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Charles Edwin Markham

by

Arthur M. Fisk

("God made man in his own image, in the image of God he made him."---Genesis.)

"How will it be with kingdoms and with kings--
With those that shaped him to the thing he is--
When this dumb Terror shall rise to judge the world,
After the silence of the centuries?"

(The four lines above is the last stanza of Edwin Markham's "Man with the Hoe.")

Charles Edwin Markham was born in Oregon City, Oregon, April 23, 1852. He came to California with his parents in 1862. They settled on a farm in Solano County near Suisun, where Charles attended the old "Black School." (He did not use the name Edwin for sometime after graduating from San Jose Normal School as his signature on various documents was always Charles E. Markham.)

Markham as a teen age boy was large of stature and broadshouldered. At school he was a very bright pupil and away ahead of his classmates, but he was dissatisfied with the poverty at home which made him bitter, resentful and antagonistic until a teacher named Samuel Davis Woods from Tennessee took charge of the Black School and gave Markham a sense of direction. He won the lad's confidence and being somewhat of a poet himself tutored Charles in a class alone and taught him all he knew about poetry. This was the turning point in Markham's life.

Charles with his mother came to San Jose where he attended San Jose Normal School, Graduating with the class of 1872. From then on he was known as the heavily

bearded, brown eyed school teacher. He taught in various schools in central California and as far south as San Luis Obispo County. While teaching in Coloma he joined the Masonic Lodge and was made a Master Mason of Acacia Lodge number 92 in 1875.

He finally returned to San Jose and made his home with his mother at 432 South Eighth Street. In her last will and testament dated August 19, 1879 Mrs. Markham disinherited her other two sons and a daughter and left "all of her estate to her son Charles Edwin Markham a kind and dutiful son, affectionate and obedient and regardful of my interests, welfare and happiness."

It was in the "Hoe Room" in his home on South Eighth Street that Markham wrote the first and last stanzas of "The Man with the Hoe" in 1898. The second stanza was written while teaching school in Oakland, but the inspiration to finish the poem did not come to him until his return to San Jose. This was cleared up in a personal question put to Markham at his home in 1933. The poem had been inspired by Millet's painting of the same title, and netted Markham over \$250,000. In January 1899 it first appeared in a San Francisco newspaper. His old teacher and counselor Samuel D. Woods read it and wrote to Markham urging him to go to New York and "take his place among the writers of the world."

In 1897 Markham and Ann Catherine Murphy were married in Sacramento, where she was editor of the State School Books. She was a poetess in her own right and an inspiration to him. They had one child, a son, Virgil, who became a fiction writer of note.

Shortly after the turn of the century, Markham (now known as Edwin) did go to New York and bought a home on Staten Island, where Mrs. Markham died in 1938 and Markham himself died in March 1940 at the age of 87 years.

(San Jose State College is now owner of the Markham property. It may soon be cleared and new construction started for the college. What are you doing to save this home as an Historic Landmark?)

* * *

SAN JOSE STATE COLLEGE

San Jose State College was first established as "Minns' Evening Normal School" in San Francisco in 1857. In 1862 it became the "California State Normal School", with 31 pupils. In 1870 money was appropriated by the State Legislature for new buildings and a fierce battle



THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, SAN JOSE.

ensued on the question of selecting a location for this institution. San Jose offered to give Washington Square to the State; it contained 28 acres bounded by S. 4th St., E. San Fernando and E. San Carlos streets. This offer was accepted. The buildings were erected by Theodore Lenzen. The school opened in San Jose in 1870 and was called the "California State Normal School, San Jose."

Markham attended this school from which he graduated in 1872. This building and all the furnishings burned to the ground February 11, 1880. An appropriation for new buildings was immediately made, although considerable pressure was put on the legislature to build in another city the school shown above was erected.

In 1887 it became known as "San Jose State Normal School." In 1921 it was designated as "San Jose State Teachers College." It was given its present name in 1935 "San Jose State College." Its sixth name.

California State Normal School shown above was erected in 1880.

LITTLE GREY CHURCH ON THE CORNER

Lovesta Dorwin Davis

(Part two--continued from the Winter issue)

In the little grey Church across from Saint James park there was no let-up in the constant additions, improvements, dedication of memorials, and new construction. The first Rectory was replaced by the first Parish House, the second Rectory being built around the corner on Second Street. This building in turn made way for the new Youth Center building, erected in 1948. With the passing years the Parish House was enlarged to meet the requirements of the ever-growing membership.

The first twelve years had passed. San Jose was still largely an unlighted pioneer town, with most streets yet unpaved. Trinity's membership had grown until it had again become evident that more room was needed. A most dramatic plan was decided upon. According to one note: "it was literally torn asunder." The great festoons of ivy were ripped away, and the staunch little building was split into two sections, from ridge-pole to foundation.

The original south section remained in place, but the north gabled part was turned at right angles so that the entrance now faced Second Street, the nave in a new location. This section was extended toward the west where a new chancel was located, and behind it the altar and the three precious old windows. It is said that the entire south wall, containing these original colored windows, had been moved to its new location so that the windows remained intact, as of today 95 years later.

Another new section was built northward to the right, to occupy the space of the original nave. Now the floor plan had the shape of a cross, with its north, and its south transepts, seen today. The rows of earliest benches, now silently proclaiming their years, were turned to face the chancel, and on each side newer benches added to provide a seating capacity of about five hundred.

The builders had faithfully retained the gothic style, inside and out. New high-pitched roofs, new pointed windows, as well as the large round ones of stained glass, new beams and girders properly curved and set to form the lofty interior--all lifting the spirit of today's worshipper. For awhile the gothic turret remained above the entrance, and a sturdy-looking belfry rose from ground level to ridge-pole height; it faced the street corner, its four large, louvered windows gothic in style. It was finished this year of 1876.

Three years later another pre-planned undertaking was finished. The offerings of the Sunday School children, saved for a period of seven years, was found to be two-thirds enough. The balance was raised by subscription, then five bells, cast especially for chimes, were brought "around the horn" from New York. First rung out joyously in 1879 by an expert trained in England, they were in constant use for thirty years.

Not long after the arrival of the bells, an extension to the tower was erected; its gothic windows, a pair on each side, were left open, but screened, to expose the bells as of today. A slender spire topped by a cross completed the picture.

Some time later two more bells were added, and then the chimes were heard constantly "for another half-century." They were often rung to proclaim, or to commemorate, many a public occasion. The final bell, to complete the octave, was placed nearly twelve years ago.

Even with the most accurately cast bells, the ringing of chimes is an art. It may be that not all chimers, succeeding each other through the years, were expert. One of the organists of later years noticed that the pipe organ had the same "pitch" as the chiming bells. One Sunday morning the two--organist and chimer--played hymns in unison. It was said to have been a n emotional and "startling experience for the old-timers at the services that day."

Among the numerous prized possessions of Trinity is a leather-backed book of the minutes of the Vestry, beginning in 1861. The lovely old penmanship is both a delight and a privilege to examine. The record of their beginnings demonstrates most adequately the constancy of the spirit of the founders of the Parish. Trinity had become the Mother Church and over the years has been responsible for t h e founding of other Episcopal churches and missions in Santa Clara Valley. The expanding records tell of these, along with their own growth and constant improvements.

Now and then, they lived through periods of financial difficulty which "varied with the times," even as the membership were affected by the "stringency" of the current economic conditions of the State, and the Nation. One entry in particular referred to their debt as a "volcano of current expenses." The old records tell of various means and methods of restricting their expenses, and the way in which their bills were met one after another. According to one note in later records they recognized

that now they had "good prospects of soon being able to redeem full ownership of the buildings and grounds." But it seemed it was only to meet further needs and obligations.

The date of 1892 is given as the year when the City of San Jose paved both Second and Saint Johns streets, adding more financial encumbrances. But now Trinity no longer need pay for the services of the sprinkler wagon to settle the summer-time dust at their corner. They put in their own asphaltum sidewalks along the picket fence, and more conveniences were installed, including interior electric lights, and later a re-carpeting job.

The little grey church on the corner was scarcely touched by Mother Nature's big shrug of 1906, although many other buildings suffered from the great earthquake that April morning. Trinity was kept open as a relief center for all who needed help, and some came from miles around.

Another fifty-two years had passed, with all the amazing changes. It was now 1958 and again Time had laid her hand on the little grey church on the corner. Her constantly alert membership was, as ever, aware of the need to preserve their rich heritage. That year they did a thorough job of reconditioning, adding several new features. As always, they were meticulous to retain the gothic style throughout. One interesting feature is the new steel girders, simulating the beams of the lofty ceiling structure. They were bolted into place to bind the original timbers together, lest they fall apart in disaster. The visitor lifts his gaze to view the workmanship of those pioneer builders, and tries to span the rugged century just past.

Now in 1970 their historic Parish House must undergo drastic changes for safety's sake. The old stained glass rose window is one of the precious items that will be carefully preserved to carry on Trinity's heritage. The present fifth generation, and the sixth coming up, will yet be grateful for the constancy of today's, and yesterday's official membership.

The gothic-styled double doors at the front entrance are open to welcome even the casual visitor. The spire still points heavenward, the bells still call to the listener. The little grey church still stands on its historic corner, a powerful reminder of the hopeful spirit of man. Let not greedy progress disturb it, and its historical marker!

SAN JOSE BRICK COMPANY

The San Jose Brick and Tile Co. located just south of Fruitdale Ave. at Sherman Oaks Drive and west of the Southern Pacific right of way was constructed in 1868, 102 years ago, by Chinese labor taken from railroad construction gangs, they operated the plant until about 1875 when Portuguese labor became predominant, from 1900 through World War I Italian labor was mostly employed. Following 1920 various nationalities were employed throughout the brickyard.

Production fluctuated from between 7,000,000 and 23,000,000 bricks per year and probably most of the bricks used in the San Jose area came from this yard. They were also shipped to every city from San Luis Obispo to Sacramento. The great earthquake of 1906 razed the tall smokestacks and the furnaces had to be shut down. Reconstruction took nearly a year and the plant was not opened again until early in 1907.

Modernization took a step forward in 1919 when a new building was added for cutting and forming brick. The clay was ground and filtered through a vibrating screen, then left to temper for three days. It was then mixed and forced through a nozzle the width and thickness of a brick, this ribbon of clay was cut by a multiple cutter, forming 16 bricks at each slice. After four to eight weeks of drying, the brick were fed into the kiln and baked at a temperature of 1850 degrees.

A destructive fire in 1939 ruined one of the large kilns leaving the tall stack standing alone. It is still there today although a new kiln was not built the brickyard continued to prosper.

This once prosperous establishment has turned out its last brick, but still standing are two stately smokestacks, one kiln and an old water tower on 40 acres of prime real estate. The developers can hardly wait to sub-divide this property and soon the swinging steel ball will move in, and this 102 year old landmark will become a memory.

* * *

OLD GERMAN HALL

The proposed Santa Clara Mission Redevelopment Project would eliminate many old buildings in the area bounded by The Alameda, Lafayette, Franklin and Benton streets. Two of these old landmarks would be the old German Hall at 1082 Alviso St. (constructed circa 1860) and the house across the street, built in 1865. The German Hall was once the center of a thriving German community that had a

distinct section of Santa Clara all to itself. The false front with its decorative woodwork shows that the structure was once luxurious, but the elegance that once was, is still evident in the intricate painted ceiling, now yellowing with age. Standing on the stage it isn't hard to imagine a roomful of people talking and laughing in the light cast from old style oil lamps. This building is now occupied by a second hand and salvage shop.

* * *

ALVISO GRAMMAR SCHOOL

On January 2nd wreckers started to work on the old Alviso Grammar School. Their work was completed on the 5th. The school built in 1900 had reached the age of three score and ten. Since it was condemned as a school in 1955 the building had been used for community meetings and city offices. Now within the corporate limits of the City of San Jose it was estimated it would cost San Jose \$18,000 for a remodeling job and was not worth it. San Jose has agreed to build a community center on the Mayne school grounds. The heavy brass bell from the old school has been mounted with a historical plaque in front of the new school building.

* * *

Dear Marjorie & Arthur: I was glad to see that old Christian Church picture in the TRAILBLAZER. I have told several people about it being on Second St. near Julian, but no one seems to know what I'm talking about. I was very young and my mother an active worker in the church. Many a milk pan of chicken with biscuits on top went over there. The one thing I really do remember are the baked beans and home-made "Boston Brown Bread" (steamed) that mother would give me from the kitchen, which was in back of the church building. I have never tasted bread that good, since. Sincerely, Inez Green Getchell, ***

Dear Mr. Fisk: The Winter TRAILBLAZER 1970 was in my mail yesterday. On page 8 in a letter from Annie T. Peters, there is a reference to my father's printing office in the old Auzerais Building. How well I remember the breezy old place, and I remember Mrs. Peters. I taught her son either in Hester or Trace school if I remember correctly. I thoroughly enjoyed the TRAILBLAZER and particularly Leo Sullivan; Saturday matinees plus the box of chocolates was the "thing" in the days of the stock companies at the Jose Theatre. Sincerely yours, Marion Eley.

* * *

BY-LINES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Leland M. Boruck

Our attention has recently been directed to two important phases of our organization which we feel should be brought to the notice of the membership to clarify and expedite proper procedure.

All applications for membership when completely filled out, signed by the applicant together with the proposed and endorsement by members of the Pioneers, should be sent to the Membership Chairman,- Miss Bernice VanGundy, 561 Fuller Ave., San Jose, CA. 95125.

Illness or death of a member should immediately be reported to Mrs. Martha Bulmore, 2221 Coastland Ave., San Jose, Ca. 95125. Phone 264-2104. There has been several instances where failure to report the death of a member until several months after the party had passed away has resulted in a very embarrassing situation both to the family of the deceased and the Pioneers as an organization.

Your cooperation in both these matters will be greatly appreciated.

As we near the end of our term as President we wish to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board and the membership as a whole for the honor and privilege of serving in this capacity. We sincerely trust that our actions have met with your approval. Thank you for a wonderful twelve months of pleasant association.

* * *

STATE'S OLDEST SHOE STORE

Herold's celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1969, having been founded in San Jose in 1869 by Phil Herold who later took his four sons, Harvey, Ray, Fred and Chester into the company.

In 1869 Herold brought a stock of leather and findings with him to San Jose and opened a boot repair shop at First and Fountain streets, where he also made shoes. He soon moved to El Dorado Street (now Post), facing Lightstone. Here he added a good line of boots and shoes to his other goods. His slogan was, "Twelve dollar boots for ten dollars.

In 1909 they moved to the site of the Unique Theatre at 18 East Santa Clara Street. In 1923 they moved to 75 N. First Street and later to 74 South First Street.

Unless and until it is proven otherwise, Herold's is the oldest retail shoe business in California.

* * *

LOOK FOR IT HERE

The author of the extremely well written article in the Winter issue about the "Little Grey Church on the Corner" was LOVESTA DORWIN DAVIS. Her name was inadvertently left out, and the editor apologizes for this unpardonable omission. ***

Send all changes of address, applications for membership and other matters pertaining to membership to Miss Bernice Van Gundy, 561 Fuller Ave., San Jose 95125.

In case of SICKNESS or DEATH please notify the chairman of our Sunshine Committee, Mrs. Laurence Bulmore. Phone 264-2104. ***

Our program chairman has arranged a very interesting bit of entertainment for your enjoyment at our next quarterly luncheon on June 6th. Miss Eugenia Lynn one of the recipients of our scholarship awards will speak on "The Second California Legislature." And, as visitors we will have a delegation from the Chinese Historical Society of America. They are from San Francisco. ***

Mr. Olin (Jim) Lake, a dedicated worker for the Pioneer Society over a long period of years is now at home from the hospital and feeling fine again. ***

A second edition of "Saratoga's First Hundred Years" by our late Florence R. Cunningham and edited by Frances L. Fox should be in the book stores now. The first edition was an immediate sell-out. ***

Pleasantly surprised when I read the March issue of Frontier Times and found an article by Helen Arbuckle, "Lick Observatory." A story of James Lick, illustrated.

Theron Fox, chairman of the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission has received the award of merit of the National Association for State and Local history in recognition of his "unceasing efforts and spectacular achievements on behalf of history and historic preservation in his community."

The DELTA QUEEN last of the sternwheel steamboats, once known as the floating palace, plying on a regular schedule between Sacramento and San Francisco was sent to New Orleans in 1946 for service on the Mississippi River. On November 2nd she will make her last voyage from St. Paul to New Orleans; because of federal regulations prohibiting night sailing of ships with wooden superstructures. ***

In 1885 dairying was a major industry in Santa Clara County, more cheese being shipped from Gilroy than any other town in the State. ***

WELCOME

Congratulations to our new members: Mildred I. Aikins, Ann L. Archambeault, Charles J. Archambeault, Susan Tallman Atkinson, Adamae Barnes, Alfred L. Batchelor, Leonora Bradbury, Sigrid I. Clauson, Holly Drew Cooper, Eleanora Giannotti, Priscilla Maynard Gordon, Caroline Jepson, Melvin H. Johnson, Ira T. Johnston, Frances Lundford Kuku, Alpha B. Martin, Elsie Martin, Vivian V. McCaskey, Ethel McNamara, Alfred Mestressat, Clara Duffo, Mestressat, Edna M. Morgan, Roselme B. Milbourne, Mary A. Nelson, Gatha E. Palonco, Mary J. Plomteaux, Mary Yocco Rugh, Adelaide Hickman Thoen, Edith C. Urbani, Bessie Van Schoick and Eva L. Ward.

* * *

BEYOND THE SUNSET

Sadie M. Edwards

- November 1969

Pearl A. Meredith

November 8, 1893 - January 20, 1970

Gertrude A. Gray

May 27, 1880 - January 21, 1970

Gertrude E. Tabor

November 29, 1895 - March 11, 1970

Herbert C. Jones

September 20, 1880 - March 21, 1970

Johen B. Wiley

- April 1970

In behalf of the officers and members of the California Pioneer Society of Santa Clara County, the TRAIL-BLAZER extends their sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of our departed members.

* * *

Kindly keep your officers informed as to the condition of any ill member, and report any sickness or death to the chairman of our Sunshine Committee, Mrs. Martha L. Bulmore. Phone 264-2104.

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THE TRAILBLAZER

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Bulmore, Martha L. Bulmore, Barbara Spedding, Henry Clyde
Stout, A Bernice Van Gundy and Austen D. Warburton.

* * *

THE SOCIAL CLUB of our society meets on the 1st and
3rd Monday afternoon of each month. Card playing and
various activities highlight each meeting. For further
information call Mrs. Lovene Luhrman, 292-0070.

BUS TOUR information for members of the Pioneer
Society may be obtained from Mrs. Effie M. Hawkins, phone
295-2868 or Mrs. Jessie Black, 295-2987, 9 a.m. 'till 12.

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