

QUARTERLY BULLETIN  
OF THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS  
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
INCORPORATED 1875

VOLUME 42, NO. 3

SEPTEMBER, 2001

WINNERS OF THE 43RD ANNUAL CALIFORNIA  
PIONEERS ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCED IN JUNE,  
2001

The Santa Clara County Pioneers, incorporated in 1875, began awarding prizes for essays on our county in 1958. The Organization was begun in the 19th Century when many early pioneers were living here. Today, the membership includes those who have either lived in our state for 50 years or is descended from pioneers. The Organization meets quarterly at Lou's Village for Historical programs and luncheon. They have a Quarterly Newsletter called *The Trailblazer* which began publishing in 1958 and is also collected at the California Room. They own and are in the process of restoring the Pioneer Hacienda Cemetery at New Almaden and also own the Jackson Ranch which is run as a Santa Clara County Park.

The 43 years of Essay papers are available for public viewing at The California Room of the Martin Luther King Library Mondays and Thursdays, 2-5 and Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 3-9 p.m. A listing of all of the winning titles from 1958 to 2001 may be viewed at:  
<http://www.sjpl.lib.ca.us/Adults/CaliforniaRoom/pioneer.htm>

The prizes for 2001 included Elizabeth Eap's First prize winner entitled *San Jose's Japantown-the People and History Behind It*. Elizabeth is a student of Kathryn Philp at Willow Glen High School.

The Second Prize winner was Ross Martinet, an 8th

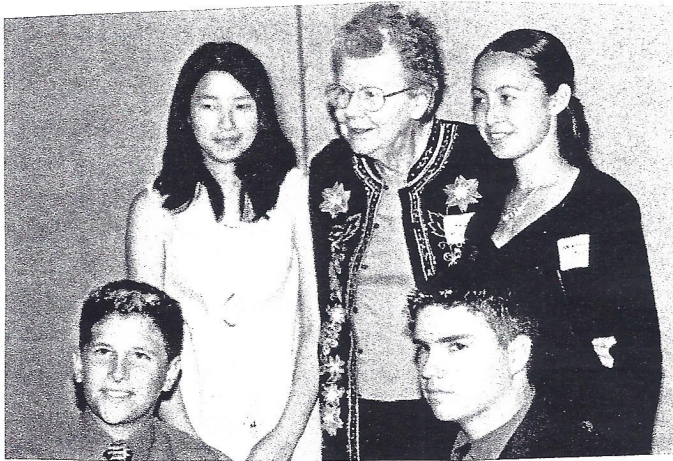
Grade Home Study student at Oak Grove Independent Home Study. It is entitled, *Farmers' Foresight-A History of Santa Clara Valley Reservoirs*.

Third place went to Kristina Rava of Mrs. Philip's class at Willow Glen High School. It is entitled *Good Samaritan Hospital- Serving Body, Mind and Spirit for 36 Years*.

Three Honorable Mentions include Alex Kane of Willow Glen High School, *Camp Swig, A Camp for Generations*. Carol McCullough (General Public), *Christmas in the Park-A San Jose Tradition*. and Jeff Kunkel (General Public), *Father Hubbard-The Glacier Priest*.

Checks and Certificates were awarded all of the winners at the June luncheon meeting. First place received \$500, Second, \$250, Third, \$150 and \$100 each for the Honorable Mentions. Mrs. Kathryn Philip was given an honorary membership for her years of encouraging students to enter the contest. Judges this year included Helen McCarthy, Chair, Pat Loomis and Charles Sullivan.

It is time for teachers and the general public to begin thinking about subjects for the 2002 contest. Anyone who would like an advance copy of the rules of the contest or a membership application is encouraged to write to the Santa Clara County Pioneers at P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155.



The photo shows those who appeared at the luncheon in June, Elizabeth Eap, (1st) Helen McCarthy, (Chair), Kristine Ravo, (3rd), Alex Kane (Honorable Mention) and Ross Martinet, (2nd.).



Helen McCarthy and Kathryn Philip

## RETIREMENT

After the Christmas Break, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent the holidays. One child wrote the following: "We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live here in a big brick house, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Arizona. Now they live in a place with a lot of other retarded people.

They live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on big tricycles and wear name tags because they don't know who they are any more. They go to a building called a wrecked center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all night now. They play games and do exercises there but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but they jump up and down in it with their hats on. I guess they don't know how to swim.

At their gate, there is a doll house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out. Then they go cruising in their golf carts.

My grandma used to bake cookies and stuff, but I guess she forgot how. Nobody there cooks; they just eat out. And they eat the same thing every night - Early Birds. Some of the people can't get past the man in the doll house to go out. So the ones who do get out bring food back to the wrecked center and call it pot luck. -3-

My Grandma says Grandpa worked hard all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday, too. When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the doll house. Then I will let people out so they can visit their grandchildren."

### **A note from your Membership Chair, ...**

One of the aims of the California Pioneers is to promote fellowship among our members, both old and new. This past year we have had a great many new members, and it is our hope that all will become active members of our organization. Please make our new members and guests feel welcome. When you attend our luncheons, invite both our new and old members to join you at your table and you will increase your circle of friends. Go with the Californians on their great tours and your circle of friends will increase again.

Welcome again to all our members. If you have questions, do not hesitate to call me. I will try to assist you or let you know whom to call. If you need membership applications or have a change of address, please let me know. We have to buy back those issues undeliverable, then resend to your correct address. Melita Kelly

### **GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS**

|                                         |                                |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Marjorie Rusht, April, 2001             | Nina J. Cox, April 24, 2001    |
| Helen Perrin, April 28, 2001            | Joseph Kirby, June 7, 2001     |
| Veva Musick Shirk Benson, June 15, 2001 |                                |
| Fedele Citti, June 27, 2001             | Maxine Grevstad, June 14, 2001 |

### **NEW MEMBERS**

|                      |                        |                   |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Deane A. Barbieri    | James A. Bunce         | Pamela Lubich     |
| Marion Block         | Margie Craig           | Lucille Downing   |
| Elizabeth J. Johnson | Rose & Richard Sachen  |                   |
| Gayle A. Frank       | Eva Sollazzi           | Jeanette Brunton  |
| Margaret N. Cisneros | Carolyn M. Downey      |                   |
| John V. Rudy         | Vivian. Jones          | Jeanne L. Kolb    |
| Crystal Lee          | Barbara & James Marino | Elinor McLaughlin |
| Arline Taaffe Reed   |                        | Edward L. Simons  |



## Touring With The Californians

### TOURING WITH THE CALIFORNIANS

September, 2001

Rose Crimi Muench -- Tour Director

Marie Rider -- Phone Reservations: 251-7887 M-F a.m.

Pauline Hawkins -- Treasurer: 390 No. Winchester Blvd.  
#7B Santa Clara, CA 95050

Beverly Fisher -- Luncheon Registrations

**REGISTRATION FOR FALL TRIPS** begins at the September 1 luncheon. Checks are preferred, or exact cash. Preference is given to **Pioneers members to register at the luncheon and through the following week. Non-members and guests may sign up starting September 10.** If you do not get a trip flyer at the luncheon meeting, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Pauline's address above. **PICK-UP POINT** (unless otherwise indicated) is at Valley Village, 390 N. Winchester Blvd., Santa Clara, at the Dolores Street side.

### **TREASURER NEEDED FOR OUR TOURS**

Pauline Hawkins will be retiring December 31, 2001 as Treasurer for our Tours, after four years of service. We thank her for her conscientious dedication to the job. If anyone with bookkeeping or accounting experience is interested in hearing about the position, please call Rose Crimi Muench (408) 293-0896. An honorarium is offered for this position.

### **SEPTEMBER 11 - 14, 2001 MAMMOTH LAKES AND YOSEMITE**

Registration is on a **space available basis**. A beautiful fall ride into the Eastern Sierra takes us to *Jagerhof Lodge* for a

three-night stay. We will explore the Five Lakes basin with visits to the rustic *Twin Falls Forest Chapel*, *Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort*, *Devil's Postpile National Monument*, and the *Minarets*. We then devote a day to a guided tour of Yosemite National Park, entering over Tioga Pass and Tuolumne Meadows. Following luncheon at the *Awahnee Lodge*, we will go to the Visitors' Center, the Indian Village, and the Ansel Adams Studio. Cost is \$495 and \$195 single supplement. This includes: motor coach transportation; three nights lodging; daily breakfasts and five lunches or dinners; evening entertainment; driver and guide tips and baggage handling. Brochures are available. Registrants will receive information in the mail with all of the details.

**SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 11, 2001 THE ERIE CANAL**  
Registration is on a **space available basis**. Also, a **female room-mate is needed**. See the Northeast as never before on a 13-day cruising tour of **Long Island Sound**, the **Hudson River**, the **Erie Canal**, and the **St. Lawrence Seaway** -- with a bonus of fall colors! We board the M.V. *Grand Caribe* from **Rhode Island**. Sights along the way include: the skyline of Manhattan with a shore excursion ♦ the forests and estates of the Hudson River ♦ a tour of West Point Academy and FDR's Hyde Park estate, Springvale ♦ the Erie Barge Canal locks ♦ Fort Stanwix from the French-and-Indian War era ♦ **Lake Oneida** and the Oswego Canal across **Lake Ontario to Kingston** for a visit to **Fort Henry** ♦ a paddlewheel cruise through the **Thousand Islands** ♦ the **St. Lawrence River to Montreal**. After a city tour of Montreal, we fly home. \$3795 and \$3895. The cost includes: round trip air from **San Jose to Boston**, and return from **Montreal**; all meals on board; all shore excursions; all tips on-board and to the guides, drivers, and tour manager. **Current passports** are required. Brochures are available. For registrants we will have a document party on **Thursday, September 6, 3:00 p.m.** at the home of Rose Crimi. A postcard reminder has been sent.

**NOVEMBER 7, 2001, WEDNESDAY**  
**JULIA MORGAN GEMS in BERKELEY**

Architect Julia Morgan, of Hearst Castle fame, designed more than a score of Berkeley homes, churches, and public buildings during her 40 year career. One of her out-standing achievements was the *Women's City Club*, built in 1930, now named the *Berkeley City Club*. It is a medieval castle-like, six-story building of reinforced concrete, with Miss Morgan's exquisite architectural details. We will have a guided tour and an included luncheon. Then we will have a tour of the four-story *Baptist Divinity School*, built in 1919 in the Tudor Gothic style, with a slate roof and interior oak paneling. Finally, we will visit *St. John's Presbyterian Church*, built in 1910 in Romanesque and English Tudor style. The building is small, in keeping with the financial limitations of the then congregation and the surrounding residential neighborhood. Inside, the wood overhead beams and supports are similar to the *Oakland First Baptist Church*, which we saw last year.

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

**DECEMBER 8, 2001, SATURDAY**  
**VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS in ALAMEDA**

Alameda is noted for its lovely old homes. We will visit five of these homes, all beautifully decorated for Christmas. A step-on guide will meet us and conduct our tour. Luncheon is included at the *Encinal Yacht Club*, where you can also visit their Christmas boutique. One of the homes on the tour will have a bake sale. Later in the afternoon, we will have tea and dessert at another of the homes. What a pleasant way to usher in the holiday season!

Leave: 9:00 a.m.      Return: 5:00 p.m.      Cost: \$ 53

**DECEMBER 29, 2001 – JANUARY 2, 2002,**  
**NEW YEAR'S CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY CRUISE**

Registration is on a space available basis. Experience all the beauty and flavors of the Napa and Sonoma Wine Country for five days and four nights aboard *Cruise West's "Spirit of '98."* Day touring includes ♦ the *Benzinger Family Winery* tasting and tour ♦ hilltop Tuscan luncheon under the grape trellises at *Viansa Winery* ♦ tour of *Buena Vista Vineyard* established in 1857 ♦ *Old Sonoma*, the original capital of the

Bear Flag Republic ♦ Schramsberg Champagne Winery candlelit luncheon and sampling in the underground Cask Room at Merryvale in St. Helena ♦ RMS Distillery, producer of Cognac style brandy. On board we celebrate New Year's Eve with an evening of food and champagne. Later, we cruise the *Sacramento Ship Canal* to the historic *Old Town District* of Sacramento for the *California Railroad Museum*, the *Discovery Museum*, and the *Crocker Art Museum* or the *State Capitol*. We cruise back to San Francisco. Our motor coach returns us to San Jose. The cost per person is \$1150 and \$1350 for twin beds cabins. Brochures are available.

### ARGONAUTS TRIPS

We are invited to participate in the following trip.

For details please call Margaret Allvey, (408) 997-7507.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 7, 2001 SAN FRANCISCO FLEET WEEK**  
*SS Jeremiah O'Brien Liberty Ship* tour, including morning refreshments, lunch, Big Band dancing, Blue Angels fly-over, and open house on other Navy ships in the harbor. Car-pool transportation. Price: \$100.

### TRIPS FOR 2002

#### **RAMONA and the MISSION TRAIL, PART II**

APRIL 19 -- 23, 2002

Mary Lou Lyon's History Class members have expressed interest in repeating this trip. We will visit different Missions from the last trip. Also, we will go to the *San Bernardino County History Museum*, the *Lincoln Memorial* in Redlands, and a guided tour of the beautiful *Riverside Mission Inn*, a National Historic Landmark. Fliers will be available at the December 2001 luncheon.

#### **ENGLAND, SCOTLAND and WALES JUNE 7 -- 19, 2002**

Highlights include: London tour and a theatre performance, Windsor Castle, Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral, Bath, the Cotswolds, Stratford-upon-Avon, York, Edinburgh, Culloden Moor, Inverness, Isle of Skye, Glasgow, Stirling Castle, and more. The cost, which is **approximately \$2700**, includes: round trip airfare, transfer to and from SFO, and

baggage handling. A current passport is required.  
Brochures will be available at the December 2001 luncheon.

### THE CALIFORNIANS 2002 TRIPS SURVEY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the trips of serious interest to you, even if the time conflicts. This will help us plan for next year. Return the surveys to the Tour Table at the September 1 luncheon, or mail them to: Rose Crimi Muench, 1289 Martin Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126, by September 30.

\_\_\_ **River Barge Excursions**, 7 or 8 days, \$2200 -- \$2500.  
All outside cabins, some with balcony, shore excursions included, no tipping, casual atmosphere, disembarkation city tours.

#### **AUGUST or SEPTEMBER, 2002**

\_\_\_ Missouri River, Kansas City to Omaha to Kansas City  
\_\_\_ Mississippi, Ohio and Cumberland Rivers: Kansas City to St. Louis to Nashville  
\_\_\_ Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, St. Louis to Memphis

\_\_\_ **Delta Steamboats**, 7 or 8 days, \$2200 -- \$3000.  
Inside or outside cabins, some with balcony, optional shore excursions, tipping, more formal atmosphere, more elaborate entertainment and decor.

Prefer: \_\_\_ *Delta Queen* \_\_\_ *Mississippi Queen*  
\_\_\_ *American Queen* \_\_\_ *any*

\_\_\_ Cumberland, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers:  
Kansas City to St. Louis to Nashville  
\_\_\_ Ohio and Tennessee Rivers: Cincinnati to Chattanooga  
\_\_\_ Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers: Chattanooga to Nashville

— **European River Cruises**, 12 or 14 days, \$3200 -- \$3800.

All outside cabins, daily shore excursions included, tipping, lectures and entertainment. Danube to Main to Rhine Rivers: Vienna to Amsterdam. All or part.

**OCTOBER, 2002**

— **Georgia and South Carolina**, 8 days, Cost \$1600.  
Atlanta, Charleston, Savannah, Jekyll Island, St. Simons Island.

— **Lake Michigan and Mackinac Island**, 9 days, \$2100 or  
14 days, \$2700 Chicago, Green Bay, *Grand Hotel* on Mackinac Island, Bavarian Frankenmuth, *Greenfield Village* and the *Henry Ford Museum*.

**NOVEMBER or DECEMBER, 2002**

— **Branson for the Holidays**, 7 or 8 days, \$1600 -- \$2000.  
Tulsa or Kansas City, two meals daily, ten shows including the *Radio City Rockettes* and Shoji Tabuchi. Tips included.

**COMMENTS:**



-Gertrude Klem enjoying Bonfante Gardens-

Excerpts From  
*San Jose's Japantown: The People and History Behind It*  
by Elizabeth Eap, First Place Winner, 2001

The first Japanese to arrive in San Jose in the late 1800's to early 1900's established themselves and became quite successful. Today, the Japanese have prospered in politics, medicine, law and other areas. The community embodies the troubles and hardships of the Issei (first generation), the re-establishment of the Nisei (second generation) and the Sansei (third generation) are now enjoying. It has gone from a few buildings to a bustling economic hub to a laid back community. Today, it is one of only three Japanese communities in California.

The Chinese were the first Asians to establish their own town at Sixth and Taylor Streets. Their first site down town was burned out and they re-established themselves on the land of John Heinlen. He also owned part of Japantown which was at Fifth and Jackson Streets, adjacent to Chinatown.

Immigration to the West coast of the United States from Japan occurred mostly between 1890 and 1940. Most of the immigrants were from Hiroshima, Kumamoto, Shimane, Wakayama and Fukuoka. They came as migrant workers for the fruit orchards. Most had left families and friends back home and lived in boarding houses of the cheapest sort. Because of discrimination, they chose to live near the Chinese where the field bosses could find them to work in the fields.

By 1902, a small Nihonmachi had been established with 200 permanent residents and 3,000 seasonal workers in the spring and summer. As the number of Chinese workers dwindled, growers began relying more on the Japanese. Between 1910 and 1920, the Nikkei farm communities contributed significantly to the valley's agricultural production. Many worked as sharecroppers or tenants in the orchards.

Nihonmachi consisted of a few wood frame buildings that were mostly boarding houses, pool halls, gambling parlors and houses of prostitution, providing for the pre-

valent bachelor society. When women began immi-grating in 1907, grocery and clothing stores appeared. some lived in Chinatown and others a few miles away on farms, coming into town only to shop. The children living in the country came to town for the Japanese language schools.

To aid the immigrants were the Nihonjinkai (Japanese Association) and other social organizations who acted as liaison with the police, helped to find translators, gave legal counsel, dealt with visas and licensing problems and sponsored picnics. "Picture brides" were often sent for in an arranged marriage since travel was too expensive.

The relationship between the Japanese and Chinese was cordial, but not social. The Chinese felt that sumo wrestling was inappropriate because of the lack of clothing. Except for a few who lived in Chinatown, there was little exchange, but Tuck Wo was the first to extend credit to the newcomers in the 1890's. Some did patronize the butcher shop and an occasional banquet at the Ken Ying Low or the smaller Canton restaurant on 6th Street. Out of curiosity, some Japanese would sometimes visit Ng Shing Gung (the Chinese Temple) on Sixth and Taylor during Chinese New Years. By the early 1900's, Japantown had its own barber shop and dry goods stores.

As with other Asians, during the early 19th Century, the Japanese did not receive equal treatment under the law and found it difficult to gain citizenship. Several Alien land laws forbade "aliens ineligible for citizenship" from buying land. There was also a 1922 law which ruled if a woman married a man "ineligible for citizenship," she would lose her citizenship. Among those advocating such laws were Senator John D. Phelan and Representative Everis A. Hayes. In order to circumvent the law, some Japanese aliens bought property in their children's names. others risked all and bought using some one else's names, hoping it would work out. A separate set of books had to be kept for the state authorities to prove you were a citizen working for a wage. The punishment for violations was condemnation of the property and imprisonment.

John D. Phelan was a three time mayor of San Francisco and a United States Senator. He stressed strict

alien land laws, stating in 1919 that the Japanese must be "eliminated entirely like a swarm of locusts." He urged the cancellation of the "Gentleman's Agreement" with Japan and called them the "Huns of the East."

The *San Jose Mercury* was also very racist against the Japanese and other Asians, using racist slurs such as "Chinks" and "Japs." These attacks tended to keep the Asians in their own areas except when vending their wares.

A 1910 census showed that the Japanese community was nearly as large as its predecessor, the Chinese community. Three hundred people worked and lived on Sixth Street. The Dobashi market opened in 1912 at 224 Jackson Street. Issei Kiosuke Dobashi originally named the store Kinokuniya Shoten after his home town near the River Ki in Japan. It was the first major competitor to Tuck Wo. The one story, wood framed structure offered vegetables and fresh and salted fish and candles. In 1935, the original building was torn down and a new one constructed. After reconstruction, it continued to stock Japanese foods along with farming tools, shoes, boots, outboard motors, and fishing equipment. After World War II, the store reopened at its present location of 240 Jackson Street. The old market contains the Tsugaru Restaurant and the living quarters upstairs are rented as apartments.

In the early 1900's, mom and pop stores stayed open until eleven p.m., even on weekends when the farmers came in for supplies. Gradually, the community became a cultural and economic hub in the valley. Peddlers from nihonmachi visited Santa Clara, Berryessa and other areas to sell tofu, fresh fish and other groceries.

Hotel Tahei was considered a very luxurious hotel in 1905. It was the largest and most prestigious lodging establishment in the area. The first floor had a dining room and a lobby where lodgers could be seen playing the Japanese game, Go. Guests occupied the second floor and the third floor contained Akashi Photo Studio which was busily taking photos for birthdays, marriages and funerals. In 1937, the building was remodeled for Camille's Beauty Shop. After World War II, it was one of several buildings which welcomed homeless Japanese returning to San Jose.

Today, the ground floor is occupied by Hank's Rod and Reel while upstairs is rented as apartments.

Aki's Bakery, a popular sweet shop, opened in 1963 at 214 Jackson Street. It was opened by Aki Toyoshima, who grew up in Gilroy and came to San Jose after high school. He worked at baking pies for 14 years, saving until he had enough money to open his own shop. It began as a coffee and doughnut shop, then began to specialize in fancy cakes and other goodies. By 1972, it had expanded to Meridian Avenue. The Japantown bakery was closed in 1997 and today Toyoshima's daughter, Penny Tom runs the Meridian location.

The Japanese Episcopal Methodist Church was established in 1895 and has occupied 566 North 5th Street since 1913. It has been remodeled three times, each time preserving a portion of the original structure. It has also had several name changes. In 1939, it became the San Jose Japanese Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1955, the Wesley Methodist Church and in 1968, the Wesley United Methodist Church. It celebrated its centennial in 1995. The building has an unusual roof treatment with a central parapet and a tiled shed-roofed wings.

The San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin was established in 1902 and is still at 649 North Fifth Street. The architect, George Shimamoto, mimicked his design after the Nishi Hoonganji temples of Kyoto, Japan. The church was completed in 1937 by brothers Gentaro and Shizaburo Nishiura and has been in continuous use. It is on the National Registry of Historic Places and considered the most authentic Buddhist Temple in the United States. One of the most impressive features of this temple is its side-gabled roof. It is clad with traditional clay tiles and has wide flaring eaves with elaborate hand-carved wooden brackets. A raised verandah wraps around three sides of the stucco and timber exterior. There is also a lovely garden with a fountain, bridge and two ornate lanterns of a typical temple design.

Kuwabara Hospital was built in 1910 at 565 North Fifth Street. The building was constructed by the Nishiura brothers and was built to entice its first resident doctor, Dr.

Taishke Kuwabara, after whom it was eventually named.

Japanese immigrants had language, religious and trust problems with the local San Jose doctors. Since Dr. Kuwabara was not licensed in California, he had to be supervised by a local doctor. That doctor was Dr. James Beattie. He handled most medical cases and some minor injuries and the title to the hospital.

When Dr. Lee Watanabe graduated from Stanford and received his license, there was a gradual disuse of the hospital as he had staff privileges at both San Jose and O'Connor Hospitals. In 1937, Dr. Beattie sold the old hospital to the Japanese Association. Today, it is renamed the Issei Memorial Building, and is officially listed as a California Historical Landmark. It is one of only two original Japanese hospital buildings remaining in California. Today, it houses the Japanese American Citizens League, San Jose Taiko and the Japanese American Chamber of Commerce.

Hori's Building was constructed in 1905 as two portable classrooms from Grant Elementary School. In 1915, Mrs. Hori, a midwife, bought the two classrooms and moved them to 580 North Fifth Street in Nihonmachi. She placed the rooms end to end and it became her home, boarding house and midwifery. Many local Nisei claim Mrs. Hori's house as their birth place.

In 1920, Dr. Hisaichi Nakahara, a Hawaiian born dentist married one of Hori's daughters. After his marriage, he converted the front of Hori's building into his office. While living there, he founded the American Loyalty League, later the Japanese American Citizens League. After the Nakaharas moved out, it was used as a rooming house by Okamoto. Mr. Ed Morioka operated his real estate business there until he retired. Today, he rents the building out as a duplex.

A Japanese operated print shop on Jackson Street made labels and printed lottery tickets for the Chinese community. Gambling runners would come into Japantown to sell lottery tickets to each house or store. There were also several pool halls in the area. Sumo wrestling and baseball were very popular in Nihonmachi. Baseball was a major

community event.

Okita Hall at 587 North Sixth Street was a major attraction, serving as the Japanese Hall from the early 1900's. Its primary use was as a theater and the traditional plays such as Kabuki and Nanwabushi were performed there. before World War II, it featured the traditional plays along with comedies, vaudeville shows, magicians and sometimes opera singers.

After the war, it showed silent movies, and later, talkies. When Japanese language television became available, interest faded in the theatre. After it was closed, the stairs were removed and the hall was rented out as a large banquet hall. Since 1975, it has been leased to San Jose Aikido, a Japanese martial arts school.

Life in Nihonmachi was peaceful until December 7, 1941 when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Following President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, on February 12, 1942, there was a massive evacuation of the Japanese from the coastal areas. Most of Santa Clara's 3,000 Japanese residents were interned at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. Japantown was completely evacuated, and many Nisei youth joined the army and went overseas in the European theater while their families were at the concentration camps.

During the war, the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin was used to store the belongings of over 20 families. There was extensive vandalism to the church. The basement was completely gutted in 1942. Wesley United Methodist Church also stored the belongings of several families.

The Filipinos and African Americans rented several of the community houses, but over half remained vacant. Hundreds of property leases and equities in land and buildings were lost.

The Japanese began to return to Nihonmachi in December, 1944 when the internment policy was lifted. They did not get a welcoming homecoming, but resentment and intensified discrimination. They had to evict occupants of some of the property and many were forced to begin again as tenant farmers. While resettling, there was a population boom. It grew from 3,773 to 6,250 in 1946. Between 1947 and 1950, about 20% of residents and

businesses were able to recover their property. They gained four doctors, four dentists and two optometrists and once more Nihonmachi became a cultural center.

In time, an apology was paid to the Japanese. Santa Clara County, San Jose, *San Jose Mercury News* and other major newspapers endorsed the redress. President Truman signed the Japanese American Evacuation Claims Act on July 2, 1948 in which some \$38 million was paid to compensate for certain economic losses to the Japanese Americans. On August 10, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed HR 442 which provided \$20,000 in payment to each surviving internee and a \$1.25 billion education bond among the provisions.

The Nihonmachi is proud to be the birthplace of Norman Mineta who was born in 1932 and raised in Japantown. Although he faced anti-Asian discrimination, he served in the army before taking over his father's insurance business. He was the first non-white city council member of San Jose, the first Asian-American mayor of a major American city, San Jose, and the first to serve as a cabinet member for both President William Clinton and George W. Bush. He is currently the Secretary of Transportation.

Dr. Tokio Ishikawa, the doctor and historian for the community has lived in Japantown all his life except for World War II, when he was drafted. He graduated from Stanford Medical school and opened his practice at the old Kuwabara Hospital. When he returned to San Jose after the war, he opened his practice in his home until 1959 when he accepted a position at San Jose State. After retirement, he has taken an active role in the community by educating people about Japantown.

J. B. Peckham, Jr., a Caucasian lawyer also played an important role in Japantown. Before World War II, when non citizens were not allowed to own property, he owned it for them in name. During World War II, he protected and cared for the Buddhist church and numerous other businesses and homes in Japantown. He was the chosen lawyer for the Chinese and Japanese since there were none of Asian descent at the time. He received much hate mail during the war. The local Japanese consider him their hero.

The first Japanese American Municipal Judge is Wayne Kanemoto. He, too, has spent all his life in San Jose, except for during World War II. He received his law degree from the University of Santa Clara in 1942 and was appointed to a judgeship on January 3, 1962. He said that he could look out the window of his courtroom and see where he was born, now part of San Jose airport. After 20 years of being a judge, he has retired, but is active in the community. He created the Nisei Democrats of Santa Clara County and the San Jose Japanese Landscape Gardeners Association.

Several holidays are held each year in Japantown. The Nikkei Matsura is an annual arts and crafts festival featuring over 40 artists with clothing, jewelry, pottery, toys and dolls. There are ethnic foods, stories, demonstrations, music and performances by San Jose Taiko Drummers. It is celebrated on the first Sunday of May from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Fifth and Jackson. "The Nihonmachi Run Around Japantown" is held at the same time to benefit the Yu-Ai-Kai Community Center program and services.

The largest and best known cultural event is the Obon Festival held in July at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin at Fifth and Jackson. The two day celebration is filled with food and game booths, cultural exhibits, demonstrations, the Chidori Band, San Jose Taiko and over 500 dancers in full costume each evening.

Aki Matsura is an annual fall festival which also features food, crafts and ethnic entertainment. It is sponsored by the Wesley United Methodist Church.

A winter Boutique is also held to benefit the Japanese American Resource Center and Museum. Besides the beautiful arts and crafts, Christmas decor is also sold. It benefits the Japanese American Resource Center and Museum.

A Farmer's Market is also held every Sunday including baked goods and flowers as well as fruits and vegetables.

# 2001 OFFICERS CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

## David McKinney-- President

P.O. Box 6772 , San Jose CA  
95150-6772 408-732-1946

## Jim Arbuckle, V. P.

988 Franquette Av. San Jose  
95125-2619 408-265-9722

## Recording Secretary -Ed Schwartz

6262 Mojave Dr, San Jose, CA  
95120-5324 408-268-3129

## Robert G. Fisher-Treasurer

3435 Yuba Av. San Jose, CA  
95117-2966 408-241-0224

## Melita Kelly Membership

460 N. 15th St., San Jose, CA  
95112-1725 408-292-2385

## Helen MacCarthy-Archivist

270 Umbarger Road #123  
San Jose, CA 95111-2032  
408-578-4485

## Paul R. Bernal-Legal Advisor

P.O. Box 5524, San Jose, CA  
95150- 408-299-2074

## Leonard McKay-Historian

250 W. St. John St., San Jose, CA  
95110 408-292-8901

## Audit Committee -Hal Messimer

18950 Sara Park Circle  
Saratoga, CA 95070-4177  
408-253-3888

## Audit Committee -Bob Johnson

## Parliamentarian -Irene Johnson

445 North 15th St., San Jose, CA  
95112-1726 408-275-1389

## Hacienda Cemetery & Jackson Ranch

## Richard Hill & Bud Amaral

10393 Doris Ct. 6001 Vera Cruz Dr.  
San Jose, CA San Jose, CA  
95127-3013 95120-4864  
408-258-3449 408-268-4078

## Marshall -Carol Arnoldy

1342 Prevost Street, San Jose, CA  
95125-1754 408-298-9043

## Nominating Committee Chair

Evelyn Ucovich 408-287-8413  
416 Millpond Dr.,  
San Jose, CA 95125-1431

\* \* \* \*

## The Californians-Tours

## Rose Crimi Muench

1289 Martin St.  
San Jose, CA 95126-2628  
408-293-0896

## The Californians -Reservations

## Marie Rider-251-7887

## The Californians Treasurer

## Pauline Hawkins,

390 N. Winchester, 7B  
Santa Clara, CA 95050-6570  
408-984-0904

\* \* \* \* \*

## Sunshine -Beverly J. Fisher-

## Robert G. Fisher-

95117-2966 408-241-0224

## THE TRAILBLAZER, EDITOR

Mary Lou Lyon  
879 Lily Av., Cupertino, CA  
95014-4261 408-253-9514

## DEADLINE- for December

## Trailblazer

November 1, 2001

P.O. BOX 8208 SAN JOSE CA 95155  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# PIONEER LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, September 1, 2001  
NOON AT LOU'S VILLAGE

## A SALUTE TO OUR

## PAST PRESIDENTS

*stuffed chicken*  
*with apple/almond stuffing*

RESERVATIONS

BEFORE

*roasted red potato*

*green salad*

WEDNESDAY

*seasonal vegetables*

August 29, 2001

*fruit tart & COFFEE*

554-7587

\$15.50

WINE AVAILABLE BY THE GLASS

RICHARD M & NANCY HILL L  
10393 DORIS CT  
SAN JOSE, CA  
95127-3013



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