



VOLUME 38 JUNE, 1997 NUMBER 2

AUSTIN D. WARBURTON PIONEER AWARD FOR 1997-PAST PRESIDENT LEONARD MC KAY

by First Vice President David McKinney

The Austen D. Warburton Pioneer Award for 1997 will be presented at the June 7th meeting to Past Pioneer President Leonard McKay.

Leonard has been the publisher of many local historic books, including the works of Tom McEnery, Frances Fox and Clyde Arbuckle. He is also an author in his own right, penning a biography of Clyde Arbuckle and most recently, a poem which appeared in the last edition of the Trailblazer.

Retired from the printing business, now run by his son, Leonard is the proprietor of "Memorabilia of San Jose." He is also often called upon for historic information by the *San Jose Mercury-News* and others. One of his latest forays into local history are his moments in local history on Tom McEnery's call-in talk show Sunday nights on Radio FM 106.5.

The Pioneers are delighted to recognize Leonard this year for a long and distinguished career in the field of local history.

At the time of this writing, the judges were busy reading the 16 essays submitted for the annual contest. Be prepared to meet and listen to a brief synopsis by the winners after your June luncheon. There promises to be some interesting topics, as usual.

LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT, BOB FISHER

Dear Pioneers,

Our June meeting will conclude the fiscal year, 1997, for the Pioneers and it has been an active one. As usual, our June Program will include the announcements of the winners of the essay contest. The winners will be present and they will give a synopsis of their manuscripts.



Fred Gardner, Pauline Hawkins and Betty Nygren will conclude their service on the Board as of June and we are grateful for their time and efforts in our behalf. We need three new people to step up and offer to take their places. If you would be interested, please contact any member of the Board. The list of Board members and their addresses and phone numbers are inside the back cover of this newsletter.

I believe that our new system of paying for our luncheon in March worked out well. At least, we didn't have a long line waiting to pay and we will continue to work on it. Be sure and make your check for \$14 to Lou's Village.

See you at the meeting.

Bob Fisher.

MEMBERSHIPS

Out of 645 memberships, there are still 71 of you delinquent. Please check your address label to see if you are current. We wish to keep you as members, but cannot keep sending The Trailblazer indefinitely. If you are among those who have not paid for 1997, please send a check for \$7 plus a self addressed stamped envelope to Bob & Irene Johnson at 445 North 15th St., San Jose, CA 95112-1726 and we will mail your membership card to you or bring it to us at the June meeting.

Thank you,

Bob & Irene Johnson



GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS

Josephine Hamlet.....January 11, 1997
David Boyarsky.....January 14, 1997
Charlotte Cunningham.....January 17, 1997
Eva Boyd.....January 18, 1997
Delores Lowry.....January 24, 1997
Edna Johnson.....January 27, 1997
Marie Melovich.....February, 1997
Olive Enright.....March 6, 1997
Meredith Wigglesworth.....March 17, 1997

NEW MEMBERS

CHERYL BOOTON
SHIRLEY ANN MEYER
LORRAINE M. MULA
ROBERT AND SUE BEBB

From Senior Happenings, AARP Newsletter of
Almaden Valley

I have Noticed

Everything is farther away than it used to be. It is even twice as far to the corner and they have added a hill. I have given up running for the bus; it leaves earlier than it used to.

It seems to me they are making the stairs steeper than in the old days. And have you noticed the smaller print they use in the newspapers?

There is no sense in asking anyone to read aloud anymore, as everybody speaks in such a low voice I can hardly hear them.

The material in dresses is so skimpy now, especially around the hips and waist, that it is almost impossible to reach one's shoelaces. And the sizes don't run the way they used to. The 12s and 14s are so much smaller.

I ran into an old classmate the other day and she has aged so much that she didn't recognize me.

I got to thinking about the poor dear, while I was combing my hair this morning, and in so doing I glanced at my own reflection. Really now, they don't even make good mirrors like they used to!

From the *Mercury News*

Santa Clara High School's Hall of Fame inducted Carlos Noriega, Tony Anselmo and Dick Barrett recently. When a newspaper guy finds himself listed with an astronaut and the voice of Donald Duck, he is in elite company says Leigh Weimers.

CHINESE IN SAN JOSE, Part 1

The first Chinese man came to San Jose in 1852 to establish the town's first wash house. He was persecuted by both the Americans and the Mexicans. His wash house was broken into and the furnishings destroyed. In front of the Auzerais brothers' Mariposa store on Market Street, a Chinese man was tied by his queue to a horse's tail. The horse bucked as it ran along the street and the Chinese screamed. An onlooker dashed out and cut the queue, saving his life. Nearly all the Chinese population left San Jose at that time.

Eventually, people in San Jose welcomed the Chinese to do the washing and work in their homes and asked for them to return. Many Americans took advantage of them because they priced their services so low. Many Americans were afraid of the Chinese because their customs and language was so different. This turned into hate and persecution as such ignorance often does. Many broke into the wash houses, destroying or burglarizing them. The Chinese were often driven into the streets where they were

stoned by high spirited American boys. The Chinese refused to fight back, giving the Americans a good lesson in the Christian way of "turning the other cheek," but it was wasted on many.

As in many immigrant groups, the newcomers tended to segregate themselves into a community of their own kind where they understood the language spoken, had their own kinds of shops, foods and religion. In San Jose, at first, their quarter was on the east bank of the Guadalupe River north of San Carlos. Park Avenue was once known as Cut-Throat Alley, the scene of many murders. Later, they moved into old buildings near the corner of Market and San Fernando Street where the San Jose Post Office was from 1894 to 1934. The building was the San Jose Public Library from 1937 to 1970, and is now the Art Museum.

Early Chinese Merchants doing business there included Kwong Quen and Company, Lee Sam Fan Kee, Lum Woo, On Chung, Lung, Shee Tin and Company, Tong Chong Company, Tuck Woo and Company, Kee, and Yat Sun Lung. They stocked a variety of dry goods and homeland delicacies, still indispensable to today's Chinese. Some dealt in medicinal herbs. As the businesses began to establish themselves on South First Street, Chinatown became a barrier to westward expansion. American merchants began to discriminate against the Chinese, refusing to buy their goods or services.

A Chinese laundry was founded in a dilapidated old shed on El Dorado Street. (now Post St.) In the back, was a lottery which made money. A typical lottery ticket was a four inch square on which were 60 or more Chinese characters. The player would daub ten of the characters which he hoped would be drawn that night in San Francisco's Chinatown. Few hit the full "Ten Spot". To win a sizable amount of money was called to "Hit the Chinaman." Lesser numbers of spots paid accordingly. Modern Nevada gambling casinos call it

"Keno." The game was absolutely honest and the drawings were as clean or cleaner than their laundries. One of Chinatown San Francisco's first millionaires was Chin Tan Sun, a poor boy from Sinning who arrived in 1870. He adapted the lottery to American tastes and made money.

Part of the fun was in getting in and out of the joints without being caught. Raids occurred at anytime, but especially at election campaign time. Incumbents bragged that they kept the "Garden City" free from the perils and inequities of gambling. The lotteries provided campaign slogans for candidates and scapegoats for city officials. They provided fines for the city coffers and pats on the back for administrators. In a few days, the furor would simmer down and life would continue as usual. Within a week or 10 days, the "joints" would be running full blast.

The last lottery case heard in the San Jose Police Court involved Yee Goo and Hop Sun, who were arrested by Officers Roy Farley and Herman Schwandt. The police found lottery tickets and a bottle of wine in the car the two were riding in. Hop Sun was charged with possession of the liquor and fined \$50. Yee Goo was accused of having the lottery tickets, but he demanded a jury trial.

The "Mugbook" used by the police had Americans and Mexicans charged with crimes with their mugs and names in the front of the book and the Chinese in the back. On February 22, 1869, the Methodist Church lost its beautiful new building because it held a Chinese Bible class to Christianize the Chinese and teach them English. They were quick to learn the new language. The Eight Hour League, an incendiary group, burned the church to the ground because they were dedicated to destroying property and doing bodily harm to anyone who helped the Chinese.

On August 5, 1871, a man named Woods became angry with his sister at the Coe Hop Ranch. He began

to beat her and she screamed for help. A Chinese man who had just arrived to see Coe Hop about a job harvesting fall crops came in defense of the girl, striking Woods from behind. Woods immediately stopped beating his sister and the Chinese ran. Woods caught him and beat him several times behind the ear with his fist. Within five minutes, the Chinaman was dead. Later, Woods came into town and confessed to the authorities.

Many of the Chinese worked on farms and others worked as servants in upper class American families. The employers had to work with Chinese agents. Those on farms were hired through contractors to harvest their fruit and vegetables. Many farmers drove their wagons into Chinatown to see Chung Kee, who was the "Mayor" of Chinatown and employment manager for the workers. The workers climbed into the wagons carrying their tea, rice, matting (no blankets) and other necessities. They would work ten hours a day for 15¢ an hour and pay Chung Kee 10% commission for their jobs.

If Chung Kee could not provide enough workers, the farmers would go to one of the many Chinese dry goods stores and place orders for more workers. The store owner would send a letter to the Chinese Six Companies in San Francisco asking them to send workers to San Jose to work in the fields or orchards. After a day or two, the farmer would return to pick up his workers.

Many Chinese worked in the Sacramento Valley in the spring, pruning trees for an orchardist or harvesting asparagus, onions, tomatoes and other vegetables. When the harvest season was over, they would return to San Jose for the winter, then return to the Sacramento Valley to plant the next season's crops.

Locally, they worked at farming around San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Sunnyvale, Mayfield and other areas. In the years 1890-1900, there were about

10,000 Chinese working at truck farming. They also worked in the orchards, planting, pruning and caring for pear, apricot, prune and other fruit trees. They also worked on tobacco farms near Gilroy. In the early 1900's, the Chinese farming slowly disappeared from the Bay Area. The younger generation disliked farming and went into other occupations. Many of the old farmers returned to China to live out their lives with their savings and be buried with their ancestors. Their places on local farms were taken by Japanese. Many Chinese remained, and if they had been permitted to own land, would have had a sizable chunk of Santa Clara County.

to be continued. . . Heinlerville, San Jose. . .

from Kenneth Chow, "The History of the Chinese in Santa Clara County" in Gloria Sun Hom, *Chinese Argonauts*, Foothill Community College, 1971.

Connie Young Yu, *Chinatown, San Jose, USA*, San Jose Historical Museum, 1991

The Cupertino Historical Society Museum in Quinlan Center on Stelling Road, just off Stevens Creek Blvd. at 10185 North Stelling Road (973-1495) has recently dedicated and opened a show called "Toward the Golden Mountain: the History of the Chinese in the Santa Clara Valley." There are artifacts borrowed from the Chinese Historical Society, the Temple building at San Jose Historical Museum and from residents of this area. The history depicted is from the arrival of the first Chinese in California in 1848 to some recent immigrants to Cupertino. There is a book on the exhibit available for purchase. Hours-Wed-Sat 10-4.

*NOTE: Because of the Editor's summertime historical excursions, all submissions for the September Trailblazer will need to be received by July 1.



Touring With The Californians

ROSE CRIMI-DIRECTOR

NANCY HILL-PHONE RESERVATIONS-258-3449

BEFORE NOON

FERN MC LAGGAN-TREASURER

60 PALOMAR REAL, CAMPBELL, CA 95008-4207

HELEN BROOKS & PAULINE HAWKINS-

LUNCHEON SIGN UPS

Register for our Summer Trips at the June 7 Luncheon or call Nancy Hill beginning June 9. Guests and non-members may register beginning June 16.

JUNE 19, 1997, THURSDAY - HISTORIC MARE ISLAND (REGISTRATION OPEN NOW)

Mare Island Naval Base and Shipyard deactivated in March, 1996 after 142 years of service will be toured with docents of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation. This organization, along with the City of Vallejo, is preserving and restoring the unique features of the base. Among the areas we will be seeing are St. Peter's Chapel with its 29 Tiffany stained glass windows, Officer Row Mansions, dry docks, construction shops, and beautiful wooded park settings. Lunch and a slide show at the Vallejo Naval and Historic Museum will be included.

Leave 8:30 AM

Return 4:30 PM

Price \$32

July **JUNE 30, 1997, WEDNESDAY**

SMITHSONIAN TRAVELING EXHIBIT AT THE SAN JOSE CONVENTION CENTER

This exhibit has 250 items from the vast Smithsonian collection, including the Apollo 14 Space Capsule, Thomas Edison's light bulb, George Washington's sword, Dorothy's ruby slippers from "The Wizard of Oz" and famous gems and jewelry. The trip will include lunch and another attraction in downtown

San Jose. Specific details will be in the June Trip flyer at the luncheon.

**AUGUST 16-SATURDAY-
STANFORD THEATRE MOVIE MATINEE**

The Palo Alto Stanford Theatre, David W. Packard's labor of love, features vintage movies with organ concerts. Specific details will be in the June trip flyer.

SEPTEMBER 19- FRIDAY-GOLD RUSH DAYS

We will go to the new San Francisco Historical Society Headquarters to view their "Alaska Gold" exhibit which Features the Memoirs of Irene Johnson's Father. (She and Bob are Membership co-chairs) They have put together the memoirs and the book will be available about the first of September, in time for the opening of the show. Our included lunch will be at Tadich Grill, California's oldest restaurant in continuous operation, founded during the 1849 Gold Rush. After lunch, we will tour the Wells Fargo Museum for the story of Wells Fargo Stagecoaching days. The small museum has an excellent display of artifacts from the Gold Rush Period including some Emperor Norton items, Black Bart, the PO8 robber, his nemesis, Detective Harry Morse, an original stage-coach and many historic "covers" of interest to stamp collectors.

LEAVE 8:30 AM RETURN 3 PM PRICE \$35

NOVEMBER 4-15, 1997

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SATURDAY, JUNE 7 AT NOON
LOU'S VILLAGE
COME HEAR THE WINNERS OF THE 1997
PIONEER ESSAY CONTEST



Cross Rib of Beef

Salad & Bread

Roasted Potatoes

Vegetable

Sherbert & Coffee

554-7587

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BEFORE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

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