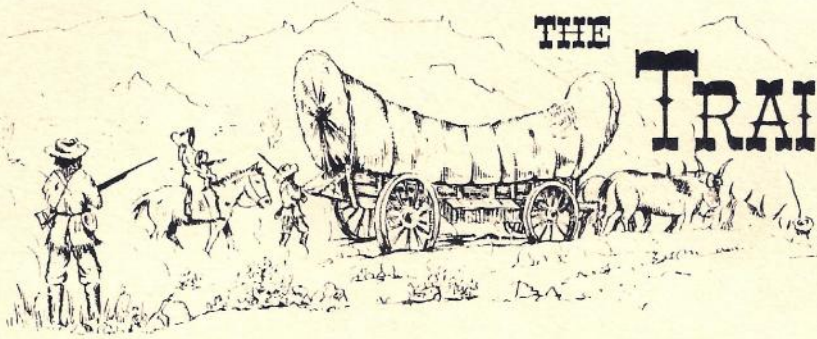




THE

TRAILBLAZER

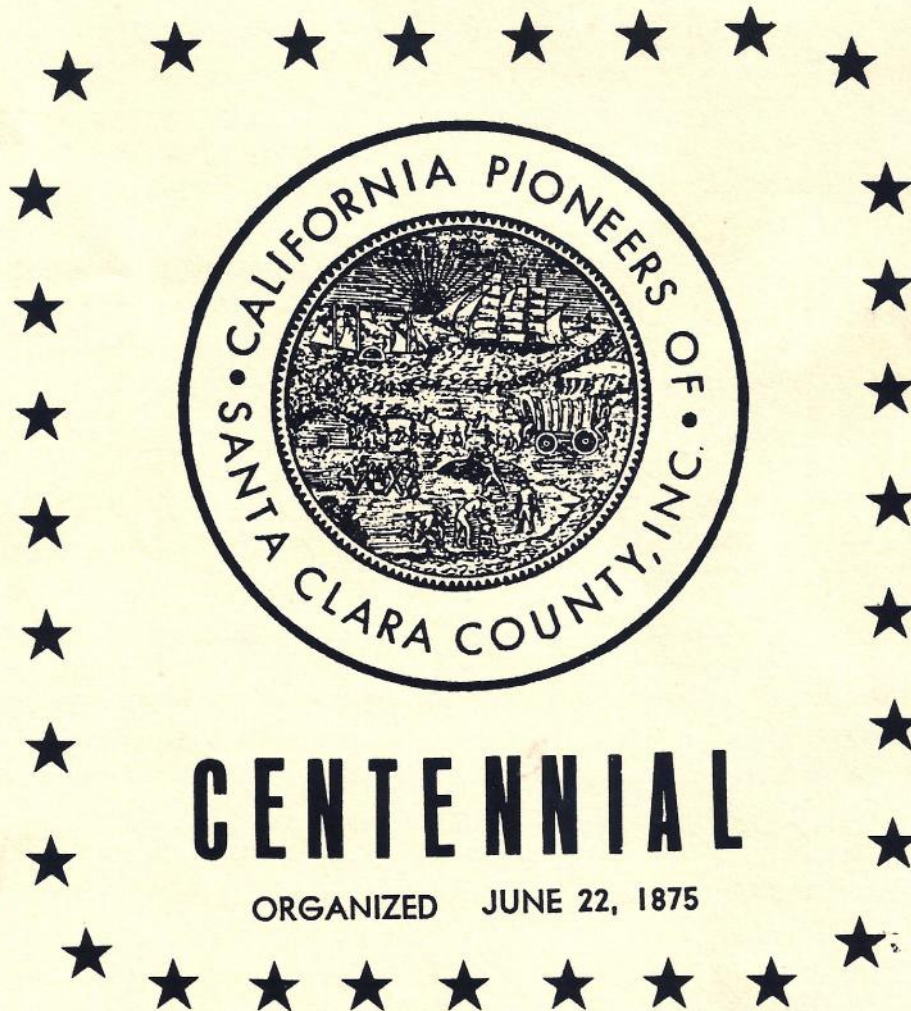
QUARTERLY BULLETIN
OF THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

INCORPORATED 1875

Vol. 15

Spring 1975

Number 2



Happy Birthday Issue

WHALE BLAZERS

William O'Donnell in the 1870's converted his nursery and orchard land at 9th and William Streets to the O'Donnell's Zoological Garden and Park. He publicized the resort as the finest in the state. It is best remembered, however, when a full grown sea lion made his getaway on Sept. 23, 1877 creating quite a commotion. His freedom was short lived as he was soon collared flipping in the direction of Alviso.

Frail sickly Robert Louis Stevenson had ample reason to fall in love with California during a brief eleven month stay in 1879-1880. He not only reached his peak at literary fame with works such as Treasure Island, - he also married. His great love was Fanny Van de Grift Osbourne of Morgan Hill, California.

Greystone and Alamitos were stations when the Southern Pacific ran a branch line to New Almaden from 1886 until 1898.

San Jose Schools as far back as 1855 were hanging by the thread of a school boy's britches - survival was in doubt. Schools pleaded for private tuition, public subscription, free will offerings or anything to halt mounting expenses. The Moreland School considered to pay its teachers in fire wood based on \$7.50 a cord.

On Nov. 27, 1848 Wm. O'Connor and Bill Wood were appointed San Jose constables at reported salaries of \$180 per month. This outlandish high pay is because of the gold rush," barked indignant Alcade Jim Weeks.

Santa Clara County once supplied a brief scramble as possible gold country. It was the Coyote Creek Stampede in the 1850's. It produced nothing more than blisters and NO GOLD!



CENTENNIAL SALUTE

The Hon. Augustus L. Rhodes was this Society's first president. On June 22, 1875 at O'Donnell's Garden amid a fever of excitement and buggy mounted floats, our Constitution and By-laws were adopted and a membership of 274 with a due fee of \$2.00 was obtained.

High geared Augustus Rhodes was an 1821 native of Bridgewater, N. Y. and a graduate of Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y. where he immediately turned to the study of law. In due time he was in Bloomfield, Indiana following his profession and later married in 1845.

Like many, California eventually lured him. Arriving in 1854, he selected San Jose where he was shortly appointed District Attorney. By 1859 he had established himself in the front ranks of his professional comrades and was already demonstrating his leadership in the State Senate.

Rhodes was committee chairman of the judiciary staff assisted by members honored to serve with him. The Senator introduced amendments to the State Constitution later adopted.

In 1863 he was named on the Republican ticket as one of the judges of the State Supreme Court serving a bountiful eight years. Back home, after much persuasion he again served on the bench as Superior Court Judge.

This congenial leader always had an ear for prime humor and a talent when it came to hilarious pranks. Judge Rhodes never lagged when the opportunity arose to participate or offer some hearty toast to a worthy cause.

This exalted Pioneer lived in a "pre-fabed" colorful country mansion shipped around the Horn in 1850. The lavish manor was assembled on what is presently Rhodes Court and The Alameda. Rhodes purchased the home and the adjoining ranch land in 1859. Here was his castle until his passing just short of 100 years in 1917. The estate was dismembered for development in 1927.

On the crest of our Centennial we are honored to salute the Society's first president, the Hon. August L. Rhodes!

PARLOR COURT ROOM



HANK CALLOWAY

"The most desperate town of the West" is what an early publication branded Pleasanton, Calif. Shootings, knifings, blatant robbery in broad daylight brought about the inevitable chase by Sheriff Harry Morse and his raw-hide tough posse. "The records of this Murray Township are written in blood," so goes the story. Pleasanton's claim to this dubious honor may be doubted by many but the valid fact is the sinister was recorded in the flourishing hand of courageous Justice of the Peace John W. Kottinger, enemy of the lawless throughout a 450 mile jurisdiction. He was also the humble spokesman in settling disputes among neighbors.

"My great grandfather was quite a fellow," points out Joe Kottinger, a cordial Pioneer middleweight with a Kris Kringle personality and a family background almost as old. "He died in 1892," says Joe, "and I'm still having a time keeping up with him."

Two counties shared in the birth of Alameda County in 1853. This caustic new district was created by taking the upper Washington Township of Santa Clara County and splitting of the southern half of Contra Costa County.

Just a year later in 1854 Justice of the Peace Kottinger would provide the only justice known throughout the valleys of Livermore, Amador and Sunol for 11 years. The land was new and the laws few. The long lonesome wooded gulches were hideaways for the likes of Murietta, Tiburcio Vasquez and Juan Soto. It can be said Sheriff Morse mustered his quota of encounters with the infamous.

The oldest structure and civic building in Pleasanton today is the Kottinger Adobe Barn used by the magistrate as a jail. Here he dug a 500 foot tunnel connecting his home that doubled as a court house to the barn insuring safe passage of prisoners. Pleasanton is currently involved in restoring the old barred jailhouse. The Kottinger home and parlor tribunal was razed in 1930.

"Grandpa John was easily California's first Notary Public," says Joe Kottinger. "California's second governor authorized it right here in San Jose on Jan. 23, 1851." Joe proved his statement with a well creased and aged document duly signed by Governor John McDougal.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

Do all to whom these Presents shall come, GREETING:

Know Ye, That, reposing special confidence in the Capacity, Integrity and Industry of *John H. Kettinger*
I, JOHN McDOUGAL, Governor of the State of California, in the name and by the authority of the People of said State, do by these Presents
 appoint him the said *John H. Kettinger* **NOTARY PUBLIC** for the County of *Santa Clara*
 California.

In Testimony Whereof, I have caused the great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed.
 Given under my hand, at the City of San Jose, the *Twenty third* day of *January*
 in the year of our *Lord* one thousand eight hundred and fifty *eight*, and of the Independence of the
 United States, the twenty *fifth*.

By the Governor:

John H. Kettinger

Secretary of State.

John H. Kettinger
 Governor of California

The diligent adopted American was born in 1891 in the province of Monrovia, then Imperial Austria. His hard-working parents were inn keepers and vineyardists. They sacrificed to educate their two boys, both to graduate from University of Vienna. Mark, the oldest studied violin under Beethoven. John was a credited educator. At 22 he was assigned to tutor the children of the royal family of Liechtenstein. By 1846 the New World beckoned and he was in New Orleans. With his command of seven languages, our scholar was off for South America and a faculty post with the University of Valparaiso.

"I suppose he soon heard of the California Gold Rush in all seven languages," Joe speculates, "because he landed in San Francisco in Sept. 1849." He ignored the gold surge heading for San Jose where he opened a private school in the rear of the old brick St. Joseph's Church. He also acted as interpreter in the courts of Santa Clara County.

In 1850 love moved in and he married the Senorita Maria Bernal whose grandfather, Joaquin Bernal, was the grantee of the 9,647 acre Rancho Santa Teresa, south of San Jose in 1834. Joaquin had arrived in Calif. when 14 with the Anza Party of 1776. Rancho El Valle de San Jose in Livermore Valley was granted to Maria's father, Juan Pablo Bernal in 1839. After being admitted to practice law in 1851, Kottinger settled on his wife's portion of El Valle de San Jose, then in Santa Clara County.

His sanctuary and cozy fireside was nestled in a grove of Pleasanton's sycamores and cottonwoods. Here he brought up a devoted pious family. The last of his eleven children, Martha Kottinger died in 1961.

Few have left a greater imprint upon their environs than this zealous father, friend, businessman, educator and pioneer magistrate.



Official Organ Of The Santa Clara County Pioneers

ESTAB. 1877 ALEX. P. MURGOTTEN, PROP.

The following copy has been selected from THE PIONEER, predecessor to THE TRAILBLAZER.

(April 14, 1877) "On motion a committee, consisting of Directors Houghton, Pfister and Trimble and President Younger was appointed to make all necessary arrangements for the annual picnic on 22d of June, with power to select place of meeting and appoint committees.

On motion it was ordered that each member of the Society be furnished with three tickets of admission, to the picnic, by the secretary. And that no one not a member of the Society be admitted unless they have a ticket endorsed by a member."

(April 21, 1877) "The oration will be delivered at 11 o'clock A.M. and directly afterwards will come lunch and the dance."

(April 28, 1877) "June 22nd is the anniversary of the

organization of the Society of Pioneers of Santa Clara County and we hope all members will be on hand to enjoy the festivities prepared for that occasion. The programme was announced in last week's Pioneer and the committee appointed for the purpose are making good progress with the arrangements. The orator has not yet been selected but no effort will be spared to secure the services of an entertaining speaker. We know that this will be the most enjoyable picnic of the season."

(May 12, 1877) "One of the pleasantest picnics of the season will be that of the Soc. of Pioneers of S.C. County, which will occur on Fri., June 22nd. Nothing has been left undone that will enure to the pleasure of the guests and preparations are still going on which, when perfected, will enable the management to present to the pioneers and their friends the most en-

joyable entertainment they have met since slapjacks were a luxury. A fine band of music will be in attendance and ample arrangements have been made for dancing. The literary exercises will consist of an oration by Frank M. Pfister a native of the soil. The refreshments will be in the shape of a basket dinner and there will be plenty to eat of the very best that our wonderful country affords.

The Mexican Veterans have been invited to be present and will probably attend as an organization.

Tickets have been issued and no one will be admitted to the gardens except by invitation by some member."

(June 9, 1877) "The Secretary was authorized to get up a ribbon badge, to be given to each member of the society and invited guests, to be worn in the button-hole, in order to prevent being imposed on by persons not entitled to admission."

(June 16, 1877) "THIRD ANNUAL PICNIC AND REUNION of the SANTA CLARA CO. PIONEERS at O'DONNELL'S GARDENS. Frank M. Pfister, Esq., a native of San Jose, has been selected as Orator for the occasion. BRONSON & DAGGETT'S BAND has been engaged to add to the enjoyment of the day."

(June 30, 1877) "(As picnic was held on publication day news of event had to be postponed.) The Secretary issued 2,500 invitations, and the supply was inadequate to meet the demand. Hundreds admitted into the gardens without invitation.

Just as the exercises were about to conclude, it was announced that Gov. Irwin had arrived, accompanied by his Secretary of State Hon. Thos. Beck...The Governor was presented to the audience, and a few happy words he addressed the old pioneers.

10,000 people were at the Pioneer picnic on the 22d at O'Donnell's Gardens"

LOOK FOR IT HERE

Ornate gold embossed honorary deeds are available to anyone who contributes \$10 for a sq. in. of the Peralta Adobe Complex. The San Jose Landmarks Commission is pursuing this unique drive for added restoration revenue. P.O. Box 549 % Harvey White, San Jose, CA 95106.

The Saratoga Historical Foundation presented an interesting illustrated lecture on The Places in the Life of Father Junipero Serra. Father Abeloe, widely recognized researcher, author and lecturer of Calif. history, compiled this picture story and was the speaker.

"I have never been out of the State of California," so claims our vibrant 80 year old Pioneer Jewell Wyman, a San Jose native.

President Ford and his Committee on Employment of the Handicapped bestowed heartwarming honors on our own Myrtle Hawkins. A three day conference in Wash. D.C. April 30, May 1-2 extended special commendation to this renowned artist for her untiring efforts on the plight of the handicapped. Bravo, Myrtle!

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County were incorporated on Nov. 22, 1906. John E. Anderson was the president, serving six terms, 1905-1911.

John Z. Anderson converted a freight car, iced green fruit, and made the first refrigerator car shipment.

Our good president, O. I. "Oskey" Schmaelzle, is back at the rostrum after an enjoyable Polynesian holiday cruise with his pretty Dorothy. Their regards from Tahiti, I thought was cruel, but touching.

The Hacienda Cemetery in New Almaden is grateful for the courageous group inspired by Austen Warburton who led an onslaught with all the necessary weapons in hacking down poison oak at the old site.

Since it is our Birthday Party, do you have a centennial costume to wear to the luncheon?

The Sourisseau Academy of San Jose State University is compiling a list of archival sources pertaining to the history of the German community in Santa Clara County. Should any of our members have any letters, birth or baptismal records, family Bibles, scrapbooks, or other material which may be of interest, they would be very grateful for the opportunity to examine these documents with their owners. Please call 277-2595 or write to the University History Dept.

The 1792-1800 adobe building which houses the Santa Clara Woman's Club was erected by Indians under the direction of the first padres who settled there. Our Pioneer Society recently assisted financially towards structural repairs to the venerable adobe. A letter of thanks by this concerned civic group is in our files. The structure is State Historical Landmark No. 249.

Sonora's Hebrew Cemetery, the oldest in the Mother Lode is now a State Historical Landmark. For this ground restoring project, the Trailblazer compliments Dr. Robert Levinson of the History Dept. of San Jose State University and to the Youth task force groups for the strong tribute accorded these early pioneers.

Deputy Fire Chief Anthony "Tony" Sapena, our first vice president has retired from the San Jose Fire Dept. after 30 strong faithful years. Happy days, Tony, and good fishing!

The annual meet of the Conference of Calif. Historical Societies is being held in Pomona on June 19-20-21. You are all invited. Historical tours, work shops, barbecue, horse show, prominent historians, plus historical researchers will provide newsful reports.

Thanks are in order for the spirited Pioneer members who were on hand adding color and excitement with their vintage costumes to the Bi-Centennial Town Hall Meeting April 4.

Add spark to your correspondence with the Pioneer Centennial Stamp, 3 sheets (36 stamps) for \$1.00. These will be available at the June luncheon or write Trailblazer editor at 1899 McDaniel Ave., San Jose, CA 95126. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.



O. I. Schmaelzle

Greetings:-

At the Saturday, June 7th luncheon we will be celebrating our 100th Anniversary. What a gala occasion that will be! You will want to make your reservations for the luncheon immediately. Our Master of Ceremonies Austen Warburton, has many surprises and novelties for this great event.

In addition to the anniversary program at the luncheon, we will have the election of new directors for the coming year, the award winners announcement of the Historical Essay Contest and other features. Lou's Village manager states that they can accommodate up to 700 diners; so there will be plenty of places for everyone.

About forty members had a most delightful and educational tour to the two cemeteries and to the New Almaden Museum on April 13. We learned much about the early pioneers and their contributions to this valley.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our June Membership Luncheon will be on the first Saturday in June, June 7th at 12 Noon. (Not on June 14th as announced at the March luncheon.) Make your reservations immediately.

Be sure to phone if you must cancel your luncheon reservation. The phone numbers are: 241-4436, 244-1360, or 244-4832.

Remember no seats can be reserved or held after 11:45.

TOURS: For reservations call Ruth Gross, 294-9830, from 9 AM to noon, Monday through Friday. Mail to The Californians, 2150-97 Almaden Rd., San Jose, CA 95125.

Tour Parking at Valley Village: The management asks you to park your car west of the Dolores St. entrance or on Dolores Street itself.

"Dues shall be payable annually in advance in January of each year." Please remit to Curt Bailey, 390 N. Winchester Blvd., 9C, Santa Clara, CA 95050.

Welcome New Members

June M. Brown	Eleanor O'Donnell
Alice Colvin	Joseph O'Kane
Nina J. Cox	Martha O'Kane
Irene Dobbs	Chris J. Panopulos
Grace M. Dunham	Mary M. Perry
Edna L. Elrod	Dorothy Praisewater
Helen Enos	Doris Prussia
Joseph Enos	Mary F. Saitta
Bernice Ferreira	Ann Sapena
Marguerite Froess	Terry Sarmento
Mildred Hansen	Mildred Scheele
Winifred Harkness	Wesley W. Scheele
Joseph J. Kelly	Rose A. Silva
Joseph F. Knabke	Sallie R. Smith
Myrtle C. Lytle	William Surratt
Joseph D. Medeiros	Hazel Tilden
Clayton W. Minninger	James W. Tilden
Susan Minninger	Mary-Margaret Wallace
Alice Muoio	Lyle Withers
Edna Nicholls	Bernice A. Urzi
Leone B. Noble	Frank V. Urzi

Our SOCIAL CLUB meets at the Town Park Towers at 60 North 3rd St., on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. For further information call Lovene Luhrman, 292-0070.



Beyond the sunset

- - -	Guadalupe Marie Wohnert	- - -
Oct. 25, 1900 -	Mildred F. Turvin	- Jan. 6, 1975
Sept. 11, 1913 -	Marjorie A. Cruce	- Jan. 30, 1975
Nov. 16, 1877 -	Susie Mattei	- March 5, 1975
Feb. 11, 1885	Olympia Baker	- March 9, 1975
- - -	Ruth W. Petersen	- March 20, 1975
June 24, 1907 -	Jeannette B. Blanchard	- April 1, 1975
April 1, 1900 -	Gladys K. Shore	- April 7, 1975
Aug. 20, 1898 -	Eugene R. Booker	- April 14, 1975

Trailblazer subscriptions to non-members are now \$2 per year - effective with this issue. 50¢ a copy

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Phone: 244-1360

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - ADDRESS CHANGE: To Bernice
Van Gundy, 561 Fuller Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125

SICKNESS and DEATHS: Please notify Ruth M. Heath, 390
N. Winchester Blvd., 3-3G, Santa Clara, CA 95050
Phone 241-4436