

THE TRAILBLAZER

Quarterly Bulletin of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County
Volume 4 Spring 1964 Number 2

BY-LINES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Alice M. Vetterle

For several years our Pioneer Society has sponsored the Pioneer Living Memorial Wildflower Planting Program under the chairmanship of Mrs. Bert Morris. Each fall over 1000 Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls with the assistance of Boy Scouts, Garden Club Members and Church School groups have sown lupine and California poppies around the reservoirs and in various County Parks to help restore and preserve the fields of color which the Pioneers found here over 100 years ago.

Mrs. Morris is unable to direct this project any longer and the scout troop with which her sons and husband were affiliated are no longer interested in assuming the responsibility. At this time we are interested in getting a committee of our own members to organize and direct the project. As the Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls have been active in doing the actual planting of seeds, it is expected they will continue to carry on. Also, the County Park and Recreation Department has played an active part and would be of great help in planting. Mr. Amyx and Mr. Perrone have been most helpful.

Anyone who is interested and able to contribute to this worthwhile effort to preserve some of our county's heritage, please contact your President or the Recording Secretary.

At our June 6th Quarterly Meeting we will have as our Guest Speaker, Miss Donna Senini, a student at San Jose State College, who has been selected as the recipient of our 1964 Scholarship Award. Her topic will be, "San Jose During the Civil War."

Our Society has acquired a good collection of papers on Local History as a result of this Scholarship program. These students have done exceedingly well, and have made the project rewarding in the variety, accuracy, and amount of material made available.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY PLACE NAMES

Arthur M. Fisk

Through the place names of Santa Clara County its rich history comes vividly alive. They recall the many pioneers who lived here, and what they saw and hoped for.

Acknowledgement is made to Dr. Erwin G. Gudde's, California Place Names, the Wells Fargo Bank and Mr. Clyde Arbuckle, San Jose City Historian.

AGNEW. Named for Abram Agnew on whose land the town developed.

ALMA. Name applied to the railroad station in 1878.

ALUM ROCK. According to Mr. Clyde Arbuckle, "Alum Rock Canyon, was so named by John Martin Agan because of a 200 foot high alum-bearing monolith near its entrance. It is on public lands confirmed to San Jose by the Viceroy of Spain in 1779 and was made a public park by an act of the California Legislature in 1872."

ALVISO. Named for Ignacio Alviso, who received the land grant Rincon de los esteros on February 10, 1838.

CALIFORNIA. Named by Montalvo. In Spanish history it was said that California was a fabulous island in the Pacific, rich in minerals and precious stones, and said to be the home of a tribe of Amazons, of which Califia was queen.

CAMPBELL. Named for Benjamin Campbell who came here in 1846, built a sawmill and established a stage station.

COYOTE. Taken from Coyotl, an aztec word. The coyote covered a wide range in the state, and figured prominently in the myths of the California Indians.

CUPERTINO. Named for nearby Arroyo de San Jose Cupertino. It was named by Spanish explorers in honor of a seventeenth century Italian saint.

EL CAMINO REAL. "The Royal Road" or, in popular parlance "The King's Highway."

GILROY. Named for John Gilroy, Scottish sailor who put ashore at Monterey in 1814.

GOLDEN GATE. Named by Captain John C. Fremont, Chrysopylae, or Golden Gate.

LOS ALTOS. Named when subdivided in 1907, is Spanish for "the heights." Located on Rancho San Antonio.

LOS GATOS. The cats. Originally called "La Rinconada de los Gatos", the rendezvous of the wildcats, which infested this region. Post office named in 1864.

MAYFIELD. Name given to the post office in 1855. Located on the farm of Elisha O. Crosby. Now Palo Alto.

MILPITAS. Perhaps the diminutive of Milpa, corn patches, hence, little corn patches.

MORGAN HILL. Laid out on Rancho Ojo de Agua de la Coche (Pig Springs Ranch). Named for Morgan Hill in 1892, who had acquired the ranch when he married Diana Murphy, daughter of Daniel Murphy.

MOUNTAIN VIEW. Named in 1852, when it was a stage stop. It was given this descriptive name because of the visibility of the Santa Cruz Mountains to the south and Mount Diablo to the north.

NEW ALMADEN. Named after the highly productive quicksilver mines of Almaden in Spain.

PALO ALTO. "High tree." Named by the Spanish explorers for a tall redwood tree that stood on the town-site. Much later Leland Stanford named his farm, Palo Alto Farm.

QUITO. (Pronounced Kee-toh) May have been named for Rancho Quito, which means "call it quits".

SAN MARTIN. Named by Martin Murphy in honor of his patron saint.

SAN JOSE. For St. Joseph, the foster-father of Christ. Originally named Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe in 1777.

SANTA CLARA. Named for Saint Clare of Assisi, founder of the Order of Poor Clares (Nuns).

SARATOGA. Founded in 1851 and called McCartysville. It was also known as Pacific Congress Springs for a short time. On December 22, 1863 it became Bank Mills and on March 13, 1865 the post office was established as Saratoga.

SARGENT. Named in 1869 for James P. Sargent, on whose ranch the settlement developed.

SUNNYVALE. In the early days it was called Murphy's Station for Martin Murphy Jr., who owned Rancho Pastoria de Borregas on which Sunnyvale is located. After the turn of the century it was given its present descriptive name. It was incorporated in 1907.

* * *

SAN JOSE'S CONSERVATORY IN THE "KNOCK-DOWN"

Lovesta Dorwin Davis

It was about 1873. James Lick was awaiting delivery of his \$40,000 order from Irvington-on-Hudson, New York. The cargo would be brought around the Horn, unloaded on the San Francisco docks, and eventually reach Alviso pier via a small Bay freighter. From there Mr. Lick would have the many heavy wooden crates hauled by wagons through the center of San Jose, on southward to his Homestead Acres.

There along the tree-lined Guadalupe, just south of Willow Street, he was deep in an absorbing project. He had already enclosed his 130 acres with a high board fence, and boarded up the river bank in various places to prevent further damage during torrential winter floods. He had spent \$10,000 to level the grounds, and had already transplanted some of his imported trees and shrubs (brought earlier from other lands) that had been flourishing on his Mahogany Mill Acres near Alviso. His Homestead Acres would be a spot of great beauty---avenues of palms, vistas of green lawns, white graveled walks, beds of bright flowers among the rare trees and bushes. And in the midst--a replica of the famous Conservatory in London's Kew Gardens!

It arrived. Thirty-three tons of sheet glass, three tons of putty, all the bolts and nuts, screws and nails, the wooden bars, scroll-work, pieces of shaped metal, the doors--all the necessary parts of a wonderful glass conservatory in the "knock-down"--the many crates stacked safely inside the high board fence.

About that time Mr. Lick became enraged by newspaper comments regarding his many eccentricities. Vowing he would never do another thing for San Jose he left his Homestead Acres in the care of his business agent and returned to San Francisco. There in a tiny room, third floor rear in his own hotel, he began writing his oft-amended Deed of Trust.

In failing health Mr. Lick never got back to his Homestead Acres. He was confined at last to his cluttered little room in the Lick House from January 1876 to October first of the same year. He died there in the midst of consuming frustration over how his Trust Deed was being administered by his own Board of Trustees.

Their sale of the Homestead Acres was among the last of their real estate transactions, nearly twenty years later. But less than three years after Mr. Lick's death three altruistic San Franciscans, interested in the Golden Gate Park Improvement Association, went to San Jose "on their own" and purchased all those crates stacked up behind the high board fence -- for \$2600. Mr. Lick's \$40,000 conservatory in the "knock-down" was carted off to Golden Gate Park, and San Francisco spent \$15,000 to erect it.

There it stands today, a lacy-looking, fairy-like structure with rounded glass ceilings tapering into peaks, its large central portion rising in a lofty, many faceted dome. All five sections are filled with exotic tropical

plants. It is 250 feet wide and 75 feet deep, with a large potting room in the rear. As it neared completion it was said to "take on a sedate old-lace, mid-victorian charm." It was called a crystal palace by those first eager throngs, and today after more than eighty years many visitors still appreciate its loveliness.

Standing at a vantage point in downtown San Jose, anyone with sufficient imagination might look southward along the winding Guadalupe to a section beyond Willow Street and envision a large spired dome half hidden among the lofty trees, the many panes of glass glinting in the sunshine. But it isn't there. The entire area is criss-crossed by a number of short narrow streets, lined with hundreds of old but generally neat little homes. But--- "It might have been."

* * *

100 YEARS OF COMMUTE SERVICE

Saturday, January 16, 1864 was the beginning of modern day commute service between San Jose and San Francisco. At 1:30 p.m. on that date the first train on the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad arrived in San Jose at the old brick depot north of Bassett Street near San Pedro.

The entry of the railroad brought an end to the long arduous trip by stagecoach or the eight hour trip by boat from Alviso.

J. J. Owen, Editor of the San Jose Mercury wrote: "A dense mass of humanity thronged all parts of the spacious (station) rooms and the buildings---as the train came rolling in, it was a glorious sight, such as was never witnessed in San Jose before."

The one way fare was \$3 and the running time from San Jose to San Francisco was two hours and 10 minutes so a San Josean could take the morning train to San Francisco and return that same evening. This was the beginning of our present day commute service.

After a few years the S.F. & S.J.R.R. was purchased by the Central Pacific, which later became the present Southern Pacific.

The old brick station building is still standing after more than 100 years of service.

An advertisement in the San Jose Patriot reads, "On and after February 15, 1864 the S.F. & S. J.R.R. will run two trains each way, daily. Leaving the depot on Brannan Street, between Third & Fourth, for San Jose at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Leaving San Jose at 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m."

COPPER MINING IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Clyde Arbuckle

No one has ever classified Santa Clara County as a second Butte or Calumet. Yet it has boasted enough copper diggings to separate any number of investors from an untold amount of money. Copper intermittently excited local mining men for almost 30 years, and abandoned copper workings appeared on official maps until the opening of World War I.

Jose de los Reyes Berreyesa filed Santa Clara County's first copper claim on Jan. 2, 1846, seven months before American occupation of California. He located it near his dwelling on Rancho San Vicente at New Almaden. But it attracted little interest until Oct. 5, 1864, when the Margarita Copper Mining Co., was organized to work it.

This company, with John Nott as president and R. B. Buckner as secretary, had a capital stock of \$400,000--or 4,000 shares valued at \$100 a share. It successively produced high hopes, low grade ore and inevitable assessments. By the end of the 1860's, its beautifully engraved stock certificates had lost all but their souvenir value.

In 1854 Elisha and David Hughes struck a copper deposit on Campbell Creek (now Saratoga Creek), just above the present town of Saratoga. Whereupon they and Frank Farwell organized the Campbell Creek Copper Mining Co., an optimistic but short-lived venture. (Today their digging is known as the County Gravel Quarry.)

The Dixie Mining Co., also near Saratoga, proved equally ephemeral. Its ads and notices appeared in the San Jose Tribune and San Jose Patriot in 1863 and 1864. One, in the Patriot, advised stockholders to pay their assessments of three and half cents a share to Secretary John Cross at York & Cross' Mill, in McCartysville (now Saratoga).

In December, 1861, and January, 1862, the San Jose Mercury reported copper mining in what we now call Alum Rock Park. Several caves or prospect holes on the canyon sides testified to feverish activity before an assay of their product cooled investor enthusiasm. (Oddly, one of these caves, dug about 1862, is now advertised as a hiding place of the bandit Joaquin Murieta, who, if he ever lived, was killed in 1853.)

On May 29, 1863, a wandering columnist named "Peregrinus" reported organization of the McElroy Mining District--which, with the diggings it embraced, soon faded into history.

The Pacheco Pass copper rush was still a lively topic when the Arthur Mining Co. opened its diggings near the Old Watsonville Road, in the hills west of Gilroy. Two of this company's notices appeared in the San Jose Mercury on Oct. 5, 1865. One announced an assessment of five cents on every share of the company's stock; the other, that the company's Annual Meeting would take place in the Gilroy Post Office nine days hence.

Copper also appeared near Lexington and at several other points in the county. But its occurrences invariably had something in common with the sultans in Khayyam's Rubaiyat. Each abode its hour or two and went its way.

* * *

THE FIRST LEGISLATURE OF CALIFORNIA

Excerpts from address by Senator Herbert C. Jones
San Jose, December 10, 1949

A deep sense of reverence, a sense of solemnity, a feeling akin to awe, comes over one as he stands almost on the very spot where the First Legislature of California met, and realizes that here a hundred years ago to the week the foundations were laid for California's State Government.

The story is fraught with drama unique in the history of our Nation. We elected a Governor, a Legislature and state officials; the Legislature met, passed laws and adjourned--California functioned as a state almost a whole year before it was a state. Not until September 9, 1850, were we admitted into the Union.

Too often and too lightly this First Legislature is referred to as, "The Legislature of a Thousand Drinks." One of the members of this First Senate, Thomas Jefferson Green, is responsible for this title. History records that he was fond of drinking and that after each session he invited his colleagues to "have a drink--a thousand drinks."

After the Constitutional Convention in Monterey completed the draft of a Constitution on October 13, 1849, an election was held on November 13 to ratify the Constitution and to elect a Governor, Legislature and state officers. Peter H. Burnett was elected Governor.

Thus was brought into being the First California Legislature. The day appointed for convening was Saturday, December 15, 1849, and the place chosen was San Jose. That winter was an unusually wet one, with a rainfall upward of 36 inches for the season. The rains began on the

night of October 28th, and by the 15th of December, the roads were so muddy that not enough Legislators were able to reach San Jose by that first day. The following Monday, however, December 17th, a quorum had arrived and the Legislature officially convened.

The San Jose of those days was just emerging from the quiet, drowsy pueblo of Spanish and Mexican rule. Its population was beginning to grow, there being then some 3,000 people in town. The gold rush was turning it into a trading center. Tents and wooden shacks were springing up around the existing adobe dwellings. However, much of the pueblo flavor still prevailed. The plaza of those days was a general rectangular shape, extending from the present San Carlos Street north to St. John Street---from the location of this hotel (Sainte Claire) on the south to the Peralta adobe on San Augustine Street on the north. This plaza had none of the romance with which we sometimes picture it. It was dry, sun-baked adobe in the summer, and bottomless mud in the winter. The native Californian, when he came to build his adobe house, dug the adobe from the Plaza, leaving great depressions. A resident of the time saw cattle and horses roaming the streets of the town at will.

To the east of First Street the land was then covered with the bleaching bones of cattle which had been slaughtered for their hides. The slaughtering of cattle occurred even in the Plaza. The first City Council of San Jose, in 1850, had to pass ordinances against the digging of adobe, or skinning of cattle, in the Plaza.

During the convention in Monterey a committee of San Jose citizens headed by Charles White and James F. Reed had persuaded the convention to name San Jose as the state capital. This committee had promised a suitable building by the fifteenth of December. This was indeed a rash promise, when it is considered that San Jose at that time had no building adequate for the purpose. However, there stood on the east side of the market square a large adobe structure erected in 1849 by Sainsevain and Rochon, intended by them for a hotel. Since this edifice was the most suitable one the town could use for a state house, the town council proposed to rent it for the Legislature. However, the rental price asked, namely \$4,000 per month, was so exorbitant that it was deemed best to purchase the building outright.

(continued in the Summer issue)

100 YEARS AGO

(From the files of the San Jose Patriot, March 1864)

S. F. & S. J. Express Line. E. M. Chapman, San Jose agent at Waldtenfel's Book Emporium on Market Street. Charges moderate, and prompt delivery of all letters, parcels, etc. We will endeavor by a strict attention to the Express Business in all its branches to deserve the confidence and patronage we solicit.

The undersigned having purchased the Orange Mills and property situated in the city of San Jose, known as Basham's Mill will carry on the business of manufacturing flour. We will pay the highest price for wheat at our mill on the Guadalupe River, near the bridge in San Jose, under the firm name of Delmas & Poulain.

The undersigned is running three new Omnibusses to and from the Railroad Depot. Passengers will be called for in any part of the city, and taken from the depot to their residences. Orders left at the office will be promptly attended to. Frank E. Shaw, First Street.

On the 28th of February the entire business portion of Downieville was destroyed by fire. The fire caught near the center of town. The loss will reach \$200,000, very little of which was insured.

An honest old Indian named Inigo, who is supposed to be 104 years, died 28th of February on the Inigo Ranch near Mountain View.

50 YEARS AGO

(From the files of the S. J. Mercury Herald April 1914)

George Osen and Police and Fire Commissioners Mecklem, McCarthy and Williams, together with Fire Chief Haley left for Stockton yesterday to inspect a new fire engine.

On Friday next at 8 p.m. in the Saratoga Methodist church, Pasquali's masterpiece in photo drama, "The Last Days of Pompeii."

The Outdoor Art League will meet this afternoon with Mrs. L. H. Graham, at Berryessa.

The laying of the concrete for the highway has been completed as far as Sixth Street in Gilroy.

Evergreen school election for trustees will be held Friday afternoon. There are two candidates--Will Holland and Nicholas Gardts.

Mrs. Jennie Hamilton was treated for injuries received when she was knocked down by a horse at Market and San Fernando streets yesterday.

Henry Eberhard recently purchased a new Overland.

LOOK FOR IT HERE

Franklin Hichborn, born in Eureka, California, October 7, 1868 passed away in Santa Clara December 28, 1963. Hichborn known as the dean of California journalists was honored by the Pioneer Society at our quarterly meeting March 3, 1962.

On June 22nd our Pioneer Society will be 89 years old. The first annual celebration took place at O'Donnell's Gardens on June 22, 1876.

The first regular steam boats to serve San Jose via Alviso began in 1850, they were the Firefly, Captain Moran and the New Star. The following newspaper advertisement appeared in 1850: "For Santa Clara and San Jose. The New steamer New Star, Capt. E. Sampson, Jr., will leave Commercial wharf on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, for the above places, stopping at Alviso, where stages will be in readiness to convey passengers on arrival of the boat. The Steamer will leave at 9 o'clock, A. M."

Austen Warburton and Clyde Arbuckle were speakers and honored guests at the Fremont Elementary School Golden Anniversary Celebration February 15th. The present building being 50 years old. The original was built in 1855 and known as the Santa Clara Grammar School. In 1910 the average annual expense per student was \$34.41 (today it's \$465), and the salary for substitute teacher was \$3 per day. Teachers salaries ranged from \$750 to \$800 per year.

The building of a Historic Museum and development of a Pioneer Town has met the approval of City Manager A. P. Hamman and will be sent to the City Council for their consideration. The Historic Landmarks Commission recommended part of Kelley Park for this project.

March 10th (Arbor Day) three redwood trees were planted in the south-west corner of the Rose Garden, in memory of the Pioneers of Santa Clara County. Representing our society were: Miss Alice Vetterle, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Jones, Mrs. Minnie Clark, Clyde Arbuckle and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur M. Fisk.

* * *

Welcome

Congratulations to our new members: Earle J. Ballantyne, Nellie C. Ballantyne, Harriet J. Breuer, Ida A. Byrnes, Nicholas J. Caputo, Willis S. Clayton Jr., Willis S. Clayton III, Bernice M. Cline, Raymond G. Cline, Louise R. Currier, Esther B. Devine, James W. Devine, Kathleen Dudley, Walter M. Elmer, Corrine K. Foreman,

Cornelia Gattorna, Lillian Benedett Gray, Miner S. Gray, Matilda Halla, Elsie L. Harms, Angie H. Irwin, Charles F. Lietz, Alice E. Lynn, Nadine Mitchell, Ethna J. Peterson, George P. Peterson, Ruth Puterbaugh, William Puterbaugh, Beulah E. Schmitt, Archie H. Smith, Mary Brent Stockholm, Mary A. Strohmaier, Edna L. Vanderhave, Annie C. Walker and Eva S. Watson.

* * *

Under the Weather

Eula L. Mirassou, Elsie L. Harms, Irma E. Ruth and Gertrude Gale have been reported ill. Our best wishes and hope 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 deaths to the Chairman of our Sunshine Committee, Mrs. Lovene Luhrman. Phone 292-0070.

* * *

Beyond the Horizon

Mildred French Fountain

January 31, 1885 - January 11, 1964

Orvis H. Speciale

February 13, 1892 - January 16, 1964

Helen Gertrude Blackie

January 12, 1881 - January 18, 1964

Louise Wyman

September 6, 1888 - January 22, 1964

Adalene V. Keffel

August 28, 1902 - January 22, 1964

Margaret Edith Waldorf

June 19, 1911 - February 27, 1964

Annie Wade Lowe

December 30, 1874 - March 19, 1964

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

Staff Members: Walter and Claire Harriman

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Officers for 1963-64

- President. Alice M. Vetterle
- 1st Vice President Forrest F. Von Dorsten
- 2nd Vice President Walter E. Harriman
- Recording Secretary. Edith V. Titcomb
- Corresponding Secretary. Edith Malvos
- Financial Secretary. Jessie E. Black
- Treasurer Pauline Jones
- Directors: W. Clyde Arbuckle, Minnie L. Clark, Minnie G. Creighton, Arthur M. Fisk, Herbert C. Jones, Lovene S. Lührman, Bertha Taylor, 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 concerning Club activities call Mrs. Kate L. Owen, 295-1153.

For information concerning chartered bus tours for members of the Pioneer Society, phone Gertrude A. Bernhardt, 293-3087.

Any items for the Pioneer scrap book may be sent to Mrs. Elsa Jensen, 520 Bradley Ave., San Jose, Cal. 95128.

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