

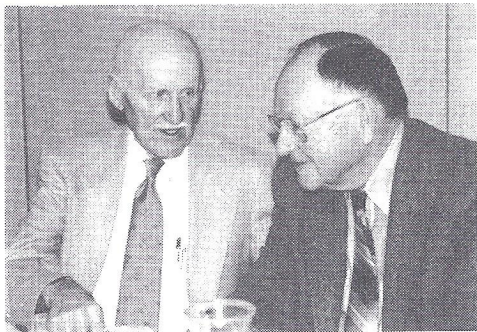
Volumne 34

February, 1993

Number 1

CLYDE ARBUCKLE TO CELEBRATE 90TH

Clyde Arbuckle
with
Austen Warburton



Clyde Arbuckle, author-historian, was hardly the sleepy, Santa Clara three-year-old when his iron bed reeled wall to wall introducing him to his first abrupt encounter with history. The event was the devastating 5:13 a.m. earthquake of April 18, 1906.

Our long fervent educator concluded over 40 years with the San Jose Metropolitan Adult Education Program in 1988, fully affirmed in that "The future must find its roots in our past."

Clyde, everyone's historian, is himself a descendant of astonishing pioneers. His mother, Mrs. Mollie Arbuckle, who passed away in 1932, was born in San Jose in 1858, the daughter of Ben and Mary Gordon, pioneers who crossed the plains with ox team in 1856. At the outbreak of the Civil War, she accompanied her parents back to Missouri, also by oxen, returning to California by the same means in 1865. In 1878 she married J. D. Gordon (no relation) at Yorkville, Mendocino County, remaining there until Gordon's death in 1891. She returned to Santa Clara Valley and in 1899 was married to William Arbuckle.

Clyde also made his mark in the sporting world. In 1921 he was the California cycling champion and a contender for the 1924 Olympics.

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NEED FOR NEW TREASURER IN JUNE

Although the election of new Board members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County is not until June, it is not too early to be thinking of possible candidates. An office will be open this year that calls for a particular skill. After four years as treasurer, Sara Millar will be leaving the Board in June. Therefore, we must begin to look among our membership for an accountant or bookkeeper who is willing to use his or her talent for the Pioneers. This position calls for some experience, as our treasurer is also our business manager.

The Board would be very pleased to hear from any of you who feel you have the skill needed and are willing to serve in this important position for our organization. Anyone interested may call our president, Ruth Patton at (408) 258-6257. For further information as to duties of the treasurer, please call Sara Millar at (408) 377-2001.

The Board meets the second Monday of each month. Being a member of the Board is a very enlightening and rewarding experience. Try it, you'll like it!



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This former American Railway Express associate and railroad "buff" is past president of the Conference of California Historical Societies, also of our own California Pioneers and an honored member of the internationally active Oregon-California Trails Association.

In celebration of his 90th birthday, Clyde will be honored by his many friends at a reception to be held on Tuesday, April 13, 1993 in Fiesta Hall, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. The theme is "Walking Through History with Clyde." See the insert for details of this celebration and tribute to Clyde Arbuckle.



Ruth Patton



President's Message

I am sure that all of us are grateful for the rainy days and nights we have had, but sitting here with the sunshine on my desk is very pleasant. I hope this presages a good year for everyone.

We should all be very grateful to the dedicated Board and committee members in this organization. Month after month they carry out their responsibilities and duties in such a capable manner.

One example of this -- the on-going saga of the Hacienda Cemetery. Committee members Dick Hill and Bob Oliver, with advice from Austen Warburton, have spent uncounted hours on this project. There have been meetings to attend, multitudinous forms to fill out, many, many trips to the site and negotiations with surveyors, head of various departments and other officials. So far we have received \$800.00 of our promised \$45,000.00, but we still have hope!

We would like very much to see you at our March 6th luncheon meeting. Let's begin this new year with an upbeat attitude!

ATLANTIC CANADA ADVENTURE

September 10-26, 1993

Featured: Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick. A brochure will be available and reservations will be received at the March 6th Pioneers Luncheon. September along the Atlantic coast is Fall Color Time!

WHALE BLAZERS

1905 There was a fellow in our realm at the time, who proposed to save our prune growers a heap of money by training monkeys to do the job. This chap who was bent on educating the monkey to the level of such a task was Martin V. Seeley, a San Jose mid-town resident. Martin was to have already made arrangements with a firm in Panama for some 300 qualified monkeys according to the San Jose Evening Herald at the time. Seeley, indeed, was said to have waited anxiously for their arrival in order to have them in top picking form come the summer season.

February 1905 A peek at old time sporting reports reveal how San Jose was one of the very few towns in these United States to enjoy baseball the entire year.

March 1907 The Santa Clara County Society of the California Pioneers had brought up the question, among others, to be discussed. It appeared when the Pioneers had their quarterly banquets an overly amount who had no business there shoved in crowding out those who belonged. It was proposed that some measure be adopted to stop the practice with more aggressive committeemen.

SAN JOSE, April, 1930 If you owned a grass hula skirt at the time, it was apt to be outlawed. Strange as it may seem, it was due to a dreaded fruit fly which caused a ban to be placed on the popular Polynesian garment.

January 1905 Work on the survey of the proposed Mt. Hamilton railroad was nearing completion, weather permitting. The survey had started from the top of Mt. Hamilton. The brush and timber made the task very difficult for the surveyors to see any distance ahead. Fair weather prevailed up to the time the surveyors passed Smith's Creek. Over half of the 27 miles between San Jose and the Observatory had been covered. With each mile that the surveyors completed the task became somewhat easier towards another early day expectation.



ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST DEADLINE APRIL 30TH
WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT JUNE LUNCHEON

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are again sponsoring their annual Essay Contest which is open to the general public and students alike. The essay contest was started in 1958.

The subject matter can be about any person, place or event concerning Santa Clara County and should be from 3,000 to 10,000 words in length.

The first prize is \$500, second prize is \$250, and third prize is \$125. In addition three honorable mention awards will be given.

Entries should be post-marked by April 30, 1993. For a copy of the contest rules, contact Helen MacCarthy at (408) 578-4485.

Winners will be announced at our June 5, 1993, luncheon. The winners will be invited to share at that time something about their essays and of their experiences.



CALL 554-7587 BY MARCH 3RD TO MAKE
RESERVATIONS FOR THE MARCH LUNCHEON

CLYDE ARBUCKLE RECEPTION

Near the date of his 90th birthday, City Historian, Clyde Arbuckle will be honored by his many friends at a Reception to be held on Tuesday, April 13, 1993, from 4 to 8 p.m., in Fiesta Hall, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. Special tributes to Clyde will be scheduled between 5-5:45 and 6:45-7:15 p.m. For complimentary parking at Fiesta Hall, enter the Fairgrounds through Gate B, east of the arch on Tully Road.

The committee, formed from a coalition of County and City Museum Associations, Commissions and Agencies, invites you to participate in the celebration, a tribute to Clyde for his contributions to historic education and preservation and for the role he has played in developing historical awareness among individuals in this multicultural community.

We hope you will write a short paragraph relating an anecdote, a memory of Clyde or share a way in which he has helped to create, foster or nurture your interest in history. If you have a photograph to contribute, we will include it in a panel of "walking through history with Clyde."

Light food and beverage will be served and a full NO-HOST BAR will be available. During this informal time you can visit with Clyde and his family and greet old friends.

The cost is \$25 per person which includes a donation of \$10 to the CLYDE ARBUCKLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND. Additional donations will be acknowledged during the scheduled tributes. If you cannot attend the Reception, a contribution to the Fund will be appreciated.

THE SOURISSEAU ACADEMY, local history research facility of San Jose State University, has been approached to administer the Scholarship. It will be available to help an historian pursue an interest in local history.

Make checks payable to: ARGONAUTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY and mail no later than April 1 to-- JEWEL & LYN BEAN, 1641 Carmel Drive
San Jose, CA 95125

For more information call Jeanette Roberts, 258-4286 or Ruth Patton, 258-6257.

Reception _____ at \$25 per person- - - - - \$ _____
number

Scholarship only \$ _____ - - - - - \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Enclosures: letter _____ photograph _____



MAIL PIONEERS BEFORE PONY EXPRESS

By Henry Calloway

Henry 'Hank' & Laura Calloway

At the University of California on March 1, 1917, some long-delayed recognition had at last come to aggressive pioneers who had 'dispatched' the mails to California for ten years before the famous Pony Express was established.

Most know the romantic story of the "Pony Express" (1860-1861), but by a curious irony of fate, the world had forgotten until then the predecessors who for ten years faced every danger of nature and hostile Indians to carry mails across plains, mountains and rivers to California. This forgotten history was said to have been recovered through documents sent to the University of California by one H. Chorpenning McGee of Berkeley.

Through examination of these documents, it was as early as April, 1851, nearly ten years before the Pony Express that the United States contracted with a George Chorpenning and Absalom Woodward with the pay of \$14,000. a year to have the mails carried once each month between Salt Lake and Sacramento. The contractors agreed to make the 910-mile journey in not more than 30 days.

The original route was said to have been along the regular emigrant road through Placerville; crossing the Sierras at Carson's Canyon, then following along the Carson and Humboldt Rivers around to the northern end of the Great Salt Lake. In the first journey across the mountains, it took, at times, a whole day to make two miles through the snow. Before the end of the year, Woodward was killed by Indians near the Great Salt Lake.

By 1858 the volume of mail to be carried increased so that Major Chorpenning was able to run a stage line of four-horse coaches along the mail route. A new route was soon discovered which shortened the journey by 100 miles.



Beyond The Sunset

Marjorie Moltzen
Clare Nickson
Mildred Noble
Blanche Russell

Doris Straley
Evelyn Von Dorsten
Esther Carlson
Clarence H. Moody

On behalf of the members of the California Pioneer Society of Santa Clara County, THE TRAILBLAZER extends sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of our departed members.

Welcome New Members

Jessie A. Anderson
Ann Connolly
James P. Connolly
Myreta A. Davis
Margaret S. Elizondo
Robert E. Estrada
Geoffrey L. Harmer
Paula J. Quintero

Nanette White
William J. White
Marie S. Bressani
Margie L. Couch
Rosalie Doll
Elizabeth Nygren
Betty Jane Simon

Please join us for luncheon on March 6th.



UNDER THE WEATHER

Kindly keep your officers informed as to the condition of any ill member and report any sickness or death to the chair of our SUNSHINE Committee -- Leah Warren, 2032 Emory Street, San Jose, CA 95128 (408) 241-8942

Touring With The Californians



Tuesday, March 23 through Saturday, March 27, 1993.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA POTPOURRI

Join us for a varied and facinating experience of California history. Heading south on highway 101, we'll enjoy the springtime beauty of our state stopping in Shell Beach for an included lunch amid the western memorabilia at Mc Lintocks' restaurant.

We will tour President Reagan's Library/Museum as well as President Nixon's Presidential Museum and Birthplace, a dedication to the country's only California born President.

The 54 million dollar Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum in Griffith Park, Los Angeles, focuses on the old west and how to distinguish the REAL west from the myths created by writers of radio, film, television and music. It traces western history from the 16th century to the present.

By staying overnight in Borrego Springs, we will be able to enjoy the sunset and early morning hours sospecial in the desert. The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the west's largest state park which covers 600,000 acres of badlands, oases, palm canyons and cactus.

We will also have the opprtunity to visit the Mission San Fernando Rey De Espana and the Mission San Luis Rey De Francia.

On our 'last night out' we will attend the inspiring Easter Pageant in the unique setting of the magnificent Crystal Cathedral of Garden Grove in Orange County. Many of us have seen the Crystal Cathedral on television, but to experience this pageant in person is truly a climax.

Our trip home will be via Highway 5 through the great San Joaquin Valley with an included lunch at the Harris Ranch.

The cost is \$358.00 per person twin, and as usual includes driver, luggage and guide tips.

As the TRAILBLAZER goes to print, there are a few spaces available. CALL NANCY HILL (408) 258-3449 to confirm your place on this exciting trip.



IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT?

Annual dues are NOW past due! Over 240 members have yet to pay their dues. Those members who have not paid for 1993 by the March 6, 1993, luncheon will be considered delinquent and will NOT receive the TRAILBLAZER. The Financial Secretary will be available at the luncheon to receive payments.

Those who wish to mail their payments can do so by sending the \$7.00 check along with a stamped self-addressed envelope to California Pioneers, P. O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155. You will receive your membership card in the mail.

Any questions? Please call Membership Chairman/Financial Secretary, Tommy Warren at (408) 241-8942.

MOVING? Let us know as soon as possible. The Post Office will not forward your TRAILBLAZER. Worse yet, we are charged 29 cents for each returned TRAILBLAZER.



THE TRAILBLAZER issued February, May, August & November

Editor: Vanley Batchelor
1282 Normandy Way, Santa Clara, CA 95050
(408) 243-4167

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY DIRECTORS 1992-1993

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SUNSHINE: Please notify of SICKNESS AND DEATHS

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BEVERAGE

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