

TRAILBLAZER

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

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Number 1

COOK'S POND

Arthur M. Fisk

A lone redwood tree on the east side of El Camino Real in Santa Clara, just south of the Importer at 2600 The Alameda is one of two redwoods that once marked the entrance to Cook's Pond before the turn of the century.

The pond was fairly large and surrounded by willows and oak trees. It was fed by fresh water springs all year around which provided a good overflow of fresh water for irrigation. Many of the willow trees planted along El Camino Real by the padres and indians were cuttings taken from the willows around the pond. The overflow from the pond ran into the pits excavated by the indians when they made the adobe bricks to build the mission and later to keep it in repair, thus forming ideal swimming holes. In 1856 the larger pit was made into a swimming pool for the students at the newly formed College of Santa Clara, but unfortunately for the students, neighboring farmers diverted the overflow from Cook's Pond for their own irrigation needs.

During my many conversations with old timers about this area only two remembered ever seeing Cook's Pond, they were Senator Herbert C. Jones and Mr. Leo Sullivan. Mr. Jones recalled the picnic grounds, boating on the pond and the willows that offered shade for the picnickers. The fashionable thing to do on Sunday afternoon was to rent a boat and take your lady for a ride on Cook's Pond. Mr. Sullivan remembered the open air dance platform where they held their Saturday night dances in the summertime with music by a local orchestra. It must have been lots of fun, too bad so much of this local history is being lost.

SUCCESSFUL PICNIC

The Santa Clara County Pioneers and their friends held their first annual picnic at Alum Rock Park on Saturday, June 26, 1897. The attendance was quite large and all seemed to enjoy the occasion.

The first feature was lunch. A number of long tables were placed together in one of the pleasant groves of trees, which were surrounded by a busy throng of ladies preparing very elaborate repasts. An hour was soon spent enjoying the many good things, and sampling a very large can of ice cream furnished by Mr. L. A. Spitzer.

At one o'clock Secretary Murgotten, who acted as Master of Ceremonies, called all from refreshment to labor and proceeded with the program of the day. This was opened with "The Pioneer March" specially arranged for the occasion by Fred Brohaska and rendered by Brohaska's Orchestra.

President Jonathan Coykendall made an address of welcome, in which he said that he rejoiced to see so many of the old settlers assembled again to take part in the celebration of another anniversary commemorating the beginning of not only Santa Clara County but the State.

Com. J. E. Gordon, on behalf of the committee, sprang a very good "fake" on the officers of the society. He read a letter purporting to come from the New York Society, presenting a box containing a wreath of laurel for the brow of each officer. This was accompanied with a verse composed for the occasion.

Com. D. J. Porter next spoke a few appropriate words as follows: "We meet on these stated occasions to continue our friendly relations in social intercourse, and to keep green the memories not alone of our pioneer days but the memories of our departed companions who have passed over and on."

"We never tire of recounting their experiences and ours. Memory fails us not of the many incidents both grave and gay encountered on the long and tedious journey across the plains or around Cape Horn, of the days we battled with the ocean's storms, or with savage tribes on the plains, enduring without murmur privations and hardships." et cetera.

Miss Tillie Brohaska then sang "The Old Folks at Home."

Harry Bee, the oldest pioneer in the State, who landed here in 1830, and has resided 60 years in San Jose was introduced. He was followed by ex-Mayor Adolph

Pfister, who described some of his experiences during the early part of the State's history.

Will H. Lake delighted the audience with a cornet solo "Ben Bolt." A recitation "The Old Pioneer in a Palace Car" was given by Miss Bowen, after which J.E. Gordon sang "The Old Oaken Bucket," followed by David Wight who sang a Scotch song entitled "The Cameron Clan."

After the exercises the pioneers assembled were photographed by A. P. Hill, the artist. Then dancing was the order of the day. The pioneers all returned on the 6:15 motor, having spent a very pleasant day, with not a single accident to mar the day's festivities.

* * *

DRUNK AS A GOAT

by R.R.

Far back in the old days of Franklin Street in Santa Clara, when tobacco chewers tilted their chairs back against the sunny wall of George Mitchell's Pool Room, womens' dresses swept the side walks and an occasional loose cow or horse wandered down the dusty street, there also wandered a BILLY GOAT.

He pastured conveniently close to the once lively operating Durgan's Saloon where Old Joe's Steam Beer was drawn to foamy heads from a huge barrel. There was a spill-over from this long gone beverage and it was caught in a bucket below the spigot. The bucket was never emptied. BILLY GOAT took care of that chore! Every morning within minutes of opening time, said GOAT would arrive at the back door, lower his horns and impatiently butt the door for admittance! And then he proceeded to drink all the stale beer in the bucket. He became an alcoholic and a town character, every morning after his refreshment, staggering down Franklin Street to delight the expectant towns people. In other words; he was DRUNK AS A GOAT!

Now today in such an event, motor cops would arrive with screaming sirens, the local S.P.C.A. would sue the GOAT owner and the poor animal would only be seen in the headlines; not in the gutter of old Franklin Street.

Such is life.

* * *

"GOAT" BAILEY

Comments on "Goat" Bailey in Dick Barrett's column sometime ago caused me to follow through on this subject. Eaton, in his History of Santa Clara Valley (1895) states that, "Half bred Angora goats scarcely furnish enough fleece to pay for shearing; three quarter bred goats shear from one to one and a half pounds, worth 20¢ per

pound. Pure bred goats shear from four to six pounds, worth 45¢ per pound. C. P. Bailey, of San Jose, has made a specialty of goat breeding for thirty years, and is an earnest promotor of the mohair industry. He has taken most of the premiums at the California State Fair during the past twenty years. The price for thoroughbred bucks ranges from \$25 to \$50 per head; graded does, \$4 to \$8 per head. Mohair ranges in price from 15 to 45 cents per pound."

C. P. Bailey started raising goats here, away back in 1865. "Curt" says there is no relationship between him, and either the goat business or "Goat" Bailey.

* * *

FROM THE SPARTAN DAILY

It was not until July 7, 1872 that the State Normal School moved onto land donated by the city. That land, Washington Square, a swamp frequented by duck hunters, was in the heart of the city and bordered on Fourth, Seventh, San Fernando and San Carlos streets. School officials were strong believers in loco parentis. All freshmen received the following rules on blue registration cards: "Wear no cords; obey upperclassmen; smoke no cigarettes; smoke nothing on Washington Square; no queening in corridors or library; no stepping out on week nights; attend all assemblies; keep off the grass; decorate for all student body dances; keep the campus and corridors clean and build bonfires."

Following the earthquake in 1906 temporary quarters were set up on campus. Women's P. E. was housed in a group of shacks. The shacks were sheltered by bamboo to "ward off the male peekers."

Memories of 100 years ago.

* * *

SAN JOSE'S OLD TIME FIRE DEPARTMENT

Anthony R. Sapena

San Jose's first fire department, the Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 came into existence January 27, 1854. The equipment consisted of a four wheeled wagon, with leather buckets and four ladders, the longest of which was 16 feet. The first firehouse was erected at a cost of \$1450 on a lot owned by Louis Lightstone on Lightstone Street.

A used hand pumper was purchased from San Francisco along with some hose costing \$1 per foot on July 24, 1854 and Empire Engine Company No. 1 went into service. At the same time the Common Council passed an ordinance, "that ringing the fire bell was to be used for alarms of

fire only."

Another used hand pumper was purchased from San Francisco on May 12, 1856 and Torrent Engine Company No. 2 went into service. Prior to October 5, 1857 each company was operated separately and governed by a foreman but on this date John B. Hewson was elected the first Chief Engineer of the San Jose Fire Department.

A Silsby engine, the city's first steam pumper was purchased June 3, 1867 at the cost of \$6,216. It had to be hand pulled to the fires by the firemen and it was not until March 9, 1871 that the council agreed to hire a man with a team of horses to pull the Silsby steamer.

The Chief Engineer was granted a salary of \$25 per month on March 2, 1874.

San Jose's first disastrous fire occurred April 24, 1875 when Auzerais Brothers store on Market Street caught on fire. A strong north wind caused it to spread fast and it completely destroyed St. Joseph's Church.

For many years the San Jose Fire Department was a volunteer organization. It was not until October 23, 1876 that the city council voted to have a paid fire department effective November first with 29 full-time employees.

A boy threw a lighted firecracker into a fireworks display on San Fernando Street near Second on July 3, 1892 and started the famous "Fourth of July Fire." Before the fire was brought under control most of the buildings on both sides of San Fernando Street between first and Fourth Streets were destroyed. The Empire Engine Company's steamer pumped water through 26 consecutive hours.

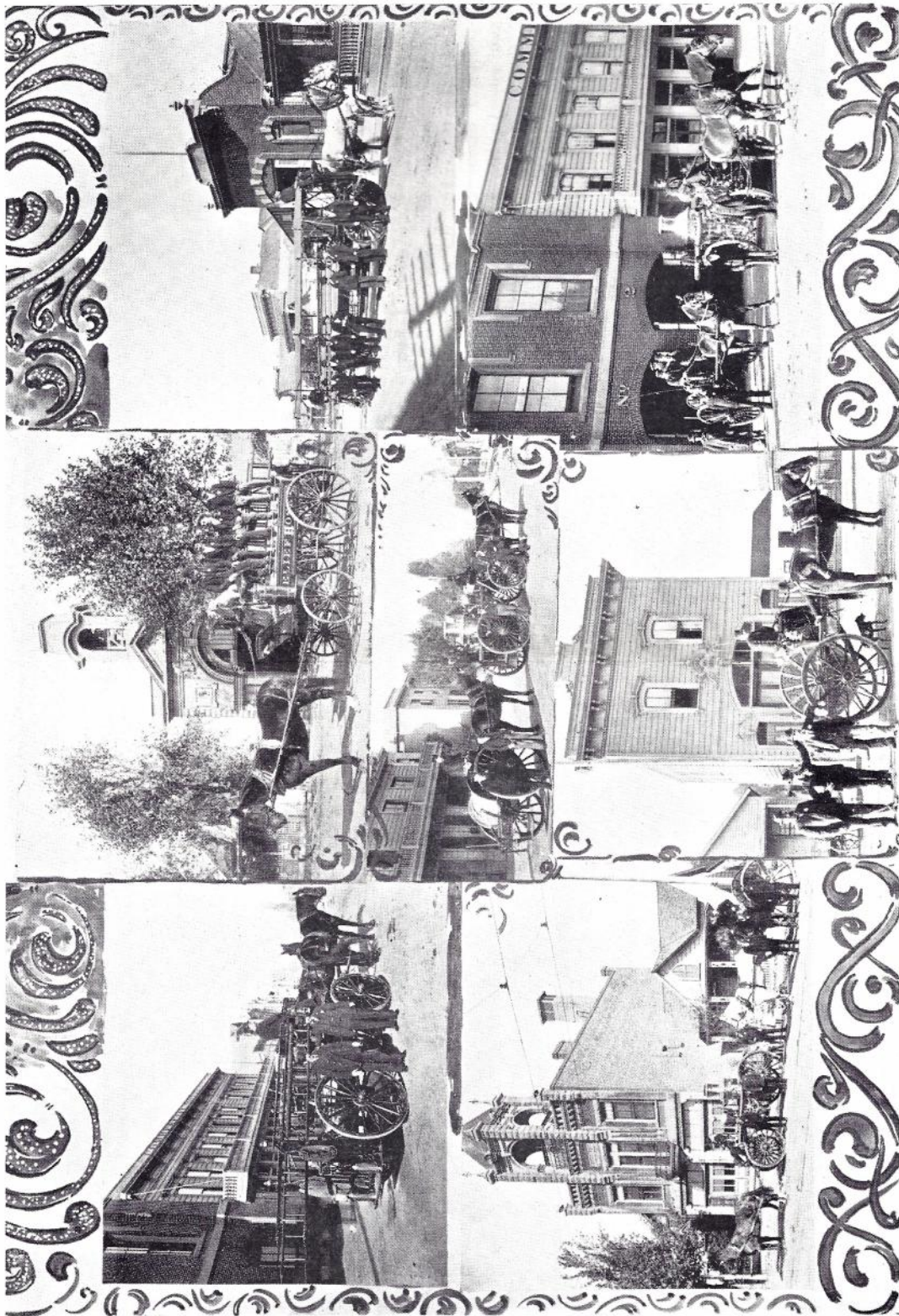
The city purchased a double 80 Champion chemical truck on October 9, 1893 and the officer in charge became the first "Captain" of the San Jose Fire Department.

The first telephone was installed on October 15, 1894 in the Chief Engineer's Office. Prior to this time a few electric lights had been installed in some stations.

The San Jose Fire Department as the year 1972 draws to an end is protecting an area of 140 square miles with a personnel of 497. Within our city limits there are 25 fire stations which includes 27 engine companies and eight truck companies. San Jose's population is approximately 471,000.

(Shown in the pictures on pages 6 and 7 are the Chemical Engine Company No. 1, Empire Engine Company's Silsby Steamer, Franklin Engine Company No. 3, Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 and Torrent Engine Company No. 2.)

* * *



(CIRCA 1894)

THE SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT — ENGINES, TRUCKS AND HOUSES.

Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1.
Torrey Engine Company, No. 2.

Relief Hose Company, No. 2.
Empire Engine Company, No. 1.
Kureka Hose Company, No. 1.

Chemical Engine Company, No. 1.
Franklin Engine Company, No. 3.

LETTERS

Dear Mr. Fisk:

I am a member of the Pioneer Society and a native Californian and came to Santa Clara Valley over 53 years ago. I fell in love with the climate and decided to stay. I settled in the little town of Santa Clara which had a population of between four and five thousand people. As the town was only about one square mile in size and the fruit ranches came to the edge of the town there was always some farmers in town especially in the winter when they couldn't work on their farms. At that time there was an electric street car line that ran along the Alameda from San Jose to Santa Clara and along Franklin Street to the Carmelites.

Pat Concannon was mayor, Pete Fallon was chief of police, Tom Maloney was constable, Judge Thompson was justice of the peace, I don't remember the names of the councilmen. John Widney was a prominent citizen and an early pioneer, he owned much property in Santa Clara and throughout the State. One day I heard him tell how the valley looked when he came here, he said, "it was just one large mustard field as far as you could see." In contrast when I came to the valley over 53 years ago you could drive up in the foothills in the springtime when the fruit trees were in bloom and the valley was one large flower garden, but today if you drive up in the foothills and are lucky enough to pick a day when you can see through the smog all that is visible is one large garden of rooftops. Rudy Hipp

* * *

The following interesting information was received with the application for membership of one of our newer members, Mrs. Minnie Ridley Jorgensen:

"I remember Willow Glen when most of it was orchards. My grandmother's house where I was born is still there on Cherry Avenue. My Grandmother and Grandfather Ridley had 3 sons and 2 daughters. Aunt May married a jeweler, Lisle Loomis and he had a jewelry store next to the street (Loomis the jeweler on Cherry Avenue). The store building is still there. Our father Lee Ridley died in 1906 leaving mother with five little girls, as soon as we were old enough, mother (Edna Clinton Ridley) got a job teaching school and taught until she was 74 (36 years). When the property was subdivided one street was named after our family, Ridley Way. Mother was a member of the California Pioneer Society of Santa Clara County.

* * *

BY-LINES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lynn L. Vermillion

A new year has begun and already the scheduled activities jump from our calendars to show us 1973 is going to be a year of action and promise. Events and routine tasks just don't happen, they are planned and executed. Your board of directors is one of the most dedicated groups with whom I have ever been associated. We meet every second Monday evening of each month at 90 N. 9th Street, Ramona Moxley's home. It is here we carry out the business of your organization. A great deal of hard work and lively discussions go on. The time involved averages nearly forty hours of meetings each year, plus the many hours that are put in at home; because our work really begins after we leave the meetings. If you feel you would like to serve on the Board of Directors of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, there will be vacancies to fill this June. Please give your name or the name of someone you think might like to serve to any board member. Volunteers will be asked to sign up for the Centennial Committee this next March quarterly meeting. If you are ready to serve, we'll see you at the March meeting.

* * *

LOOK FOR IT HERE

Our next quarterly meeting will be held at Lou's Village, Saturday, March 3rd at 12 o'clock noon. Our chairman promises us a most interesting program. ***

1973 DUES may be sent to Curtis S. Bailey, 390 N. Winchester Blvd. 9C, Santa Clara, Ca. 95050. Dues are \$2 per year and the motto we like best reads: "Right now is a good time." ***

The Social Club of our society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. For further information call Mrs. Frances Grant, 292-3852. ***

The Trailblazer in the Fall issue inadvertently reported the death of George Gattorna, it should have read M. A. Gattorna. George is enjoying good health and we hope the error has not caused any embarrassment. ***

Over 400 members and guests attended our December meeting and enjoyed a very fine Christmas program by the San Jose Boys Chorus, also at this meeting we honored 25 members 85 years of age or older. Those present were: Joe Antine, Stella Baggs, William Calvert, Eleanor Carter Dale, Inez Green Getchell, Georgia Hanjes, Isa McIntrye, Violet Oliphant, Ida Skow, J. Winter Smith and Lewis H. Waldron. Those that could not be present were: Embert

Brown, Pearl Castle, Mary Ferry, Henry Hazen, May Kirk, Helen Mignon, Tena Miner, Nina Moon, Kate Owen, Ernest Pieper, Naomi Pinard, William Serpa, Georgie Swall and Anne Topham.

\$165.30 was contributed by the members present at our December quarterly meeting for the handicapped children at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Pediatric Ward. Your officers and committees gave many gift wrapped toys. The toys with a check for \$165.30 were presented to the Medical Center by Miss Bernice Van Gundy. Mrs. Burnell, Supervisor of Pediatrics, advises that the money will be used toward purchasing several television sets for the three rooms in the pediatric section. ***

The O'Connor Hospital 89'ers are looking for authentic pioneers who were residents of Santa Clara County prior to 1900, and for other residents whose families have contributed to the development of our county. If you know the whereabouts of persons fitting these descriptions please notify O'Connor Hospital, Dept. of Community Relations, 2105 Forest Ave., San Jose, Ca. 95114. Phone (408) 298-3900 Ext. 379. ***

R.R. advises us that his first book "Almost Forgotten" is in its eighth edition and "Remember When" its sixth. All of his books have been reprinted and are available at the Emporium book shop or Warburton's Stationery store in Santa Clara and other book stores. ***

Governor Reagan said, "his favorite piece of mail came from a little girl." It read: "Will you please change the name of the Dumbarton Bridge?" It was signed "Mary Barton." ***

The old San Jose post office at 1105 South Market Street was dedicated Sunday, October 22nd as a California Historic Landmark. Jack Dowty director of the San Jose Historical Museum was master of ceremonies, speakers were Leonard McKay, Martha Bulmore and Charlotte Wendel. The building was constructed in 1892 from sandstone quarried at the Graystone quarry along Alamitos Creek. The building first housed the post office then the city library and now the art gallery. ***

Santa Clara's first Town Hall was built in 1891 and torn down in 1948. The site of the old Town Hall and Jail at the southwest corner of Main and Benton streets was recently marked with a bronze plaque. Historian Clyde Arbuckle was the main speaker for the occasion. ***

One of our members, Mr. Sebastian Casalegno advises that he is a direct descendant of Pierre Pellier. The man that brought the french prune to Santa Clara Valley.*

WELCOME

Congratulations to our new members: Joe E. Amaral, Nancy Amaral, Abbie C. Bean, Al. R. Beecroft, Erna Beecroft, Patricia C. Cadogan, Charles J. Cali, Lelia Cali, Dominic Camicia, Margaret C. Carroll, Lois B. Chamberlain, Florence E. Christian, Edna L. Curtis, Charles W. Down, Charlotte Down, Ruth L. Duarte, Orinda T. Eddy, Ione F. Emery, Hethie Evans, Helen L. Frusetta, Haskell Gibson, Marjorie Gibson, Janet S. Hickey, Florence Houston, Howard Houston, Jennie Pogue Jepsen, Harold E. Jorgensen, Minnie Jorgensen, Charles A. Maddux, Marie Maddux, Alice E. Naas, Clarence W. Naas, Arthur E. Navlet, Lottie M. Piole, Silvio J. Piole, Dorothy Dean Plummer, Fred C. Rudisill, Theresa Savio, William F. Serpa, Hazel Struthers, William D. Wimmer, Charles R. Winterhalder, Evelyn Winterhalder and Mabel W. Wood.

* * *

BEYOND THE SUNSET

June E. Holladay
- November 1972

Aimee M. Combatalade
April 23, 1895 - December 17, 1972

Adla V. Berggren
December 4, 1899 - December 18, 1972

Alice E. Lynn
September 2, 1890 - December 19, 1972

Neal F. Mangin
April 21, 1891 - December 23, 1972

Evelyn A. Heath
March 23, 1894 - December 26, 1972

Norman M. Robertson
August 10, 1895 - December 30, 1972

Georgie R. Swall
April 28, 1883 - January 9, 1973

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

THE TRAILBLAZER

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Associate Editor, Marjorie B. Fisk

Assistant Editor, Henry J. Calloway

Staff Artist, Ralph Rambo

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Officers for 1972-'73

President Lynn L. Vermillion
 1st Vice President C. Kelly Canelo
 2nd Vice President Laurence E. Bulmore
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* * *

SEND APPLICATIONS for membership and address changes to Bernice Van Gundy, 561 Fuller Ave., San Jose, Ca. 95125.

BUS TOUR INFORMATION for members of the Pioneer Society may be obtained from Mrs. Esther M. Adams, phone 264-8119 9 a.m. until 12 noon, Monday through Thursday.

SICKNESS and DEATHS please notify Doreen Magus, 819 State Street, San Jose, Ca. 95110. Phone 293-0242.

* * *

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