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Table Of Contents

	Page
Preface	1
History	2
Agriculture	7
Industries	12
Education	15
Bibliography	18

Preface

I began to write this essay because I was challenged to write it. I believe that doing this essay will improve my language skills and decreasing my shyness in social activities. If I win this essay contest I will be able to prove to the world that I can do this.

There of course is a much greater reason to write this essay. this reason is to inform people that Santa Clara County is full of opportunities that have not yet been found.

History

What is the history of our ancestors, that have lived in this great valley many centuries ago? Who were they and where did they come from? Were they bank robbers, gun fighter or even maybe even somebody on the legal side of the law like a judge? They could have came from over 1,000 miles away?

But the first people to start a civilization in Santa Clara were the Native Americans. These were the founders of this valley and nation. They were the beginners and helpers to builder a greater civilization with Father Serra, Junipero in 1777 to build a mission called Santa Clara de Asis. In 1830's American and Spanish settlers came. They started to change what was a highly sophisticated culture into cannibalistic warriors.

As more Americans came to the valley more tense arose. Soon more and more new coming pioneers were killed. The Native Americans of this land were also losing their people. Why did both sides want this land? Was it worth the lives of their people? For the Native Americans this was their land, this was their holy land, this land was where their great chiefs died and was buried. For the newcomers it was their excuse for free land, the wilderness and the dream of new freedoms. As the fighting

continued more people from the east such as Pennsylvania began coming. Because the Native American did not have any backup, they began losing the battles and started to retreat. As the natives of the Santa Clara valley began to lay down their weapons they were put on reservations forcefully. Surrendering to the newcomers that just came to this land. Soon the time would come when most of the Native Americans would retire from the fighting with the American newcomers for the land. But the battle that ended the fighting for the natives in this region took place on January 2, 1847 and was called "The Battle of Santa Clara." The battle took place during the Mexican War. The war caused by the urge for more land.

Two years later gold was found on the Sacramento River, thousands of people came to California. Some of the thousands of people came to Santa Clara in search of gold. The thousands of people continued to come until the 1860's.

On April 18, 1906 at five thirteen in the morning a large earthquake trembled into the Santa Clara Valley. This enormous earthquake was not only felt in the Santa Clara Valley but, it was also felt in San Francisco. In San Francisco a large fire blew through and caused most of the damage in California after the earthquake. This tremendous earthquake caused over two million fifty thousand dollars and thousands of lives in California. As a result many people became homeless this increasing the

poverty in the Santa Clara Valley area. Soon the rebuilding period began and the poverty in California was coming to an end.

During the 1940's a great economic problem hit our nation. This economic problem is called the "Depression". The definition of the word depression is, low spirits or to be depressed, but this was not the case with our country. Our country was not depressed, but the people were, they were without jobs. The way the people in the Santa Clara County overcame the depression was by finding jobs to support their families. This depression lasted in this county and in this country for twenty long years.

In the late 1980's the rain stopped dripping, soon a long notorious drought came upon the Santa Clara County and many counties in California also suffered. The drought that has lead to the 1990's has continued into the 1992's and is creating problems. One such problem is that the price of water has gone up and the amount of water in the Santa Clara County reservoir had dropped drastically. The people of the Santa Clara County were soon in doubt that rain would come to replenish the reservoir. Time after time rain would come but it would not last too long.

Soon the rain drastically hit the Santa Clara County area where the rain water hit the area hard but the reservoirs were in the drought so long that it did only little. In March of 1992, there were very heavy rainstorms that hit the Santa Clara County community.

these rainstorms caused many increases in the reservoirs yet the rain really hit other reservoirs instead of the Santa Clara County reservoirs. Now many reservoirs in California are close to being 100% of normal.

On Tuesday October 17, 1989 at five o four, a seven point one earthquake hit many counties in California. Santa Clara County was one of the counties hit by the earthquake. The earthquake reminded many people of the quake in 1906. This earthquake was so large that the people of the counties affected gave it a name, calling it the Loma Prieta earthquake. The Loma Prieta quake caused some damage in the Santa Clara County. The Loma Prieta earthquake caused many buildings to collapse, some buildings fell off their foundation. In turn it cost few lives in this county but it cost many lives in other counties. As of course there were aftershocks. In turn, these aftershocks made so many people nervous that many of these people left their homes and slept in tents outside. The communication system fell to the ground as many calls were made which clogged up the telecommunication system. Days after the quake hit, cities talked to each other and

found that they as a city could have helped each other.

In 1991 Iraq invaded a neighboring country. Kuwait soon after the take over of Kuwait the United States sent troops. Some of the thousands of troops sent, were from the Santa Clara County. As the war continued soldiers

were killed and captured. Some of those killed were from Santa Clara County. This shows that "We" Americans must not be so sympathetic about countries invading each other.

Agriculture

In 1868 a man by the name of John Muir captured the beauty of the Santa Clara County by using words to describe the beauty of the Santa Clara County.

At the time the valley of Santa Clara was full of sunshine, the waters running and songbirds singing. The areas were full of trees that would soon be used for fires. The fields were covered with beautiful flowers. These flowers were so beautiful, it awed the spectators.

In other perspectives of monks and soldiers that went with the monks to the Santa Clara County saw that natives roamed the area. The natives cultivated the land and made the land fertilize. Then came the Spanish came with monks and soldiers to conquer the native lands.

Before Santa Clara County came known as "Silicon Valley" there were grapevines and bountiful orchards. The valley was a colorful display. This was a lovely county in that time.

From 1802 to 1848, people could buy land for \$12 a few yards or up to 49,000 acres. Before they got the land the citizen had to petition for the land.

During this time properties could only be recognized by the geographic such as trees, water, and rocks. Many immigrants from Spain and Mexico came to Santa Clara County in search of the plentiful land.

Things began to change when people from the other side of the United States began coming in. These people started campaigns to enter and serve Santa Clara Valley for America. The tension was rising. The United States sent 100 troops to the Santa Clara County region. The only reason that the United States sent troops to the area was make sure it was theirs to take. These troops were matched by so call "Californians".

This battle would be for all the agricultural splendor, beauty and land. The fighting between the Californian's and the troops caused a lot of damage for the land in Santa Clara County. So lots of agricultural land was wasted on the battlefields.

Where is Santa Clara County's agriculture today? In the 1950's the population of Santa Clara County was just about three hundred thousand. Most of these people were farm families. Just three decades later, the census calculated the population at one million four hundred thirty-three thousand. Once the population had risen to it's height, the farm families were scattered all over Santa Clara County. What lead to the breakup in the farming community?

There are many reasons to the breakup in the farming community. Economic factors were one of the main reason for the breakup. In many cases when farmers had to sell their land because of the harsh economic realities:

increased labor for the workers; the difficulties in making repairs because of the costs and where to obtain such a repair. The cost of fuel, water, fertilizer, sprays, equipment, and taxes also put the business in financial difficulties. As the economic factors wore away the farmers money, the land is worth more in real estate than as farm land. The dedicated farmer would sell an acre and then would buy three more. On the other hand there is the serious margin farmer that would sell the land immediately.

Life in Santa Clara County and across the nation is changing from a agricultural to a nation of semiconductor. The small run family farms that had been in the Santa Clara County for generations were disappearing. This was happening in every urban area. It is estimated that fifty thousand acres of agricultural land is converted into non farm purposes in California every year. The nationwide figures are incredible. Every day more than twelve square miles of agricultural land goes out of production, each year one hundred thousand farms close down or are sold.

Who is saving the farms in the Santa Clara County? The heroic efforts to save the farmland has been started by the farmer in the early 1930's. The farmers served as local planning boards. One such group is the Santa Clara County Planning Commission, which was to of the

agricultures interests. This commission was created in 1931, one of the first in the United States. The people of the commission were without pay, the commission was chosen by the county supervisors. The commission was made mainly of farmers. One such farmer, Robert C. Kirkwood a pear farmer after the planning commission he went to Sacramento as a Santa Clara County assemblyman and was later elected state controller.

This commission did the recommending but there is a forces that wanted to take the agricultural land. The San Jose Chamber of Commerce wanted the farming land during the depression of the 1930's to the 1940's so that a new industry could come into Santa Clara County. The San Jose Chamber of Commerce continued to fight for the land. The land that the Chamber of Commerce wanted was an orchard. This orchard brought thousands of workers who were employed seasonally. The Chamber of Commerce put a thirty-five thousand dollar campaign to attract many new companies. In 1946 San Jose's Chamber of Commerce had the attention of a large International Minerals and Chemical Corporation which built a plant for the manufacture of Ac'cent. More and more companies came to San Jose.

Where do all the farmers go after their land is sold. Most of the farmers that have sold their farms in Santa Clara County have continue farming in other parts of the California. Others sell and think that the money they earn from the sale of the farm would last forever. Still

others put the money that they earn in new companies.

This will be the way for many Santa Clara County farmers because of the increase of cost. Soon there will be no more farms in Santa Clara County if this continues.

Industries

What is the percentage of jobless in the Santa Clara county in 1990. The percentage of the jobless is 40.4%. Is that low or what? This is caused by the increasing jobs from the non hit recession businesses. Although these statistics are high, the jobless have a lot of financial difficulties. The amount of jobless people in Santa Clara county is 586,400 to the population of 1,433,000.

What happened to the industries in Santa Clara County in the 1940's during the depression. The depression caused many people to be laid off and if these people really found a job, it would only be temporary. These people on welfare which was really rations were very poor. With this on the nations hands, the food from the rations was costing a lot of money. More and more problems popped up like the joblessness causing the nation economy to drop. Businesses were closing because of the lack of money to support it.

The "depression" hit the Santa Clara County as hard as it hit the nation. Santa Clara County was an agricultural community at the time. Many farms were shut down because of the depression.

The depression ended in the 1960's when Lyndon B. Johnson was president. He made new jobs for many Americans. This was the time to be joyous.

What modern jobs are available for the jobless? The jobless could become auto salesman or saleswoman. But, for the more qualified for the complicated jobs, there are computer technician. These are just a few of jobs on the market.

Santa Clara County has a healthy economy from the new electrical equipment. The new electrical companies gives this county a name, and the name is Silicon Valley. Silicon Valley has a large competitor in electronics, and the competitor is Japan. If the companies of our nation do not support development in technology. We as a country will not survive against competitive nation.

When the Santa Clara County's work force competes with other countries. The county does not just compete in technology, but also agriculture products. Agricultural is one of the main product. In Santa Clara County, there are many nursery plants and cut flowers companies. The business accounts to much of the agriculture in Santa Clara County.

Santa Clara County has more than other countries as competitors, like parts of the United States.

The part of the United States wants the high tech firms for many reasons. One such reason is, right now Silicon Valley has several competitive advantages over most of the other areas. These advantages are the need for available materials, special skills and services that high tech firms cannot obtain. Another advantage is that

there are nearby colleges and universities and the amenities and qualities of Bay Area.

There is really only one way to get a job in the Santa Clara is to get a good education. If the jobless do not get a good education, the jobless will not be competitive in the job market. This is because the world and Santa Clara County are getting ahead.

Education

The education of our ancestor's time is very different in many ways to our time. One way, that shows the difference is how educational subjects are taught and how every student is divided into different age groups. These are only a few of the good images in the schools of today. I say this because there are many bad images created by the growing drop out rate in the many high schools in Santa Clara County.

During the early 1800's Franciscan priest taught Indians of the Santa Clara Valley to farm, to weave and to build adobe buildings. In 1847, the Santa Clara County had it's first public school. The school system of 1847 did not have a school tax. California did not have a tax supported system until 1867.

In the beginning of the nineteenth century many of the Santa Clara County country schools were only one room schoolhouse. The schoolhouse consist of a raised platform for the teacher. In the school there were two coat rooms, one for boys and one for the girls. In the middle of the schoolhouse there stood a pot-bellied stove. The classroom would have approximately twenty students.

Children play in a economic role in agriculture for the community. Most of the boys attended school only between seasonal orchard work so they could earn money for their families. Age did not matter to the grade which

they would attain. This was one of the bad systems used in the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Several weeks before the school started student would accompany their mother to the dry goods store. There they would inspect the goods to be sure that everything was proper. They buy would brown natural wood pencils for a penny each, a ten cent compass and little erasers.

The teacher taught the students a wide variety of material. For Social Studies, students learned basic things about Columbus and the presidents of the United States of America. In math they learned addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. the students from this Santa Clara County schools may have learned a little about fractions. These are the basic kinds of subjects back in the early 1900's. Now in the early 1990's "us" young people living in Santa Clara learn more in detailed of subject, such as algebra increasing our math skills and changing our old social studies by introducing harder and more challenging work and reading. These are only a few of the new things that teachers have more complicated by introducing many new ways to do harder things that "we" children try to discourage because many students dislike school. But I am not a student that is like the group. I am eager to learn new and more challenging things so that my abilities in the work force will be great. This is one of the many reasons that I took this challenge, to become a better person for the

world.

In 1906 many classrooms were outside because the tremendous earthquake destroyed the schools. But before the schools were put outside the Board of Education adjourned the public schools for thirty-days.

The classroom of the 90's in Santa Clara County usually has twenty to thirty-five students. The schools usually has ten to twenty teachers. About 600 children are in a school that is widely known for its educational program.

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