

VOL. 47 NUMBER 3

September 2, 2006

PIONEER LUNCHEON

Saturday, September 2, 2006 at Noon
Mariani's 2500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara

Reservations MUST BE MADE before

Monday, August 28, 2006

Call: 408-554-7587

*(Please note, names will be checked off the reservation list as you enter, if your names is not on the reservation list, you will be requested to wait until all those who reserved a place have been seated. (So Mariani's can prepare for our group, it is **most important** to place a reservation in advance.)*

Cost: \$20.00 *(Make checks to Mariani's)*

Chicken Paillard Saltimbocca, Sauce Marsala
with Fresh Sage and Parma Ham

Served with Angel Hair Pasta Primavera
Fresh Garden Salad, French Rolls and Butter
Chef's Desert • Coffee or Tea

Mariani's Restaurant is located
on the south side of El Camino Real,
two blocks west of San Tomas Expressway
in Santa Clara.

Our speaker will be Frankye Craig of Reno, Nevada who
has written *The Fateful Journey of Tamsen Donner.*

FRANKYE CRAIG, GUEST SPEAKER



Frankye Craig

In 1996, I was hired by California State Parks to organize the 150th commemoration and reunion which was held at Donner Memorial State Park. I am an events developer and organizer. I have held several Donner Party events such as tours and school programs since then, including two charter bus cross country tours following the emigrant trail. I have planned a third which will take place this October. These events have all been on my own as *Events/By Design*.

I have been a Donner Party buff, now historian, since the commemoration in 1996. I wanted to write a book on the Donner Party. There are a lot of books out there, but I felt that what was missing was a book that told the history, but that also brought the reader into an emotional involvement with the people of the group, thereby perhaps achieving an understanding and compassion that the dry history doesn't always provide.

I have studied parts of western history for several years because I have put together several history exhibits which have been displayed for five years at the Nevada State Fair, the Lodi Grape Festival for two years, and the Colusa County State Fair. The subjects of the exhibits have been the Donner Party/Emigrant Trail, The Old and Real West, Lewis and Clark, the Wars of WW11, Korea, Viet Nam and the Gulf War. I have also organized three teachers in-service seminars, several school programs, and numerous events, usually related to local or western history. For instance, one event was centered around the old Hwy. 50 wagon train at Lake Tahoe, an Indian Dance exhibition and Old West re-enactments. I also was involved in forming an art seminar at the Stewart Indian Museum in Carson City. I have led several tours in the Reno area on the history of the emigrant trails that cross Nevada into California.

My book has been accepted at several museum stores, such as the National Trails Center in Independence, Missouri, the California Historical Society, the Nevada Historical Society, The North Platte Museum in North Platte, Nebraska, Donner Memorial State Park Museum, Rock Creek State Historic Park, in Nebraska, Folsom History Museum, Placer County Museum, and many book-stores, and I have had very favorable reaction from those who have read the book. This is my first book, so I have not as yet begun to claim that I am a writer, but that I have written a history of one of the most famous (yet infamous) journeys of the emigrant trail period.

The Donner Party was a group of emigrants who “jumped off” from the Missouri River in 1846. Their destination was California, a journey of 2,000 miles across an almost trackless wilderness. The trip was “rather like a picnic” until they made a fateful decision to take a new short-cut. Delayed by the necessity of hacking their way through terrible brush-choked canyons in the Wasatch and then by fierce deserts, they arrived at the foot of the Sierra Nevada just as early storms closed the mountain passes. The story of their entrapment endures because of one factor: some of them consumed human flesh in order to survive.

My book is a combination of true history, reasonable deduction, and fiction in respect to what the people are saying and thinking. Telling the story as Tamsen’s narration was a little tricky, but I think it worked well. I needed to include conversation to make the story more interesting to those who would not normally read a history book. I wanted to put together a story that would enable the reader to feel an emotional connection to the people and especially to Tamsen Donner.

Tamsen was unusual for her time. She was an independent thinker, a teacher, writer, and botanist. Her personality and “quality” comes through in the little that we know about her. And, I felt that most of the history books do not give one a feeling of what the Donner families and others trapped at Alder Creek experienced. Through Tamsen’s narration we get a feel for that struggle as each day passed into another and hope turned to despair.

The reports that the Donner Party did not engage in cannibalism comes from the latest archaeology project at Alder Creek where the families of George and Jacob Donner and others made their camps. This was irrespective of the archaeologist's report that possibly there was no consumption of human food at the site they excavated in 2003 and 2004. The report cautioned that this did not mean there hadn't been cannibalism, only that the bone evidence from the site did not support it.

It has been pretty well established, from sources of the time, and even statements made by at least one of the Donner daughters, that the eating of human flesh did take place at Alder Creek in the camp of Elizabeth Donner, and that the three youngest Donner daughters consumed the food in the cabin of Mrs. Murphy. So the question is, who ate what, and where, not whether it happened. The archaeology of the Murphy cabin site at Donner Lake did not find evidence of cannibalism either, but we know from several sources close to the time that it did happen.

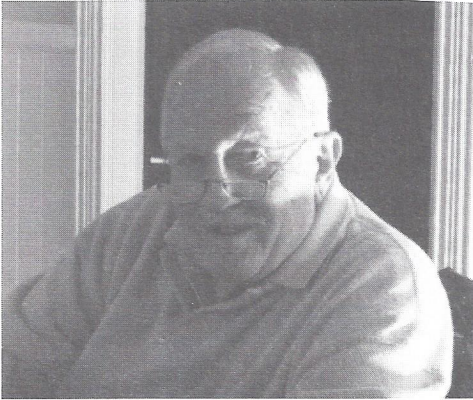
The Book: *The Fateful Journey of Tamsen Donner*, 304 pages, \$17.95 by Frankye Craig, 775-747-1139. FrankyeEBD@aol.com

The survivors of the Donner-Reed Party, of course, ended up in San Jose. Buried at Oak Hill are George Donner, II, James Frazier Reed, Margaret M. Keyes Reed, Martha (Patty) Reed Lewis, Mary Donner Houghton, Virginia Reed Murphy, William Eddy, Hiram Owens Miller.



AUTHORS! PREPARE TO BRING YOUR BOOKS FOR SALE TO THE DECEMBER MEETING. THEY WILL MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENTS! MEMBERS, BEAR THAT IN MIND!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jerry Rosenthal

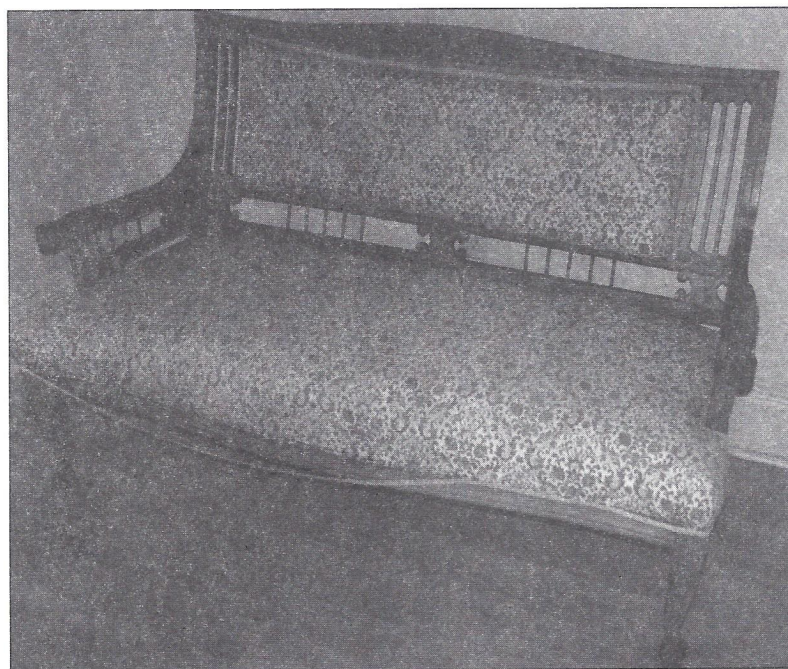
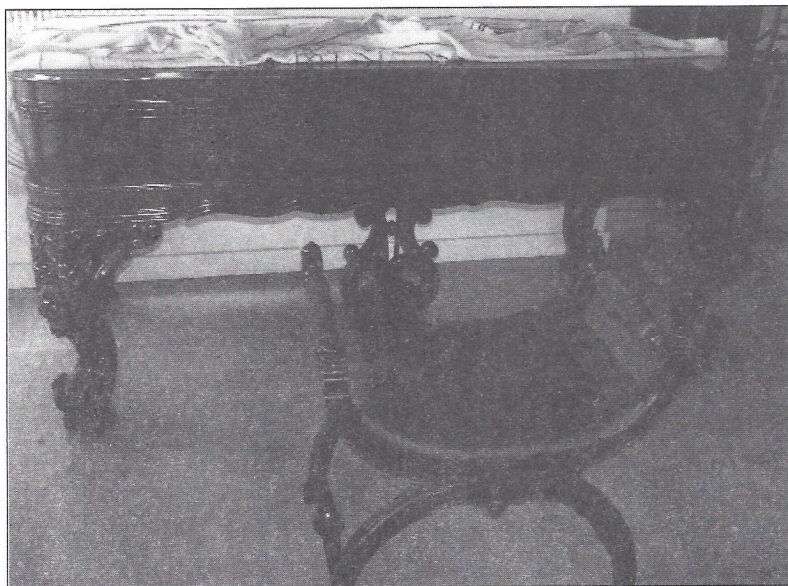
I write this in the middle of July. Much will have happened before publication; the Paulson House will be functioning and in use by both the Pioneers and the Digital Clubhouse!

The Pioneers of Santa Clara County, (a 501C3 non-profit and charitable corporation) will have a home and a headquarters

building! The building permits were obtained on June 27th and the work started the following day. The upgrade permits covered, among other things, installing a "lift" for handicapped entrance, repairing the flooring, removal of the old kitchen and turning that area into a class room, the old back bedroom will become an office for the Digital Clubhouse Network, the small parlor on the east side with some changes is to be the Pioneers' Library, Office, research center and have a changing art display on the walls. The front Parlor will have a continuing display of Mrs. Jackson's wonderful furnishings, including her grand piano and the Eastlake parlor suite! We look forward to having "conversations with Pioneers" on a weekly basis in the parlor. The Digital Clubhouse kids are excited about this little tea!

Through the good offices of Life Member Chuck Toeniskoetter of TBI, Barry Swenson of Barry Swenson Builder and Case Swenson of Santa Clara Valley Corporation along with Stan Gould AIA, and the unbelievable cooperation from the City of San Jose, we were able to get the plans drawn, approved and the permits issued in less than a month. The permits took a day and a half! Case was able to work the costs and get underway in about two weeks.

Because of the high costs, we have had to cut back on some of things that we need to complete the upgrade, so we will be asking for help from our membership for items such as landscaping (including irrigation), bookshelves, outside paint and many other small things. Contributions will be honored by naming rooms,



Some of Mrs. Jackson's wonderful furnishings, including her grand piano and a sofa from the Eastlake parlor suite.

Photos by Bob Johnson.

doorways, porches and placements on a large bronze plaque, depending on the amount! Details will be forthcoming.

We will need volunteers to take History San Jose's docent training in order to staff our new home. We will need curtains and window coverings made... any volunteer seamstress please contact Bev Fisher. We need volunteer "house managers" to be present afternoons and weekends while the Digital Clubhouse kids are working there. And, we need a house committee to manage the house, insure maintenance, create the budget and all of that kind of stuff.

It has taken some eighteen months to get to this place! The credit must go to Ken Machado, Jr. for his guidance, to Leonard McKay and David McKinney for their persistence and political acumen, to Rick Helin for helping us get through the real estate process, the entire board for their unfailing excitement over the project and to my helpmate Lynne, for keeping me going.

We also must give kudos to Pat Congdon, general manager of the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, for his ability to work with the Parks and Recreation Department. Without Pat, nothing could have transpired!

We still are looking for some "Angels" to provide the book cases and cabinets for the new Pioneer Library and others to cover the landscape costs. We also need cash donations in any amount to help defray the construction costs.

On August 12th, the Digital Clubhouse will hold their annual picnic at History Park to help us celebrate the opening of the Paulson House! On the 13th, they will open their Symposium on the *Four Freedoms*. This symposium is being sponsored by, among others, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Foundation, the History Channel, and the Smithsonian. The purpose is to teach the Teachers how to teach the history of the "greatest generation" and why it is relevant to this next generation. The location of this teach-in will be announced at the picnic and in the e-mail updates. Among the speakers will be Jonna Doolittle Hoppes, Jimmy Doolittle's granddaughter and Ann Roosevelt, we hope, President Roosevelt's granddaughter and your Pioneer president.

Now, I would like to apologize for the debacle at the last luncheon! As I talk to other organizations who moved from Lou's to Marianis, I find that they also have problems with communications.

And, they also plan to find another location. To prevent future brouhahas, we ask the answering service to take names so that we can have a check off list. If you failed to make a reservation, you will be asked to wait before going to a table! We have also told Mariani that we would guarantee 140 meals and have asked that they allow 10% either way. Although we have not had a response from them, these modifications to the procedure should preclude any more problems.

And finally, we have started a weekly e-mail progress report on the house and other items. Right now I have 33 addresses on this list. If you have an e-mail address and have NOT received these updates, send the address to both me and Melita!

Jerry



UPDATE! Patty McDonald and Alida Bray have selected the outside paint colors and are working on the inside color and material selections with Bev Fiaher and Carol Arnoldy, who are doing the window treatment. The prime coat is finished. The handicapped railings are in ,front and back. As soon s the city inspectors five the go ahead, the walls will go up. Plaster boards, plywood and lumber are ready and waiting.



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FINANCIAL/ MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Thanks to each and every member there are only about twenty-five members who have not remitted dues for 2006. This is the best we have had since I became Membership Secretary. Congratulations on your response!

I would like to remind everyone that if you move, please notify me as soon as possible so that we can keep the Trailblazer coming to your mailbox in time for you to make your luncheon reservations. Give me a call; send me a note; send an e-mail; but let me know at least six weeks before the luncheons. You can reach me by phone at (408) 292-2385 or by e-mail at melikel@pacbell.net.

Melita Kelly

NEW MEMBERS

Anne Anderson, Alexandra Lion, Dominga Nielson,
F. Hase Rodenbaugh, Patricia Sanchez, Marlys Silver,
Mark Thomas, Betty Vosburgh, Florence Mae Wray

GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS

Louise Evans, Miriam Marquardt, and
Bryan Millar (President of the Pioneers from 1990-91)



WANTED!

Attention all Pioneers: We are requesting everyone search through their personal family photo collections for their oldest and fondest photos. Photos can be of past Pioneer Family Members, but especially old photos of local scenes of interest. It is our hope to one day create an "Arcadia-like" publication about our own California Pioneers of Santa Clara County.

Along with each photo, provide us with a brief matching detailed recollection, memory, or family story. After being copied, all original photos will be returned immediately to you. Let's all participate in this wonderful joint adventure.
Contact:

Rick Helin (408) 859-4873

WE HAVE A NUMBER OF ARCADIA PHOTOGRAPHIC BOOKS IN OUR AREA DONE BY MEMBERS. PLAN TO BUY THEM AT THE DECEMBER MEETING FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND FOR YOURSELF!

TOURING WITH THE CALIFORNIANS

Rose Crimi Muench – *Tour director*
Marie Rider – *Phone reservations and cancellations,*
(408) 251-7887, M – F, am
Beverly Fisher – *Treasurer, 3435 Yuba Ave.,*
San Jose, CA 95117-2966
Pauline Hawkins – *Luncheon reservations*

REGISTRATION FOR FALL TRIPS begins at the September 2 luncheon, 10:30 a.m. at our new location at Mariani's Restaurant. Checks are preferred or exact cash. Preference is given to California Pioneers members to register at the luncheon. Non-members and guests may sign up starting September 11. Members may register absent members after the luncheon, so that members present have the opportunity to register first.

PHONE RESERVATIONS or CANCELLATIONS: call Marie Rider. After reservations are confirmed, send check payable to The Californians to Beverly Fisher.

PICK-UP POINT: Valley Village, 390 North Winchester Blvd. Santa Clara on Dolores Avenue.

DAY TRIPS

OCTOBER 7, 2006, SATURDAY FLEET WEEK CRUISE and the BLUE ANGELS

The Fleet's in! at San Francisco Bay. Enjoy the festivities with a 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bay cruise aboard the luxurious San Francisco Belle, featuring a champagne buffet luncheon. We will see the daredevil precision maneuvers of the Blue Angels Navy jets as we cruise the Bay. We will sail by Navy ships docked at the piers. After the cruise, we will have a half-hour of free time at the Ferry Building next to our dock at Pier 3. Perhaps you can pick up a loaf of delicious Acme bread, sample fancy chocolates or have an ice cream cone. Cancellations: After the reservation deadline, refunds will be issued if you are replaced. Registration deadline is September 25, 2006.

Depart: 12:30 p.m. Return: 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$85

NOVEMBER 16, 2006, THURSDAY
CROCKETT and PORT COSTA

Before the building of the Carquinez Bridge, the towns of Crockett and Port Costa were busy railroad and shipping centers, carrying goods and people across the Carquinez Strait in the late 1800's. Our first stop will be Crockett, the C and H Sugar town. Its historical museum is in the old Southern Pacific depot next to the giant C and H Sugar refinery. Docents will give us an introduction to Crockett's history before we tour the exhibits and the curiosities such as the 468 lb sturgeon caught by a local fisherman. Crockett just celebrated its 125th anniversary. Our included luncheon will be at the Nantucket Restaurant on the water with a view of the Strait and the newly built Al Zampa suspension bridge. Our menu will include: clam chowder, a choice of four entrees, ice cream and beverage.

Next, we take the Carquinez Scenic Drive to Port Costa. The first non-Indian settlement in the Port Costa area was established in 1850. In 1879, Central Pacific Railway built a rail yard in Port Costa. The world's largest train ferry, the Solano, made her maiden voyage from Port Costa to Benicia. By 1897, four-fifths of Northern California's wheat production was stored and processed at Port Costa. Square riggers and other ships from Europe, Asia and Africa crowded the wharfs loading grain. Fifty-six trains made daily runs from Oakland to Port Costa, most using the ferry trip to Benicia. The building of the Carquinez and Benicia bridges across the strait ended the need for the ferries. Today, visiting Port Costa is like stepping back in time 100 years. A local historian will narrate the history of the town and take us to visit the Classic Revival school house being restored.

Depart: 9:00 a.m. Return: 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$43

DECEMBER 8, 2006, FRIDAY
CHRISTMAS TEA at the AINSLEY HOUSE

The Ainsley House, our own local treasure, is a 1925 Tudor Revival home built for Campbell canning and fruit growing pioneer J. C. Ainsley. A native of England, he must have felt at home with the curved roof lines simulating the ---thatched roofs of his homeland. The home originally stood on his estate at Hamilton and

Bascom Avenues, now occupied by the eBay world headquarters. In 1990, the house was moved on rollers to its present site in downtown Campbell. In keeping with the English tradition, the house is surrounded with English gardens, and the rooms are furnished with 1920's furniture. The home will be beautifully decorated for Christmas. It is most appropriate to partake of an elegant afternoon tea with finger sandwiches, scones and jam, and dainty sweets. We will also have a docent tour of the home, and visit the boutique for some unique holiday shopping. Afterwards, we will visit the Campbell Historical Museum nearby, plus a surprise or two.

Depart: 12:00 p.m. Return: 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$TBD
(Above to be confirmed at the September 2 luncheon.)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2006

BACK ROADS OF THE DELTA

The Argonauts, our sister historical society, invites the Pioneers to join them on the following trip: Back Roads of the Delta, Thursday, November 9, 2006. Itinerary includes: Rio Vista, Isleton, Grand Island Mansion, and Locke. Lunch is included. Departure is from the Target parking lot, Ross and Hillsdale Avenue, San Jose.

Pioneers may register on a space available basis after October 26, 2006. Separate flyers will be available at the September luncheon. Tour escort: Marvin Tanner, (408) 997-3981

Depart: 7:30 a.m. Return: 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$69

EXTENDED TRIPS

SEPTEMBER 13 – 23, 2006

ALASKA'S INSIDE PASSAGE

(Golden Gate Tours) A document party will be held on the week of August 28th. Invitations will be mailed to participants.

DECEMBER 30, 2006 – JANUARY 3, 2007
NEW YEAR'S EVE in NASHVILLE

(Golden Gate Tours) Celebrate New Year's in Grand Ole' Nashville, Tennessee with a gala champagne dinner at the Opryland Hotel. Sightseeing includes: Country Music Hall of Fame, General Jackson dinner cruise, Radio City Rockettes show, Ice Carvings and Sculpture display, tour of The Hermitage, President Jackson's home and gardens, and more. Four nights at the Opryland Hotel with its nine acres of enclosed gardens, daily breakfast, and RT airfare from San Jose, \$1575 per person. Brochures are now available. A minimum of twenty persons is required. Final payment is due October 1, 2006.

MARCH 30 – APRIL 6, 2007
CANYON COUNTRY

(Collette Vacations) Experience the natural wonders of our Southwest by exploring the three great National Parks: Grand Canyon, Zion and Bryce. Enjoy the beauty of man-made Lake Powell, formed by the Glen Canyon dam, and the unique formations in Monument Valley featured in many Western movies. We will also visit Sedona, and enjoy a ride along the red rock formations of Oak Creek Canyon. Our tour ends with two nights in Las Vegas. Cost: \$1849 per person, including RT air fare from San Jose to Phoenix and return from Las Vegas. Deposit is \$100 and final payment is due January 27, 2007. Optional trip insurance is \$120. Brochures are available.

Later in 2007 we expect to offer a river cruise in France in early June, and a New England Fall Colors tour in October.

WINNERS OF THE ESSAY CONTEST WERE

- 1- *The Gilroy Cannery* by Carol Lombardo
- 2- *Frontier Village... In the Beginning* by Gloria Jabaut
- 3- *Who Was J.W. Hines?* by Harold J. Peters

PIONEERS LIBRARY

The first two books in the Pioneers Library were donated by Leonard McKay.

Both are bound copies of *The Pioneer*, 1877 and 1878. Leonard claims they are the only extant copies of this early newspaper put out by the Pioneers of Santa Clara County.

The pages are interesting to peruse, containing history and biography of some of the state's leaders of yesteryear. Ads and other smaller items such as a list of trial jurors, notices, and other items of interest were printed.

A complete constitution and By-Laws of the Pioneers is noted, as well as a list of those members as of January 20, 1877 and the dates they came to the area, men only. As is noted in a letter in a subsequent issue. Indignantly, the writer proclaimed that there were women who came as pioneers, also, and that they were subject to as many trials as the men listed.

A subscription to this weekly newspaper was only \$2.50 a year!



THE SYMPATHETIC MAN— a mother and babe were among the passengers at the Central depot yesterday. She had the child carefully wrapped up, and this fact, perhaps, attracted the attention of a big fellow with a three story overcoat and a rusty satchel in his hand. Sitting down beside her, he remarked, “cold weather for such little people isn’t it?”

She faintly nodded.

“Does he seem to feel it much?” continued the stranger.

She shook her head.

“Is it a healthy child?” he asked seeming greatly interested.

“He was up to a few minutes ago,” she snapped out, “but I’m afraid he’s smelled so much whiskey that he’ll have the delirium tremors before night.”

The man got right up and walked out of the room, and was afterward seen buying cloves and cinnamon.”

2005 OFFICERS
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