



VOL. 49 NUMBER 4 2008

Pioneers Luncheon

Saturday December 6, 2008 at Noon

Mariani's 2500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara Reservations

MUST BE MADE BEFORE Thursday December 3, 2008

Either Phone 408-554-7587 OR The e-mail address for making reservations is: luncheons@californiapioneers.com

Please indicate the Names of those coming, their menu selection and phone number.

Please note: Names will be checked off the reservation list as you enter, if your name is not on the list, you will be requested to wait until all those who reserved a place have been seated.

So Mariani's can prepare for our group, it is most important to place a reservation in advance... BEFORE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008

Cost: \$25 (make checks payable to California Pioneers)

Menu (make one selection per person)

1-Beef Stroganoff With Noodles & Vegetables of the Day

2-Chicken Cacciatore, Bell Peppers, Onions, Mushrooms & Black Olives in a Marinara Sauce, Served with Pasta

Or Meatless:

3-Pasta Primavera: Fresh Vegetables sautéed in Olive Oil, Garlic, with Fettuccine Noodles

All are served with Green Salad, Rolls, and Butter, Dessert and Freshly Brewed Coffee or Decaf and Tea

Mariani's Restaurant is located on the south side of El Camino Real, two blocks west of San Thomas Expressway in Santa Clara.

PIONEERS WANTED FOR HANGING

Thanks to his expertise and hard work, Tim Peddy has about 30 of our past officers "hanging" on the Presidential Wall at the Paulson House. We would like your help in finding pictures to complete the project. Do you know of the family members, friends, activities or accomplishments of any of the following, please contact Bob or Beverly Fisher (408-241-0224) Any clue might help.

Andrews, Rosalie, 1632-37	Leonard, Jr., Dr. A. T. 1946-48
Black, Jessie E. 1966-67	Lindsay, Hon. Allen O. 1945-46
Canelo, Dr. C. Kelly 1973-74	Luhman, Lovene 1953-56
Carabal, Mrs. Albert 1950-52	Malatesta, Victoria 1984-86
Caton, F. E. 1927-30	O'Connor, James 1989-90
Chloupek, Minette 1948-50	Ogier, Mabel 1944-45
Coykendall, Jonathan 1895-97	Page, Robert 1880-81
Dampman, Wm 1930-31	Prindle, Homer 1881-82
Gordon, James 1897-98	Schmaelzle, O. I. 1974-75
Graham, Ella 1941-44	Sapena, Anthony R. 1975-76
Hailstone, Mrs. C. E. 1938-41	Stevens, L. D. 1911-12
Hines, Rev. J. W. 1903-03	Vermillion, Lynn 1971-72
Leaman, J. B. 1900-12	Woodhams, A. R. 1902-03

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As 2008 comes to a close, I look forward to a productive and bright 2009 for the Pioneers. Before I speak about the future, however, I must first thank three very important members of our organization. Their outstanding contributions to the Pioneers ensure that our future will be bright: David McKinney, Melita Kelly and Rose Crimi Muench. David, who has served as President and Treasurer will be leaving the Board. He is moving to Grass Valley, California with his Mother, Jackie, another key member of the Pioneers. Melita Kelly will be ending her term as Membership chair and Rose is leaving her position as Tour Director of "Touring with the Californians". Their tireless efforts and commitment for many years helped to make the Pioneers the special organization it is today. They are truly irreplaceable.

For the last few months, I have been working on a

project that is near and dear to my heart. Pioneer member, Virginia Hammerness, contacted me to see if the Pioneers were interested in helping the Argonauts get two local history books, *Signposts* and *Signposts II*, written by Patricia Loomis, reprinted. These wonderful, local history books were a compilation of Pat's articles published decades ago in the *Mercury News*, featuring the origin and history of Santa Clara County Street Names. The Pioneers are partnering with the Argonauts, History San Jose, and PAC SJ to make this invaluable resource available for local history buffs of the future.

Pat Loomis is a Pioneer member, local historian, dear friend and mentor to many. All four organizations are excited about expressing their respect and gratitude for all the important contributions Pat has made to document local history. Both *Signposts* and *Signposts II* will be part of a larger book that will include *Signposts III*, a previously unpublished compilation of Pat's articles.

The book will be published as the second of PAC SJ's *Pride through Preservation, a Neighborhood Project Book Series*. This partnership of non-profit organizations exemplifies our shared mission-educating the public and preserving our local history. When united, our organizations can accomplish great things. We hope to have the book available soon. Keep your eyes open to our web site for its availability.

2009 will bring us new board member positions to fill, as well. We need some volunteers. I look forward to working with all.

Wishing all of you a happy and healthy holiday and hope to see you at the holiday quarterly meeting.

Jim Zetterquist

HISTORICAL DOINGS

HOLIDAY DECORATING PARTY YOU are invited to A Decorating Party at the Paulson House on Friday, Nov. 21, 2008 at noon. Bring your own lunch and an old fashioned ornament for the tree and a dozen of your favorite cookies to share. We will have on a pot of mulled cider. The rules of the park call for decorations as of 1880-1905. Be prepared to string cranberries and popcorn for the tree. We will provide

the needles, thread, popcorn & cranberries to help festoon the house in the Turn of the Century style. Costumes not required! Just willing fingers.



SEPTEMBER FIRST ANNUAL BARBEQUE SUCCESSFUL

The San Jose Municipal Band was great! Everyone enjoyed their patriotic and old-time melodies so much that we have signed them up for our Second Annual Barbeque under the Oaks at History Park in September

2009 to celebrate Admission Day in the manner of our predecessors. Feet were tapping all over the park, even in some somber meetings being held upstairs in the fire house. Food was served to those sporting a newly designed, dated button which was received upon check in. (Thanks to Tim Peddy.) Plans for next year are underway. Many of you took advantage of the open Paulson House to sign up for Rose's Trips and to view our headquarters. Note photos following,

PIONEER BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are open. They are held at the Paulson House at noon on the second Monday of the month. Bring your own lunch and see what you can do to help us manage our affairs.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

ANNUAL DUES.....\$25

LIFE MEMBERSHIP.....\$250

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED WITH \$25 DUES PLUS \$5 PROCESSING APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM MELITA KELLY, MEMBERSHIP

And the Band Played on.....



HALLOWEEN AT HISTORY PARK, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2-4. We participated again in the Halloween celebration in the park. Last year was fun, so this year Barbara and Tim Peddy and Mary Lou Lyon seated themselves on the front porch of the decorated Paulson House with goodies for the kiddies.- in costume,.



WILLOW GLEN FOUNDER'S DAY PARADE GRAND MARSHALL

The pioneers enjoyed participating in the parade in 2007 so signed up for a repeat performance. This year, Bob and Beverly Fisher and Melita Kelly (in costume) rode in a "Flivver." With banners proclaiming the Santa Clara County Pioneers attached to the sides of the automobile. If you missed the fun, there is always next year.

The Grand Marshal of the Parade was also one of our members, **Sophie Birk**. Sophie was born September 9, 1909 according to her membership records. She was born at the Hayes Mansion which was called Hayes Park at that time. Her father was a driver for the Hayes family and her Mother worked for Mary Hayes.

By the time she was 3, her father had accepted a job as superintendent of Oak Hill Cemetery and the family had moved to a home across the street from the cemetery. She remembered her father giving her \$2 a month to close the cemetery gates. From that, he insisted that she save a penny out of every nickel she earned. She passed that on to her own children and still saves today, herself.

A sharp student who skipped sixth-grade at Franklin Elementary School, she describes herself as a tomboy who got into a bit of mischief. "Out at Oak Hill in the spring when the grass was high, we would take the door off the outhouse and slide down the hill riding it," she says.

Sophie attended San Jose Business and Secretarial School and as a young woman, worked for the local daily newspaper as a secretary, but she was bored. Jay Hayes, her boss, asked her what she really wanted to do and she pointed across the room to the switchboard operator. That position was filled, but Hayes helped her get a job working for Pacific Bell as a telephone operator. By the time she retired in 1973, she was a supervisor and instructor.

She's always been quick-witted, says Roger Bibb, longtime family friend. "She had that 50 years ago," he said. Bibb grew up with Sophie's son. "She was stern. She was a good mom and raised her kids to do right; don't break the law, obey the rules. She enforced that. When you would go

to visit at her house, she would set the tone," he says.

It was that tone that helped her meet her husband. She and her mother had asked their landlord to have a heating vent placed in the center of an area shared by two rooms so that it could heat both rooms. When she got home from work and saw the vent in a wall to the side, she demanded to know, "Who's the dummy who put the register in the corner?" Out popped the head of Jerry Birk, the man she would marry in 1934 at the Carmel Mission. Jerry Birk died in 1991. The couple owned and operated a brake and equipment shop in San Jose.

Sophie remembered being one of the first families in Willow Glen to have a television set. "People would stand outside on the sidewalk outside our doors and watch our TV from there," Birk says. "My husband started inviting them in." When she arrived home one evening after picking up her son Ron from a school event, she said there were 11 people she didn't know sitting around her TV in her living room.

Sophie Birk says she's always been lucky and led a "wonderful life," and she's never had anything bad happen to her. Still sharp-minded and healthy, she still drives a 1996 Buick she says she hopes lasts as long as she will.

Every morning before she gets out of bed, she does 50 sit-ups and a battery of other exercises. It's what keeps her going so strong, she says.

She hasn't been without health problems and says she had her appendix and gall bladder removed, two spinal fusions and three hip replacements--including her first in 1968, which was performed by Dr. William Murray, considered a pioneer in hip and knee replacement. "I'll last as long as they have spare parts," she says.

PAULSON HOUSE DOCENT REPORT by Marylou vonRotz From August 10 to November 2 --- we have had 786 visitors. This includes for the W.W. II Day of Remembrance (82) and the day of the Antique Auto Show (285) and the Pioneer Picnic (100) This does NOT include Halloween when we gave out candy to 2,000 wee folks in costume on the porch.

Visitors came from: Chicago, Nicaragua, Fremont, El Salvador, Modesto, Singapore, France, Belgium, Russia, Holland, Sweden, England, Ireland and Hawaii. We need volunteer docents for one day a month.



Bob Fisher, President Emeritus, Melita Kelly and Beverly Fisher ready to ride in the Willow Glen Parade.



GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS

Joseph "Bud" Amaral, William Hess, Beverly Lands, Alba Joyce Martini, Jean Morss, Doreen Oliver, Roberta Ross, Dorothy Simmons

Melita Kelly, Financial/Membership Secretary

It's that time again! Your annual dues for 2009 are now due and payable. Please send your checks for \$25 made payable to the California Pioneers to: Melita Kelly, 460 North 15th Street, San Jose, CA 95112-1725.

Because of increasing costs of the *Trailblazer* and the Paulson House, the Board of Directors had to raise the dues this year. Current dues are now \$25.00 each and every year. Life memberships are available at \$250.00. If you have questions on your status, please give me a call at (408) 292-2385.

Please notify me if you change your mailing address. We cannot guarantee that your *Trailblazer* will arrive if you have moved. The Post Office does not forward the *Trailblazers* to you, but we are notified by the Post Office but only if you have filed a change of address form. Call me if you fail to receive your *Trailblazer*.

NEW MEMBERS: Charles Calhan, Kathleen Calhan, Lucille Corcel, Laura Dominguez-Yon, Mabel Frelief, Joan Hastings, Michael Hastings, Amy Higuchi, Dorothy Luth, Joseph Melehan, Eva Milovena, Helen Rezendes, Loretta Riddle, Edward M. Smith



TOURING WITH THE CALIFORNIANS

Rose Crimi Muench – Tour director (408) 293-0896

Marie Rider – Phone reservations and cancellations.

(408) 251-7887, M – F, mornings

Beverly Fisher – Treasurer, 3435 Yuba Avenue

San Jose, CA 95117-2966

Marylou vonRotz – Luncheon reservations

REGISTRATION FOR WINTER TRIPS IS SUSPENDED.

PHONE RESERVATIONS or CANCELLATIONS: call Marie Rider. After reservations are confirmed, send a check payable to The Californians to Beverly Fisher.

PICK-UP POINT: Valley Village, 390 North Winchester Blvd., Santa Clara on Dolores Avenue.

Rose Crimi, our Tour Director since 1994, has resigned effective the first of the year. She has planned and escorted our monthly day trips, and our extended trips.

We are in the process of finding a new Tour Director. In the meantime, we are suspending the January, February, and March day trips while we transition to a new person.

Rose expresses her thanks to the membership for their enthusiastic support and participation in our many trips over 14 years, exploring the rich history of our valley and surrounding areas.

Lost Book? On our New Almaden trip someone left a book, purchased at the gift store, on the bus. Please call Rose Crimi at 408 293-0896 to retrieve it.

DAY TRIPS

DECEMBER 18, 2008, THURSDAY LIVERMORE VALLEY

Rancho Los Positis (little watering holes) is now Livermore, named for a British sailor, Robert Livermore. The valley's rocky and gravelly soil lent itself to the planting of

vineyards. Early pioneers and neighbors James Concannon and Carl Wentz both started wine production in the 1880's. Livermore valley also attracted the Bay Area's affluent to build summer homes. One of these was Christopher Buckley, the political boss of early San Francisco, who built the Ravenswood Victorian country estate in 1891. It is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is a California Historic Point of Interest. During the holiday season the house is lavishly decorated. We will have docents dressed in period costumes give us a tour of the house with a visit to the gift shop. Then we will have an included English Tea at the August Tea Room with home-made scones, Devonshire cream, preserves and lemon curd, tea sandwiches and miniature sweets. Next we will visit the Concannon Winery for a tour of the winery and tasting of their wines. We can still see the original Victorian family home on the property.

Leave 9:00 a.m. Return: 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$ 60

This trip is filled, but you may place yourself on a short wait-list.

EXTENDED TRIPS for 2009

Sample brochures with interest sign-ups will be available at the December 6 luncheon, or afterwards by calling Rose Crimi, 408 293-0896. If there is enough interest, we can set up a Pioneers' trip. Also, individuals may sign up for unescorted trips.

(Collette Tours) Shades of Ireland March 24 – April 2, 2009 \$ 2699 Limerick, Cliffs of Moher, Galway, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Blarney Castle, Waterford Crystal Factory, Dublin

(Trieloff Tours) American Heritage Tour April 18 – 30, 2009 \$ 2099 Philadelphia, Amish, Gettysburg, Washington, D.C., Monticello, Jamestown, Williamsburg

(Talbot Tours) Panama Canal Cruise May 8 - 24, 2009 \$ 2480 inside, \$ 3280 outside cabins From Ft. Lauderdale (one-way air) and return to San Francisco on the Sea Princess.

OR September 25 – October 10, 2009
\$ 2460 inside, \$ 3380 outside cabins San Francisco to Ft. Lauderdale on the Island Princess, (one-way air.)

(Collette Tours) Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park July 4 - 12, 2009 \$ 2999 Banff, Jasper, Glacier National Park, and the Calgary Stampede.

(Golden Gate Tours) Alaska Cruise September 1 – 10, 2009 Round trip from San Francisco. on the Sea Princess. No air! Approximately \$ 1600 inside cabins to approximately \$ 2600 balcony cabins

(Collette Tours) Santa Fe and Durango October 8 - 15, 2009 \$ 2599 with the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta



Listening to the foot tapping music.



Big hat, no cattle, just President Jim Zetterquist Beating the drum about something! Or with a brief message to the assembled picnickers.

OFFICERS 2007-2008 www.californiapioneers.com

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