Carnegie demands, when the provisions of our charter do not allow us to levy a tax in excess of three cents for library purposes, presents itself...At last years Assessment basis, we could ask Mr. Carnegie for an appropriation of less than \$4,500....an inadequate amount."

(Continued in the Spring issue)

HOTELS OF THE PAST

Henry Calloway

San Jose, like most early western towns, had a Bella Union Hotel. Two stories high, and sporting the prime roofing material of the era--sheet iron. It opened in 1851 as a saloon and restaurant. The Bella Union was a frame building that had been shipped around the Horn and into this area. It was eventually raised on the north side of Santa Clara Street, just about where the American Savings Building is now located. In later years, the County made use of the building as a court house and the upper portion was the original home of the Santa Clara Register--an early-day area newspaper. ***

Also in 1851, there was a hotel called the French Hotel located on the west side of Market Street near El Dorado (since renamed Post Street). This particular hotel was the focal point of gambling in the area, and all reports indicate it was packed every night. ***

Another hotel, the U. S. Hotel, was erected about 1851 on the east side of North San Pedro Street. Cost of construction was an astronomical \$50,000. Construction workers, it seems, capitalizing on the boom in the area, were receiving in the neighborhood of \$16 per day for their labor. Unfortunately, the hotel never fulfilled its hopes and was, as a whole, an unprofitable venture. The prime reason for its failure was basic--poor choice of location. Nevertheless, the hotel did serve as a stage stop for the Hall's Valley-Mt. Hamilton stage line for some years. ***

Another look back into the 1850's and 60's would reveal the Mansion House, which was situated on the east side of North First Street (where the Commercial Building is now), and which was erected at a cost of some \$100,000. The Mansion House was an adobe structure, two stories high, and a real stylish hotel for California in those days. In fact, the Mansion House was THE hotel of the town--an elite and pleasant place to stay and to dine. Horace Greeley of "Go west, young man, go west" fame once delivered a speech to a large assembly in front of the hotel. On May 31, 1865, the hotel, then under the management of Mr. Abe Beatty, was badly burned by fire. The Mansion House was the official stage stop for the Butterfield Overland Mail. ***

One more major hotel of the era advertised outside this way: "Western Hotel--Family Style Cooking". The hotel was on the corner of Market and San Fernando streets

and ran all the way back to San Pedro. Miss Agnes Ryan of Santa Clara is the daughter of the Dan Ryans who ran the Western. This writer's grandmother, Mrs. James Calloway, worked for the Ryans who were in turn Godparents for my aunt. Miss Ryan reports that her parents left the hotel after the 1906 earthquake. ***

A good many of the other hotel-restaurants were smaller than these notables. Throughout the 50's and 60's tents were much in evidence. It is generally believed that the high cost of construction, materials and labor in general was a principal factor in retarding the growth of San Jose architecturally. ***

* * *

By-lines from the President

Jessie E. Black

I sincerely hope you all had a very pleasant and happy Holiday Season.

I thought the music furnished by Mr. Patterakis at the Christmas luncheon was wonderful. He does such a fine job in training his young people, and we wish to thank him for his beautiful solos to our "YOUNGSTERS".

Many of us had Thanksgiving dinner together at the DeAnza Hotel, which was enjoyed by all of those attending. It is always nice to get together in smaller groups and get better acquainted.

1968 DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. They may be mailed to: California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, 77 East Santa Clara St., San Jose, Calif. 95113.

We hope to have a very interesting speaker at the March meeting, with the possibility of slides to show you, so keep the date open for the luncheon and the enjoyment of meeting old friends and greeting new ones.

My prayer for all of us for the New Year is, that we all have good health, happiness and will soon have peace all over the world.

* * *

"John D. Spreckels of San Francisco really started something when on 5 May, 1905, he came to Sacramento and paid California Secretary of State, Charles Curry, \$2.00 to register his White Steamer. His was California's FIRST AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATION. In the year that followed, Curry, handling the chore as a sideline, registered a grand total of 6,428 "gas buggies" and took in about \$13,000." (September issue California Historian).

* * *

LOOK FOR IT HERE

1968 DUES may be mailed to the Pioneer Society, 77 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose, Calif. 95113. ***

BUS TOURS will be handled by Mrs. Effie M. Hawkins, phone 295-2868. ***

The beautiful Christmas decorations on the head table at our December quarterly meeting were arranged by members of the Social Group. ***

18 members over 85 years of age were honored at our quarterly meeting on December 2nd. Those present were: William B. Calvert, Josephine Franklin, May K. Kirk, Addie C. Miller, Nina Moon, Dora Owen, Dr. Ernest O. Pieper, Edna C. Ridley, Ida Skow, J. Winter Smith, Those that could not be present were: Harriet Burnett, Mary D. Ferry, Herbert C. Jones, Lavinia Lindeman, Mildred Robinson, Emma J. Rutan, Ann E. Topham and Mary D. Warburton. ***

CINNABAR HILLS; the story of New Almaden, is now on the market. Interested persons should phone either Mr. Lanyon, 867-3114 or Mr. Bulmore, 264-2104. Both are members of the California Pioneer Society of Santa Clara Co.

In addition to the San Jose State College scholarship the Board of Directors has voted to give some qualified student in the field of Social Science at the University of Santa Clara a similar scholarship. ***

The old Herbert Emile Schilling home at Park and Delmas avenues has been leveled to clear the land for a ramp to the Guadalupe Freeway extension. Herbert Schilling was living there while serving as mayor of San Jose in 1891. ***

100 years ago editor Owen of the Mercury States: "It's somewhat singular that so little attention is paid to manufacturers. True, we have a silk factory under construction, three flour mills, one distillery, four breweries, five or six carriage factories, two planing mills, one pottery, one iron foundry, one box factory, two tanneries, besides several smaller establishments."

The first public school in the U.S. was in Massachusetts, in Boston--The Boston Latin School. Boston Latin was established in 1635. A year later Harvard University was begun. ***

PIONEER REMINISCING: "I was born on Main Street. I lived there before the town macadamized it, Henry Ford motorized it, before the Unions organized it, before the chain stores standardized it and before the federal government subsidized it."

WELCOME

Congratulations to our new members: Delilah H. Binder, Earl H. Binder, Henrietta Beatty Cauhape, Mary L. Coit, Fred G. Conklin, Mary E. Conklin, Pearl W. Culbertson, Athene M. Field, Neal F. Mangin, Leora McArthur, Robert A. McArthur, Anthony A. Michaeloff, Mrs. Anthony A. Michaeloff, Mrs. Graydon Milton, Olive Newell, Malva Beatty Roth, Olive L. Ryder, Ruth Saunders, Barbara Spedding, Betty Culbertson Stockham, Leland Stockham, Katherine A. Sturla, Verna M. Sutcliffe, Helen C. Thomas, Marcellus Thompson, Mrs. Marcellus Thompson.

* * *

UNDER THE WEATHER

Mrs. Emma F. Green, Mr. Olin S. Lake, Mrs. Viola B. Lester, Mrs. Annie T. Peters, Miss Leona L. Uttley and Mr. John B. Wiley have been reported ill. Our very best wishes for a rapid recovery are sincerely extended..

Kindly keep your officers informed as to the condition of any ill member, and report any sickness or death to the chairman of our Sunshine Committee, Mrs. Ruth M. Heath. Phone 292-2609.

* * *

BEYOND THE SUNSET

Farewell, dear Pioneer,
'twill not be long.
Your work is done,
Now may peace rest with thee.
Your kindly thoughts and deeds,
They will live on.
This is not death,
'tis immortality.

Edna F. Rendler

July 10, 1875 - November 17, 1967

Gertrude A. Bernhardt

- November 23, 1967

In behalf of the officers and members of the California Pioneer Society of Santa Clara County, the TRAIL-BLAZER extends their sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of our departed members.

* * *

THE TRAILBLAZER

Issued in January, April, July and October

Editor: Arthur M. Fisk, 1335 Singletary Ave., San Jose

Associate Editor: Marjorie B. Fisk

Staff members: Olin and Edna Lake

Subscription rates to non-members \$1.00 per year. Single copies 25 cents each.

Officers for 1967-68

President Jessie E. Black
 1st Vice President Laurence Bulmore
 2nd Vice President Leland Boruck
 Recording Secretary Alice M. Vetterle
 Corresponding Secretary Eloisa Leslie
 Financial Secretary Madeline J. Smalley
 Treasurer Howard L. Worcester
 Directors: Clyde Arbuckle, Martha L. Bulmore, Eveleen C. Duff, Ruth M. Heath, Robert E. Nelson, Marjorie Rusht, Henry C. Stout and Austen D. Warburton.

* * *

THE SOCIAL CLUB of our society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday afternoon of each month. Card playing and various activities highlight each meeting. For further information call Mrs. Kate L. Owen, 295-1153.

BUS TOUR information for members of the Pioneer Society may be obtained from Mrs. Effie M. Hawkins, phone 295-2868.

PIONEER SCRAP BOOK items may be sent to Mrs. Elsa Jensen, 520 Bradley Ave., San Jose, Calif. 95128.

* * *

If undelivered return to:
 82 SOUTH 9th STREET
 SAN JOSE, CALIF. 95112

Return requested

Non-Profit Organization U. S. POSTAGE PAID San Jose, California Permit No. 1234
