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Dr. Bangs-Learning to Drive in Early San Jose

By
Gayle
Frank



1900 photo of Dr. Bangs (larger man in left auto) in his new Osen-Hunt. Photo donated by W. F. Hunt's great granddaughters to Dan Erceg, to be given to History San Jose. W. F. Hunt is sitting far right in a second auto.

After hearing the fascinating story of the historic Osen-Hunt auto, delivered by Dan Erceg at the Pioneers December luncheon, an interesting item caught my attention. It seems that a Dr. Bangs purchased the first Osen-Hunt auto and was notorious for his banging into things with his car.

It was reported in the *Evening News*, March 26, 1900, that soon after purchasing the first Osen-Hunt manufactured in San Jose, Dr. Frederick H. Bangs, accompanied by an engineer, wrecked his new automobile during a trial road trip. While heading toward Alviso on North First Street, the auto "had reached a high rate of speed on the asphaltum pavement

when suddenly a slight movement of the sensitive steering apparatus threw the machine with great force against the stone curbing nearly opposite Fox Avenue." Damage to the auto included the front portion of the running gear, smashed wheels and a bent front axle. Reportedly, the occupants were not seriously hurt, even though they were thrown from the auto.

The second reference to Dr. Bangs and his driving was described in an *Evening News* article on Dec. 7, 1900, when he and T. S. Montgomery drove his auto down The Alameda, racing against George Bollinger and Judge Slack of San Francisco in a horse and carriage, testing

(Continued page 2)

Dr. Bangs (Continued)

which mode of transportation was faster. As a vehicle came head on to the racers, Dr. Bangs quickly turned his auto to fall behind Bollinger's and hit the sidewalk, overturned the auto, and injured Montgomery. Dr. Bangs was not hurt since he already had a few accidents while taming the automobile and "learned how to fall." The auto was not seriously damaged but "the sidewalk was slightly bruised."

However, a much later news article (*Evening News*, July 18, 1913) mentioned that Montgomery was unable to walk in good form for some time" after that accident in 1900.

An *Evening News* article on Nov. 4, 1901 stated that twelve automobiles were now owned by private parties in San Jose. Dr. Bangs was described as "one of the pioneer drivers of automobiles in San Jose, having one of the first in town" though he had "all kinds of accidents," and "the machine ran away with him several times." The news article describes his auto trying to climb trees and "do other unusual things that an untamed auto is likely to undertake." However, by the date of this article Dr. Bangs was said to be a more experienced driver and had control of his auto as if it were a bicycle.

Dr. Bangs was a personable and well-liked doctor and citizen of San Jose. He apparently enjoyed taking risks, trying out new adventures and having a good time. In November of 1905, his fun-loving nature was apparent when he took part in the production of "The Mandarin," a

Chinese comic opera presented at the Victory Theater. Dr. Bangs, in his first theater appearance, played the court physician and was called to appear on stage in an automobile at the end of the second act. His friends were said to be curious to see what would happen and "how he will handle the auto on stage." The Elks Club sponsored the event to raise money for charity. (*Evening News*, Nov. 16, 1905)

By 1913, after many years of driving, Dr. Bangs acquired considerable driving skill; a newspaper article said that he drove by intuition as "his hands and feet worked quicker than his head."

However, on several occasions he frightened a streetcar motorman by "skimming in front of, before it, or around the streetcar." One motorman complained that his heart stopped beating and his hair stood on end as Dr. Bangs scooted in front of the streetcar, narrowly missing the vehicle and then tooted his horn cheerfully. The railroad issued a letter to Dr. Bangs requesting that he "kindly avoid, when possible, frightening the car crew, and that some day a motorman might die of heart failure in his tracks when he thought he was going to crash into the doctor's auto." Dr. Bangs apologetically replied that he would "observe more care in the future." (*Evening News*, July 18, 1913)

On Dec. 20, 1914, a San Jose signwriter, Louis Lieber, was struck by an automobile driven by Dr. Bangs on the corner of Second and Santa

Clara Streets, rendering the victim unconscious with a slow pulse. Dr. Bangs reported that he was driving slowly on a rainy night when "suddenly something loomed at his fender." No bones were broken and the patient's pulse improved later that night. Physicians suggested that the unconsciousness may have been not completely due to the accident. (*San Jose Mercury Herald*, Dec. 20, 1914)

The next day Lieber was reported as improving rapidly at Columbia Hospital, at Market St. & Auzerais Ave., under the care of Dr. Bangs and Dr. E. F. Holbrook. (*Evening News*, Dec. 21, 1914)

According to his obituary, Dr. Frederick Herbert Bangs passed away at the age of 56 on March 13, 1916 after a long illness. He lived at 300 South 17th Street in San Jose
(Continued on page 3)

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Dr. Bangs (Continued)

for 26 years and was a most trusted and respected citizen. He had been married to his wife, Isabella May Bangs for 28 years.

Dr. Bangs operated a sanitarium on North Third Street. His patients always came before his own personal comfort or the business aspects of his practice. He was described as having a “charming personality, an affectionate nature” and was “a substantial man of the community.” He was a member of the Elks and the Masons, served on the board of directors of the Mutual Building and Loan Association and was a trustee of the Agnew Asylum for several years.

He was born in Michigan on Oct. 31, 1859, and was a descendant of Nathan and Herman Bangs, founder of the Great Methodist Book Publishing Company. (*Evening News*, Mar. 13, 1916) ❖

If you missed the story of the Osen-Hunt automobile, the first auto manufactured in San Jose, see September, 2016 Trailblazer.

Photo of Dr. Bangs and W. F. Hunt in the Osen-Hunt autos was donated by Hunt's great granddaughters, Donna Miklica and Debby Pratt of Sunnyvale.

President's Message

As I write this message we are commencing a new year with anticipation, hope, questions, uncertainties and potential. We are witness to a new government, new ideas and new conflicts and wonder what will come from all of this. Regardless of political, religious or social affiliations, most of us do share certain common core beliefs and needs, a desire for freedom, for health, for the means to care for our families and for the peace of a safe society free of conflict and persecution. We may differ in our beliefs in how to obtain those needs but the goals remain the same.



(Photo: Tim Peddy)

Ken Machado

As we begin a new year, we close out the last and recall the triumphs and defeats, the births and deaths, the construction and destructions of our past years. We remember those who preceded us and who helped to ensure those core elements we deem vital to a meaningful life and we try to anticipate which future leaders, family members, friends or enemies will affect the outcome of our common needs.

Though we cannot predict with certainty the future of our lives, our nation or world, we can, as historians, look to the past and learn from those prior events and experiences which in turn may better equip us to face that uncertain future. In the words of **Albert Einstein**, “*Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.*” As students of history, we understand these principles and hold strong to preserve and educate about the lessons of the past.

To all of my fellow Pioneers, I thank you for your belief in the value of history and wish you a very happy and fulfilling new year, as I end with the message of novelist, **Mehmet Murat Ildan**, “*In the New Year, you carry all the experiences of the past years and that is the greatest power of every New Year! This year again, you are less student and more master!*”

—**Ken Machado**

President, California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

Special Members Event

Dan Erceg, who presented the intriguing talk on the Osen-Hunt auto at our December luncheon, has offered a tour through the John Bertilotti antique car warehouse to the members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. The date will be Saturday, March 11th at 10 am. The tour will take about 1.5 hours. The Bertilotti Collection, in Santa Clara, includes 50 beautifully restored antique cars from the early 20th century and 50 classic sports cars from the mid-20th century.

If you would like to attend this tour and you are a Pioneers member in good standing, please email Gayle Frank at gaylefrankCA@gmail.com or call 408-275-6889 to make a reservation. Directions and final details will be given out at that time.

Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Saturday, Mar. 4th, 2017

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT

Banquet Room—1547 Meridian Ave. in San Jose

Luncheon Presentation
Railroads and the
City of Campbell

presented by
Michael Kotowski

Make Reservations by Wednesday, March 1st

Email to sccpioneers@aol.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 \$30

**Please make checks payable in advance to
California Pioneers and bring to Luncheon.**

Menu Selections

Three Flames Special Steak
tri-tip steak topped with sautéed mushrooms

Chicken Parmesan
Both above served with Red Potatoes & Fresh Vegetables

Grilled Salmon with Dill Sauce

Pasta Rose
Penne Pasta in creamy Tomato-Alfredo Sauce

**All of the 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 a separate banquet room entrance.***

Luncheon Presentation

Michael Kotowski will discuss how the invention of the steam engine determined the success of the City of Campbell for the Campbell clan. The entire peninsula developed from 1863 until now because of more efficient transportation. Railroads moved people and product to the West Coast and Santa Clara Valley while people and produce returned to the East Coast. We will hear how the Campbell family ended up in this valley and how the peninsula developed with emphasis on the City of Campbell.

Mr. Kotowski will give examples such as: around 1864-65, the San Francisco-to-Santa Clara Valley commute took 3 days by walking, 2 days by freight wagon, nine hours by stagecoach for \$32, or 90 minutes by train for \$2.50, a fantastic bargain in those days.

About Michael Kotowski

Michael Kotowski is a ferroequinologist, by definition, an Iron Horse specialist. He speaks to the development of the steam locomotive from the late 18th century to the 1950's when the very last steam locomotives were built in America. But more important was the role that this invention played in getting us to where we wanted to be "ON TIME" and quickly.

Michael Kotowski served on the Campbell City Council for 17 years and as a 3-time former Mayor. He was a founding board member of the Campbell Veterans Memorial Foundation and the Campbell Historical Museum Foundation. In the 1960s he was an Air Force (SAC) Flight Engineer/Mechanic at Vadenberg AFB and was an Honor Guard for President John F. Kennedy in 1963. He has also been active in chairing numerous community boards and commissions such as the Campbell Chamber of Commerce, Campbell Planning Commission, and West Valley/Mission Colleges Foundation, to name only a few. Mr. Kotowski was awarded Citizen of the Year in 1982.

“When San Jose Was Young—School Days in the Pueblo”

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

In the early days of the Pueblo, books were strange implements as they were throughout California. Many of the books, which had been brought from Spain, are now two or three centuries old. Aside from the fine library at the Santa Clara Mission, there was only one library in this part of California and was owned by Jose Castro, afterwards General Castro, conspicuous in San Juan and San Jose at the time of the Mexican War.

The library passed into the hands of Mr. Castro's brother-in-law, Mariano Malarin of Santa Clara. Later, another excellent library of the period was owned by a scholarly Englishman named Hartnell, who had married a Spanish lady. By about 1830 Mr. Hartnell opened a school called the Seminario de San Jose at his ranch near Monterey. Here boys were received for instruction for \$200 a year. The only other libraries in the state were owned by General Vallejo at Sonoma and by the De la Guerra family at Santa Barbara.

Considering the scarcity of books it is not strange that the year 1777 must have been a happy one for children who didn't like to study. There were no schools. San Jose had an Alcalde in its early days who was unable to write. In the year 1794 not a man in San Francisco could write. The commandant asked that one able to sign his name be imported

from Santa Barbara. He was probably a curiosity. However, one must not be too critical of education in Spanish in California. At that very time, George Washington, a gentleman, a general and a future president, in his diary spelled a "window," "winder," not only revealing his peculiarities of spelling, but of pronunciation.

In the 70s of the eighteenth century the children had a long holiday from school except when a mother instructed her own and neighbors' children. The Mission Fathers were too far away to teach.

However, when the Mission and the Pueblo were sixteen years old the Spanish governor took notice of the lack of schools in the province. A royal order was published requiring the establishment of a school in each Pueblo. Evidently this was thought of first for the instruction of Indians rather than that of white children. At any rate,

in December, 1795, Manuel Vargas¹ established the first school in a "public granary."

The second school, seemingly the first school ever established entirely for white children, did not come into existence in the Pueblo till 1811. The first teacher was an infirm, retired Spanish corporal named Rafael Villavicucio.² He applied for the position of teaching in San Jose. The Alcalde, Jose Maria Estudillo, referred him to the commandant at Monterey.

The commandant gave his permission, which was very elaborate, with a great many rules and regulations. The Alcalde concurred and signed the document. A copy of that document is now buried under the corner stone of the San Jose normal school. It is written in faulty Spanish and it reveals that the commandant himself should have gone to school.

Corporal Villavicucio was given the right to teach the children of the Pueblo of San Jose for six hours daily. His salary was eighteen r e a l e s ³ (\$2.25) a year for each child. The teacher was to be paid by the head of each family in grain or flour.



(Continued pg. 6)

School Days (Continued)

Children should go to school from 8 to 11 in the morning and in the afternoon from 2 to 5. Every Thursday and Saturday afternoon children shall not read or write. They must study the doctrine (faith). The teacher is warned that he himself is answerable for explanations of the doctrine. When the teacher notes the absence of a pupil he must notify the father of the child. The father must give a satisfactory excuse. If the child is absent a second time the teacher must notify the commissioner. The commissioner must compel the father to send the children. No excuses will be accepted from mothers because "they will all be frivolous."



Drawings from F. Ralph Rambo's 1965 book, "Remember When...A Boy's-eye View of an Old Valley."

The commandant and the Alcalde favored corporal punishment for their school. The commandant was very explicit when he said, the teacher has the right to "correct and punish his scholars with advice, warning and lashes in case of necessity. Particularly he ought to do it for any failure to learn the doctrine. For this he ought not to accept any excuse nor to pardon anyone from punishment who fails to learn it, or who does not commit to memory the lesson given."

In 1818 Antonio Buelna fitted up a new schoolroom. He complained to the Governor that a fanega⁴ of grain from each parent was not enough. In the spring of 1821, Rafael del Valle taught the Pueblo school. His salary was magnificent for those days, fifteen dollars a month.

Teachers came and went. In 1829 thirty children went to school, but no marked change took place in the school system until the

American occupation of California."

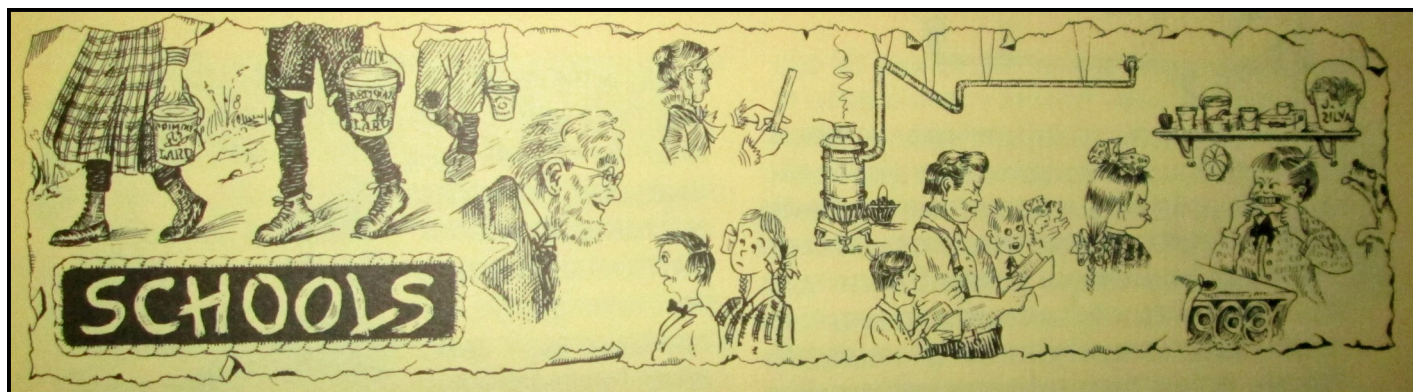
—San Jose Evening News, 9/25/1916

¹ There is a Manuel de Vargas Elementary School at 5050 Moorpark Ave in San Jose.

² Other references list his name as Rafael Vilavicencio.

³ A real was a Spanish unit of currency that was replaced with the escudo in 1864 and then the peseta in 1868.

⁴ Fanega was a Spanish bushel and the measure varied greatly but was approximately 55.5 liters or 12 Imperial bushels.



Myles P. O'Connor Mansion—A Sketch By Jim Campbell



Myles P. O'Connor came overland from Missouri to California in the Gold Rush of 1849. O'Connor made a fortune in a Grass Valley gold mine and ventured on to San Jose.

In 1884, he bought a large lot on the northeast corner of Second and Reed Streets, and, at a cost of \$40,000, built his mansion, pictured above.

Judge O'Connor and his wife Amanda were generous philanthropists, founding the first hospital in Santa Clara County in 1889. The O'Connor Sanitarium was built on 15 acres on the corners of Race and

West San Carlos Streets and was operated by the Daughters of Charity. The facility moved to 2105 Forest Avenue in 1953.

In 1894, wishing to live closer to the sanitarium, he gave his mansion to the Sisters of Notre Dame for use as an orphanage. The name was

later changed to Notre Dame Institute.

The Notre Dame Institute was replaced by Notre Dame High School, which opened in 1928. It is located at 596 South Second Street in San Jose. ❖



Notre Dame High School today, where mansion once stood.

Meet One of Our Docents

Phil Johnson is a third generation San Jose native. He lives in downtown San Jose with his wife and three daughters in a Victorian house that they have restored. He has always been a history aficionado with a particular interest in local history.

By cycling around the area he has seen many of San Jose's historical sites and was familiar with the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House.

As soon as it was open to the public he brought one of his daughters and took a tour. He immediately asked how he could be involved



and was put in contact with Paul Bernal. Fortunately, he was then able to attend the last of the docent trainings being held at the museum and Phil soon became a member of the Pioneers and a docent.

Phil works for the City of San Jose as a painter. His workshop is located across the street from the History Park and, in his professional capacity, he has painted the stables at the Park. ❖

-Sylvia Hew

Phil Johnson

Docent Opportunity for Paulson House at History San Jose

For more information or to
volunteer, contact Jonna Baker at
(408) 533-3256 or
J234belle@yahoo.com

Docent Opportunity for Roberto Adobe & Suñol House Museum

For more information or to
volunteer, contact Sylvia Hew at
408-265-5371 or
hewmum@gmail.com

Roberto Adobe & Suñol House

770 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose

FREE TOURS Saturdays 12 to 2

Not open on major holiday weekends

Gratis tours en Español con cita previa

CaliforniaPioneers.com

From Our Garden

The garden at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House is populated with many plants used in the early days of the Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe.

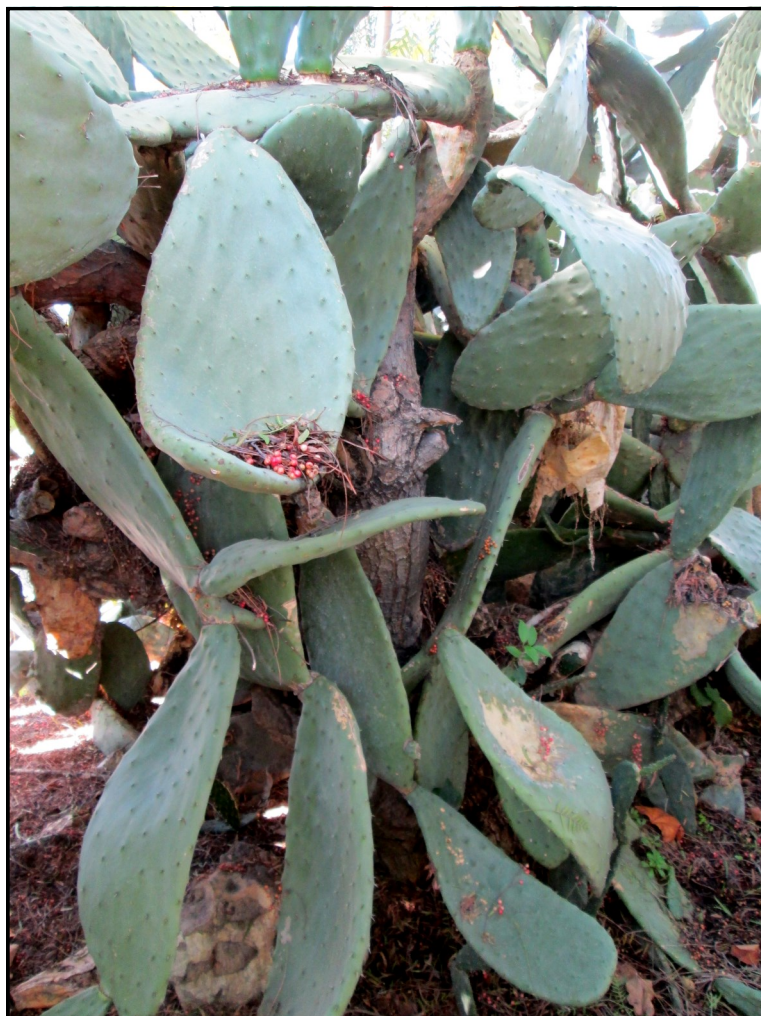
One example in our garden is the prickly pear cactus, also called Opuntia (*Opuntia ficusindica*). This plant was introduced by the Spanish and was grown in many yards throughout Santa Clara Valley. It was abundant because of its durability and many uses.

Opuntia made for an effective animal pen. It was the source of scarlet dye as described at the lower right. Opuntia provided food from its tuna (red fruit) and nopales (green paddles). It was used to make jelly, salsa, salad, sunscreen and liquor. Its juice treated burns, and it was taken internally to fight infections and male urinary problems. It reduced fevers, inflammation and pain. As a poultice it was used to treat tarantula bites and the sore breasts of nursing mothers.



Indian collecting cochineal.

Mexican priest and scientist José Antonio de Alzate y Ramírez included this illustration (1777) in a work on the cultivation of cochineal insects, used to create a dye that was one of New Spain's most important exports.



Opuntia from the garden at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House.

(Photo: Gayle Frank, Dec. 2016)

How Dye is made from Opuntia

The cactus plant, Opuntia, often is infested with parasites called cochineal (*Dactylopius coccus*); a scale insect from which the natural dye carmine is derived. The insects live on the pads of the prickly pear cacti. The Native Americans brushed them off the plant, dried them and added metallic salts to the mix to make carmine dye.

Cochineal is still used today for coloring fabrics, cosmetics, food, tissue or microbiology stains, artists' paints, ointments, pills, cheddar cheese, dairy products, meats, sausages, processed poultry, sauces, sweets, and jams. Cochineal is one of the few water-soluble colourants to resist degradation with time. It is one of the most light- and heat-stable and oxidation-resistant of all the natural organic colourants. ❖

Remembering Mary Lou Lyon, a Colorful Cupertinoian

By April Halberstadt

Mary Lou Lyon was a Cupertino pioneer. The tiny orchard community had only 3,664 residents in 1960 when she moved into this semi-rural area. Cupertino was newly incorporated in 1955 and the vote to become a town was close. In that election, 225 voters said yes to incorporation, but 183 voted no. Growth came quickly as dozens of housing subdivisions began to appear, replacing the prune and apricot orchards. Mary Lou began teaching in the brand-new Homestead High School, becoming part of what has become a notable institution. She was a pioneer at Homestead, one of the first teachers when the school opened in 1962. The school is now one of three Cupertino high schools and has over 2,500 students on campus.

Today, over 60,000 people call Cupertino home. Mary Lou was there every step of the way, teaching her high school students about their home town and the communities that surround it. Homestead High School has won many awards for its outstanding academic programs, which includes classes in electronics and robotics. It is a California Distinguished School and a California State Blue Ribbon School. Academic excellence is the reason that parents now invest heavily in a Cupertino home for their children.

Mary Lou taught English, American History and her favorite, California history, at Homestead High. She never stopped teaching or learning. When she retired from the classroom, she began a new career as an adult education instructor. She was a long time



Mary Lou (Cochran) Lyon (1926-2016)

student of San Jose historian Clyde Arbuckle and his Argonauts, that group of history enthusiasts that traveled around California, looking at the sites that made California famous. When Clyde finally retired from leading the Argonauts, he tapped Mary Lou as his replacement, a role she eagerly accepted. Dr. Michael Shea, one of Mary Lou's adult education students, recalled that she once brought a map to her adult education class, showing every road in California that she had driven in search of history. The map was covered.

Mary Lou did not let health issues keep her from teaching and traveling. Dependent on her motorized scooter during her last decade, she continued to attend meetings of the Conference of California Historical Societies (CCHS) as well as the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. For many years she had been a leader in both organizations, and always found ways to

contribute beyond her elected position. Her colorful hats and matching outfits were one of her signatures, making her easy to spot in any group.

She served CCHS as its president, planned the annual meetings, worked on the nominating committees and organized the raffles that were a signature event at the close of the dinner programs. She was an enthusiastic recruiter for the organization because she knew that all sorts of people love history and deserve to have a historical society in their community.

She was equally active in the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and proud of her heritage. She was the editor of its newsletter, *The Trailblazer*, helped manage the annual essay contest, served on the Board and freely shared both her historical expertise and her management opinions. In 2003 she

(Continued page 11)



Remembering Mary Lou (Continued)

received the Austin Warburton Award from the Pioneers for her outstanding contributions to history and to the community.

One of her legacies to her community is her library. She has donated her library and reference materials to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, who will be responsible for finding a good home for this valuable archive. Her library includes material devoted to the Oregon Trails and to California history as well as local information.

She was the author of at least five books related to her home town: *Early Cupertino*, for Arcadia books; *Some Pioneer Women in Santa Clara County*; *Some More Pioneer Women in Santa Clara County*, volume II; *Pioneer Men in Santa Clara County Before 1849*; and a biography of Captain Elisha Stephens. What is perhaps her best writing has not been published. She was a careful researcher and prepared lengthy papers on local history for the students in her adult education classes.

If you had to describe Mary Lou Lyon in a word or two, it would be Colorful Cupertino. Although she was born in the Dakotas, she became a Californian, grew with her city and chronicled its growth and maturity. She was vital and active nearly all her days and was able to celebrate her 90th birthday in September, 2016. Her family includes her two sons, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. ❖



Mary Lou loved to dress as a witch for Halloween at the Paulson House.

(Photos: Tim Peddy)

What They Said...

Excerpts from messages from Mary Lou's friends...

I loved her sense of humor, her politics, her creativity, her strength through thick and thin, her hats, her beautiful Native American jewelry, her book, and her bumper stickers! She was a spark in the Women's Fellowship of Union Church. Thanks for the memories.

—Jane and Jack Larsh, San Jose, CA

(Continued pg. 12)

Antique Auto Visits Pioneers Luncheon



Some of the Pioneers members may have noticed the beautiful 1916 Pierce Arrow antique automobile parked outside our luncheon venue on Dec. 3rd. It belongs to Dan Erceg, our speaker at the luncheon who spoke about the Osen-Hunt auto.

The car was decorated for Christmas since Dan came directly from driving it in the Los Gatos parade that morning.

Dan is pictured at left with his Pierce Arrow at the Three Flames.

Photo: Gayle Frank

What They Said... (Continued)

She made learning about California history a memorable experience. She had so many quirky, fun tidbits of information that you just couldn't wouldn't forget. This came in handy when I started teaching my own kids.

—Stephanie Haupt Johnson,
Enterprise, AL

I learned so much about California History in her class at Homestead. I carry that with me to this day. Including the mental picture of the map on the floor in her class room.

—Wayne Mills, Forestville, CA

My favorite teacher of all time! Rest in peace, Mrs. Lyon. You may be gone, but never forgotten!

—Susan Romig, Grass Valley, CA

Mary Lou was one of the most "fiesty" and delightful ladies I have ever met!. She had an opinion about everything! We first became acquainted when I started taking her history class thru CASE starting in

2013. She knew more about Calif. history that I did (and I'm a 5th generation Californian !) You were the most memorable high school teacher I ever had. I had great respect for you even to this day. You will be missed by many but never forgotten.

—Roland Garnett, Reno, NV

We met Mary Lou at a Conference of California Historical Societies meeting about 20 years ago. She was a grand Lady, who loved history except for the Donner Party. She was always a delight to have around. We already miss her. We loved her dearly.

—Al & La Vonne Minard,
Fremont, CA

Even though I was a native San Josean and Californian, I was surprised how much I didn't know about my city and state until I took Mary Lou Lyon's classes and field trips. I am grateful for the tremendous amount of knowledge she shared with us.

—Ethel Reinegger, San Jose

Mary Lou was dedicated to teaching California History and to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. She was editor of the Trailblazer for 14 years and served on the Board of Directors from 2006 until 2012. We will miss her wit and knowledge.

—Gayle Frank, San Jose

I really enjoyed her classes and I always looked forward to her colorful stories (be they fact or fiction). She will be truly missed.

—Nicole Moreno, San Jose, CA

Homestead was lucky to have such an amazing teacher. RIP Momma Lyon.

—Brenda Blomquist, San Jose

She will be long remembered. Her passion for CA History was unmatched by anybody I knew. She will be remembered by me for her strong courageous spirit and a strong woman. May her next journey be as fruitful as this one was.

—Linda E. Allen, Hayward



CA Pioneers of SCC New Members—Welcome!

Timothy Abney,
Santa Clara, CA

Sue Fitzpatrick,
Saratoga, CA

Phil Johnson,
San Jose, CA

Marie Sontag,
San Jose, CA

What's in the Paulson House?

The kitchen at the Paulson House at History Park has a 1930s-1940s theme, illustrating how the house was used over several generations. The rest of the house represents earlier decades. This photo shows the kitchen table set with Fiesta® dishes from the 1930s-40s era that came from the Helen Stevens estate.

This popular American dinnerware was designed by Englishman Frederick Hurten Rhead of the Homer Laughlin China Company of Newell, West Virginia. Introduced to the public in 1936, the pottery became extremely popular. Around the late 1950s it was modified. By 1973 the dinnerware was discontinued. To celebrate its 50th anniversary it was reintroduced in 1986.

Originally the Fiesta® dinnerware introduced just five colors, red, blue, green, yellow and old ivory in a smooth, glossy glaze. Turquoise ware arrived on the scene by 1938. When first introduced, there were 37 different pieces including candle holders, bud vase, ash try, and mixing bowls of seven sizes. After 1940 a few items were eliminated but the line was expanded to include larger vases, divided plates, water tumblers, carafes, teapots in two sizes, relish trays, and large platters.

In the 1950s, a rose, gray, forest green and chartreuse replaced the original colors with only yellow and



Kitchen table set with Fiesta® dinnerware. Photo: Gayle Frank

turquoise remaining in the collection. By 1959, the US government released its block on uranium, a key ingredient in the original colors, especially the orange-red glaze, so a new bright green and red dinnerware was now able to be manufactured.

Years ago, the brilliant red Fiesta® and all red glazes produced in the U.S. were known to have a detectable amount of uranium oxide. By 1959 the Fiesta® red was made with depleted uranium instead of the natural uranium. Trace amounts of radioactivity can be detected especially in the red vintage ceramic glazes along with the Fiesta® ivory. The U.S. EPA warns consumers not to use such vintage glazed ceramics for food or

drink due to the possibility of leaching uranium or other heavy metals, particularly from acidic food and drinks.

The Homer Laughlin China Company stopped using depleted uranium in 1972 and has not manufactured any products with uranium or heavy metals such as lead for 40 years.

Today the Fiesta® dinnerware's popularity has surged; the products are regularly tested by federally licensed independent laboratories to ensure compliance. The new Fiesta® has been produced in at least 39 bright colors, none matching the early 13 vintage Fiesta® colors. ❖

Local Artifact Connected to the First Shot Fired in WWII

In the Archives of History San Jose, there is valve cap taken from one of the two-man Japanese submarines captured at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Curator Ken Middlebrook tells us it is unknown how this item came to the History San Jose collection.

Just 90 minutes before the December 7th 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, a Navy destroyer, USS Ward, spotted a small submarine and at 6:53 am, sunk it. This was America's first action in WWII, the first shot fired in the Pacific. Five of Japan's two-man mini-sub subs were sent toward the harbor before the main attack, each carrying two torpedoes. The plan was to sneak into the harbor by closely following inbound ships.

A second mini-sub was destroyed by the USS Monaghan as it reached the harbor. A third mini-sub was washed ashore east of Oahu and ended up on tour to promote the sale of war bonds. A fourth mini-sub was found east of Pearl Harbor and was raised by the Navy in 1960. The fifth sub lies in three pieces several miles from the Pearl Harbor entrance. ❖

To see recent photos of the mini-sub remains and other historic photos go to: www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4011218/Expedition-eyes-sunken-mini-sub-Pearl-Harbor-anniversary.html.



Valve cap from Japanese mini-sub captured at Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

(Photo courtesy of History San Jose)



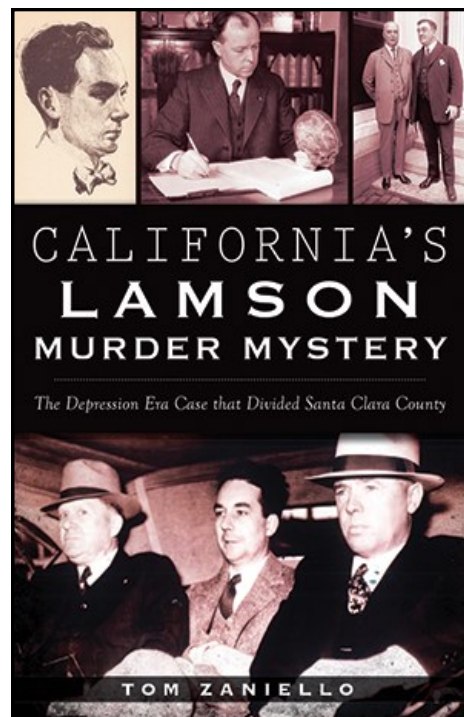
Backside of valve cap.

Book Signing

History San Jose (HSJ) is presenting a book signing and discussion event on Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 pm. The book, *California's Lamson Murder Mystery: The Depression Era Case that Divided Santa Clara County*, is authored by Tom Zaniello. The event will be held at the historic 1858 Fallon House, 175 West Saint John Street, in San Jose. Admission is \$5. Free admission for HSJ members.

On Memorial Day 1933, Stanford executive David Lamson found his wife, Allene, dead in their Palo Alto home. The only suspect, he became the face of California's most sensational murder trial of the century. After a judge sentenced him to hang

at San Quentin, a team of Stanford colleagues stepped in to form the Lamson Defense Committee. The group included poets Yvor Winters and Janet Lewis, as well as the "Sherlock Holmes of Berkeley," criminologist E.O. Heinrich. They managed to overturn the verdict and incite a series of heated retrials that gripped and divided the community. Was Lamson the victim of aggressive prosecutors, or was he a master of deception whose connections helped him get away with murder? Author and Stanford alum Tom Zaniello meticulously examines the details of a notorious case with a lingering legacy. ❖



Notice: Pioneers Dues to be Raised

The Board of Directors for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County has voted to raise the annual dues for our organization since costs have risen and our expenses have increased.

As of March 1st, 2017, annual dues will now be \$35 per year. Dues for a couple will be \$60 per year. A lifetime membership has been adjusted to \$400.

Membership Report

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

You can pay your annual dues for 2017 at the March luncheon or by mailing them to CA Pioneers, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA, 95155. Basic dues are now \$35.

Check your mailing label on the Trailblazer and it will indicate when your dues have expired. For example, if after your name it says, Dec-17, your Pioneers membership is up-to-date until the end of 2017.

Additional donations or higher membership levels are always appreciated.

Visit www.CaliforniaPioneers.com for more details. Please don't forget the Pioneers in your estate planning and consider donating from your IRA's required minimum distribution.

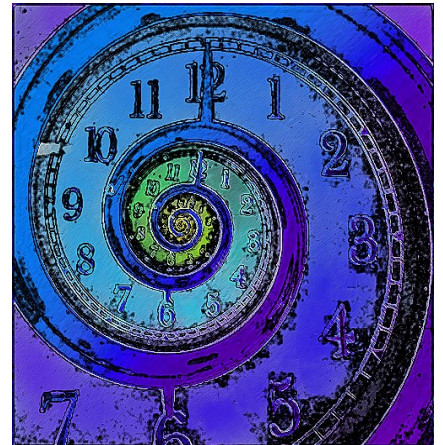
If you have questions, please contact April Halberstadt at 408-293-2860 or email her at aprilhalb@gmail.com. ❖

Time Travel (*Past News from Newspaper Archives*)

San Jose, Oct. 1876: Complaints were considerable, due to a great deal of reckless driving (horse and buggy) on The Alameda and how it wasn't worth your life to be on the avenue at certain hours. Action was deemed necessary on curtailing race track capers of the mischievous drivers and their mustangs.

San Jose, Nov. 1876: Bakers reformed the price of bread, selling and delivering it at the rate of 20 loaves for a dollar. An even further reduction was promised.

San Jose Council, June 11, 1881: Action was taken on the petition of J. J. Owen for permission to erect an experimental electric tower at the four corners of such streets to be determined for such a purpose. Four towers were proposed. The council considered the petition after the insertion of the words, "at his own expense" and "the said tower to be erected in 60 days." The report in this regard was adopted. (*A 110 foot replica of Publisher Owen's 237 foot landmark from 1881 to 1915 may be seen at History Park.*) ❖



Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills

Joyce E Cunningham

William Gil

Mary Lou Lyon

Janette Wolfram



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San Jose, CA 95155

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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.