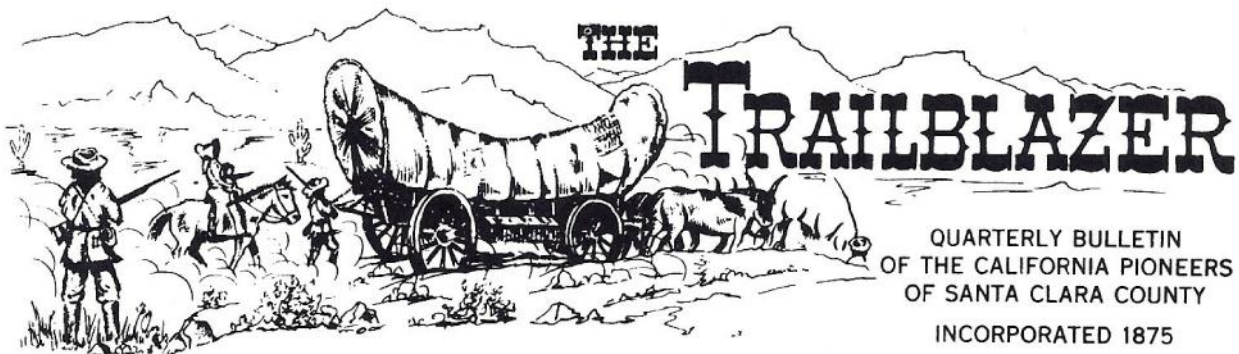




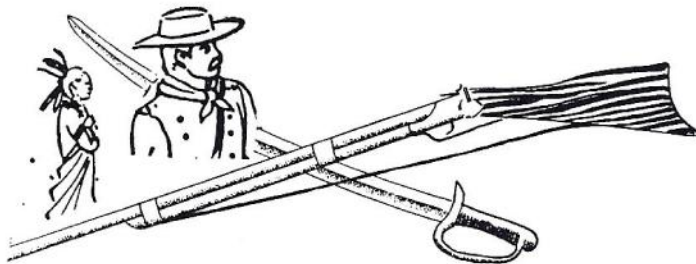
Volume 20

August 1980

Number 3



THE MAKING OF A WEATHERMAN



WHALE BLAZERS

SAN JOSE, August 1887: — In accordance with a county government provision, \$500 was voted by the Board of Trade (Chamber of Commerce) to further aid the program of inducing immigration to this county.

SAN JOSE, June 8, 1889: — Maurice O'Brien was the only First Street property owner at city hall regarding a plan to improve the street. Street Commissioners recommended basalt rock covered with petroleum, a method other property owners believed as being lacking and very dangerous.

SAN JOSE, August 1895: — The Alum Rock hack drivers were out in force offering to take passengers out and back for 25 cents. The low rate was soon abolished for the 40 cent rate when a number of hack-men began carting passengers free.

SAN JOSE, Sept. 1895: — Gorgail and Solan were still asking City Hall for permission to erect a wooden shed, 55'X14', in the rear of 25 N. Market St. for a bowling alley. The structure was permitted only if it be covered with corrugated iron as demanded by the Fire and Water Committee.

LODI, August 1904: — One of the greatest ball games ever witnessed here was expected when the San Jose Prune Eaters and the Lodi Melon Rollers were scheduled to cross bats. The Eaters had just returned from a sound victory of 11 to 2 over the Sand Crabs of Santa Cruz.

SAN JOSE, August 1904: — The Anti-Cigarette League were meeting in special sessions at the Coffee Club to forge a new plan of attack.

SARATOGA, July 30, 1905: — Congress Springs was rollicking to its summer opening with an attendance of over 2000 and some well filled baskets while two crack military bands kept a vibrant crowd at high pitch. The Interurban cars were crowded all day for the celebrated event.

H. C.



1980 Membership Roster CALIFORNIA PIONEERS of Santa Clara County

Dear Pioneers,

Verbal and written inquiries were numerous concerning members whose names had been omitted in our recent 1980 Membership Roster. This hurtful misdeal amounted to 68 members all in good standing, including Life Members.

Our sincere regrets for this unintentional mishap and from all the noble and patient members on this page, we plead for absolution.

The Trailblazer

Ester Adams
Ugene Autra
Anna Avila
Rose Bouckhout
Muriel Bushnell
Mildred Byerly
Rachel Carter
Geraldine Chimenti
Hartley Church
Bertha Clampitt
Dorothy Clark
Robert Cochran
Helen Conti
Tony Conti
Norman Cowley
Iryle Cozzens
Bradley Cozzens
H. Leslie Crow
Mary Crowl
Providenza Dalton
Sedoris Daniels
Christine Dully
Eugene Dully

Grace Duncan
Edna Elrod
Irene Endersbee
Norman Endersbee
Ellis Fredrick
Marcelene Gaskin
Rita Grim
Jo Ann Hamlet
Edna Hansbro
Mima Hardwicke
Marian Hobbs
Clifford Johnsrud
Eldora Johnsrud
Elmer Klein
Lou Anna Klein
Ruth Lasich
Gloria Leavenworth
Emilia Mandere
Vivian V. McCaskey
Thelma Miguelgorry
Barbara Nunes
James O'Connor
Neva O'Donnell

Virginia Paradise
Eleanor Phay
Ludie Pohlman
Edward W. Roberts
Roberta Ross
Beatrice Scholes
Leona Silva
Evelyn Sloan
Hilda Spence
Genevieve Swift
Marie Torbett
Ruth Turner
Alma Weaver
Ralph Weaver
LIFE MEMBERS
Olive Street Engwicht
Clifford B. Hunter
Edna Johnson
Billie B. Lewis
Miriam Marquardt
Leonard McKay
Duncan Oneal
Patty Oneal



THE MAKING OF A WEATHERMAN

By Henry Calloway



Frontier trooper Maurice Connell's quest to do something about the weather in 1881 turned into a terrifying siege met with all the fury of polar vengeance, but Maurice was still around twenty-four years later when assigned as San Jose's first U. S. weather prophet in 1905.

Connell was a member of the ill-fated 1881-84 Greely Polar Expedition, officially known as the Lady Franklin Arctic Expedition, being one of but seven to survive the frigid fiasco.

Maurice was a strapping risk-craving youth of 19 when he sailed into San Francisco in 1871. He had long known the peaceful Killarney, Ireland countryside, his birthplace in 1852, would never provide his kind of action.

For the next 51 years Connell was to serve his adopted country with a career charged with incredible contributions as a soldier, explorer and scientist.

Inspired by Indian Wars raging in the West he immediately enlisted with the U. S. Cavalry, declaring he was 21, and was accepted.

In an interview extended to the San Jose *Mercury Herald* in 1921, Connell, then 69 years old, related how his 3rd Cavalry Regiment participated in Apache uprisings in the Southwest coupled

with non-stop orders to muzzle the Sioux revolts raging throughout the central plains. With units sent to aid Custer at Little Big Horn, his outfit arrived just a day late to find a smoldering and grisly battlefield of the long debated "last stand" of June 25, 1876.

Connell said his ten years as an Indian fighter with its severe discipline, extremes of climate and the constant threat of ambush could never match the hardships, privations, hunger and almost death itself while with the ill-advised Greely icecapade.

In the spring of 1881 Lt. Adolph W. Greely, Army Signal Corps officer and explorer, was put in command to establish a chain of international polar weather stations. Maurice Connell was one of the 25 selected for the party, 23 officers and enlisted men and two Eskimos.

"It was the first expedition ever officially sponsored or undertaken by the U. S. Government," said Connell's interview. "The project was badly managed, poorly conceived and through the blunders of many came disaster."

Connell fumed at the economy minded Congress of 1880 for allowing only \$25,000 for the entire expedition saying \$20,000 was already used up at St. John's, Newfoundland, to charter the Proteus, a whaler, which was to take them to Franklin Bay on Ellesmere Island.

Ellesmere Island, their vast inhospitable ice domain, is the second largest ice mass in the Arctic and just a polar bear hug away from mighty Greenland, the largest. It was on Ellesmere where Greely and his party made pioneer discoveries. Here the National Geographical Society maps Greely Fiord and lonely Mt. Connell today.

As 1881 was an open water polar year, it offered the Proteus little or no ice hindrance, sailing as far north as 82 degrees latitude which was too far as later events proved. At Franklin Bay cargo was discharged with a promise the summer of 1882 would bring provisions and relief.

A still furious Connell stated, "A vessel was sent in 1882 but not under the command of a naval officer as it should have been but under the direction of an army officer who knew nothing whatever

about navigation. The ship got only as far as Cape Sabine, 400 miles south of us, leaving only 20 days of rations. More of that disastrous Congress economy idea," he explained.

When relief failed to reach them, they began the construction of sledges, still determined to reach the highest point of the pole ever reached by man ($82^{\circ} - 40'$). This they did, wrestling from England a laurel she had held for 175 years.

When two full years passed with no relief in sight, they left their home weather station at Lady Franklin in open boats. For five perilous weeks they drifted south over 400 miles through chaotic ice regions, finally landing south of Cape Sabine. Here was found a 20 day food cache left by a Norwegian relief ship after repeated attempts to reach them before being crushed by ice. The two Eskimos with the party repeatedly found hunting meager.

In the late winter of 1883 they came upon another cache of 40 days that Greely thinly rationed to eight months. Here this bleak waste soon became the stage for hideous acts by starving and dying men. One member was shot by Greely for repeated theft of food.

Connell still thanked heaven for the memorable day of June 22, 1884 when navy relief arrived under Commander W. S. Schley who witnessed a sight of horror—18 of the party were already dead. Connell was in a stupor and weighed only 103 pounds (his normal weight being 175). Greely was none the better and like the other five survivors had already been without food for almost four days.

Even after this hellish episode Major Connell continued to serve the Meteorological Division in the Army Signal Corps until he transferred to the U. S. Weather Bureau in 1891.

In 1901 he retired from the army to become affiliated with the Department of Agriculture in weather science as a civilian.

In September 1905 he was in San Jose to establish the first local U. S. Weather Station located on the fourth floor of the Dougherty Building at 85 South 2nd Street. Here Connell personally

attended to the sizable amount of meteorological equipment arriving from Washington, D.C. and to its installation. Special attention was rendered the roof where over 90 square feet of cement was poured to better anchor the delicate weather apparatus. Wind velocity measuring devices, sunshine recorders plus the latest creation in electrically controlled rain gauges all connected with Connell's office. A special flag staff was used daily to hoist weather signals. A proud announcement was also released saying a telephone was at the new operation ready to answer all weather inquiries. Sadly, a fire, the result of the 1906 earthquake was to destroy the entire building including rare diaries of the Arctic expedition. The Bureau then re-established in the Federal Building at Market and San Fernando Streets where this long recognized authority on weather topics served until March 1921 when he retired owing to total disability.

Until the very end he was vigilant, keeping weather sharp on all Arctic climatology that he himself helped pioneer. This servant to the community, state and nation died at his San Jose home on South 11th St. on June 3, 1921. The home place, somewhat forlorn, still stands.

Intrepid Maurice O'Connell (he dropped the 'O' in the Army) was a member of the American Geographic Society, the American Meteorological Society and the exclusive Arctic Club—a distinction alone.

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How many of our Pioneers recall the bird like hut used as a weather gauge shelter on the north end of City Hall Park, just across from the 1895 greystone Post Office, in midtown San Jose?

This long familiar trim louvered affair was perched on a stilted platform with a side approach of stairs. We recollect its moss green paint, sometimes white, chaperoned by honeysuckle or some other popular climber of the day.

This scant piece of property was rented to the Federal Government by San Jose for nine dollars per month, this rental fee being applied to park upkeep.



President's Message

Leonard McKay

As your new president, I wish to greet each of you and to tell you of my dreams that I hope to accomplish while completing my term of office. First, please allow me to comment on your nominating committee's selection of the other officers. I believe that the choices were outstanding. I have worked with most of these people and have found them all to be very competent and very hard-working.

A special mention should be made of the co-editors of the *Trailblazer*—Hank and Laura Calloway who continue to produce an exemplary bulletin; Omar Margason, 1st Vice President; Tony Sapena, 2nd Vice President; George Kobayashi, Recording Secretary; Delbert Bradley, Corresponding Secretary; John Clark, Financial Secretary; Alexander Gauger, Treasurer; Don De Mers, Marshall; Clyde Arbuckle, Historian; Austen Warburton, Parliamentarian; Victoria Malatesta, Ginger Armstrong and Robert Armstrong, Auditors; Norman & Meta Huber, Membership Chairmen; Mary Simas, Sunshine Committee.

Prior to the 1940's, the Pioneers owned a building on Third Street facing St. James Park. The building was sold during the forties and the proceeds were invested "to build a future home for the society." It is now nearly 40 years later, and while the money was invested very wisely and has increased threefold, unfortunately building costs have escalated more than ten times. It is my dream that our society will use a portion of our investment to build a home for our society, and that members will contribute to this goal. We should have a place where we can permanently display many of the artifacts that our society possesses, and what better place could there be than the Historical Museum? We will need your help to accomplish this and I shall outline my plans as they become more detailed and feasible.

Our annual Historical Essay Contest recently awarded cash prizes and achievement certificates to three high school students and to three adults.

Brian Veen, Leland High School senior, and Helen Arbuckle both captured first awards of \$200 each in their respective category. Veen won on "An Architectural Survey of Willow Glen." While Mrs. Arbuckle's work recalled the role of our ladies in "San Jose Women" from the mission era to the present.

Second place awards of \$50 each went to Leland senior Julie Jensen for "Dry Days in a Wet Town," and to Marjorie Kellogg on "Frank Duveneck, Johnny Appleseed of Hidden Villa Ranch."

Meritorious certificates went to Jamine Zabell, Leigh High School, and to William Joesten.

Welcome New Members

Anna E. Avila
Kay Baechler
Amelia Battaglia
Florence Berg
Florentino Carreño
Victoria Carreño
Florence Carter
H. J. "Nick" Carter
Elizabeth L. Chace
Edna E. Chew
Blanche Davies
Marian DeCaro
Constance Dinapoli

Joseph Dinapoli
Mildred Dolietto
Louis Duino
Ruth Duino
Rose T. Forner
George Kobayashi
Miriam Marquardt
Evelyn B. Morris
Ruth M. Patton
Jeanette Plume
Ann Puglizevich
Marquita Rybloom
Eleanor Santos

Kenneth A. Santos
Norma Schirle
Robert C. Schirle
Renée G. Sonderman
Marion Speegle
Frances Spensley
Edith H. Steiner
Henry Vasquez
Ethyl Wanzer
Ralph A. Wanzer
Stephen N. White
Wilma L. Wyckoff
Mary J. York



Beyond the sunset

Violet A. Blume
Elizabeth Stevens Brown
Abigail Ortleigh Dennis
Anthony J. Escover
Nellie Grau

Ellis A. Howard
Gordon Ivancovich
Carlos W. Jacklin
June Lester
George B. Noll

Thusnelda Poppe
Morrison W. Reese
Victor L. Rogers
Beatrice Scholes
Mildred Wyatt



TOURING WITH THE CALIFORNIANS

Not available at press time, but in the making is a platter high array of exciting get-aways being put together by our prize Tour Committee. So, Pioneers, be ready to plunge into a bubbling collection of "don't miss" sights, available at our September 6th Luncheon.

Reservations are now being taken for two October gems.

Oct. 16 - 19: MAMMOTH LAKES — only a few spaces left

Oct. 25 - Nov. 3: TWO ISLANDS — HAWAII AND MOLOKAI already 1/2 full

RESERVATIONS for the following trips will begin Sept. 6th at the Pioneer Luncheon. Beginning Monday, Sept. 8, for reservations call Ruth Gross, 294-9830 between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Monday through Friday. After Ruth confirms your reservation, make your check payable to "*The Californians*" and mail to P. O. Box 2007, Los Gatos, CA 95030.

Nov. 11 - 12: SOUTH SHORE LAKE TAHOE — more at the Luncheon

December — Get set! NUTCRACKER BALLET in San Francisco and a fabulous NEW YEARS OVERNIGHT is brewing!

March 14 - 28, 1981: An elegant CARIBBEAN AND TRANS CANAL CRUISE. Send stamped self addressed legal size envelope to The Californians for brochure. Reservations are now being taken.

July 1981: GRAND TETONS AND YELLOWSTONE PARK

NOTE . . . NEW TOUR ADDRESS

THE CALIFORNIANS

P. O. Box 2007

Los Gatos, CA 95030

DUES — DUES — DUES

Over one hundred and fifty members have been lost to this Society because of non-payment of dues this past year. Such a decline means less we can accomplish toward the preservation and knowledge effecting the bountiful heritage of our county. **WE NEED YOU ALL — — YOU ARE TOO NICE TO LOSE !** Please check your membership card. Does it have 1980 on it? If not please send three dollars (\$3) each for your membership to the Financial Secretary, John Clark, 1900 Emory St., San Jose, CA 95126.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE New active members upon payment of \$1 initiation fee will have the option of paying the \$3 yearly dues or purchasing a \$45 Life Membership (\$75 for husband and wife subscribing at the same time.)

The same Life Membership privileges are extended to present members.



**DOORS OPEN 10:30
LUNCHEON AT 12**

Hello Pioneers!

SEPT. 6th IS OUR LUNCHEON DATE

CALL 247-6606

For Reservations
Please call this same number
if you must cancel. This is a 24-
hour, 7 day Answering Service.

*Say! Our chairman promises
an interesting program.*

MENU

CROSS RIBS OF BEEF
JELLO SALAD
VEGETABLE
DESSERT
BEVERAGE

LOU'S VILLAGE \$5.50

ATTENTION!

Members, please be more conscientious about sending in changes of address. If this task is left to the Post Office, we are charged 25¢ per RETURNED TRAILBLAZER.

P. O. BOX 8208
SAN JOSE, CA 95155

ADDRESS CORRECTION
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THE TRAILBLAZER

Issued: February, May, August, November

Editor: Henry Calloway

1899 McDaniel Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126

Associate Editor: Laura Calloway

Staff Artist: Ralph Rambo

Subscription rate to non-members . . . \$2.00 per year

OFFICERS FOR 1980 - 81

President	Leonard McKay
First Vice President	Omar Margason
Second Vice President	Anthony Sapena
Recording Secretary	George Kobayashi
Corresponding Secretary	Delbert Bradley
Financial Secretary	John Clark
Treasurer	Alexander Gauger
Membership (applications)	Norman & Meta Huber

Directors: Clyde Arbuckle, Ginger Armstrong, Robert Armstrong,
Donald De Mers Jr., Victoria Malatesta, Austen Warburton

DUES: \$3 per year (tax exempt) To John Clark, Financial
Secretary, 1900 Emory Street, San Jose, CA 95126

SICKNESS and DEATHS: Please notify Mary Simas
at 18290 Coyote Road, Morgan Hill, CA 95030 Phone 779-7475