

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

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CALIFORNIA DECLARES MONTEREY ROAD WALNUT TREES HISTORIC



Today, more than eighty years later the 30-mile row of California Black Walnut trees from San Jose to Gilroy are finally 'boughing' to recognition, thanks to a story in the February 1983 Trailblazer pertaining to San Josean Horace G. Kessling who assumed the ten-year planting venture for the cause of shade near the turn of the century.

On November 23, 1985, just six tenths of a mile south of the Capitol Expressway on Monterey Road a colorful turnout of California Pioneers of Santa Clara County overly assisted by Mountain Charlie Chapter 1850 of E Clampus Vitus had gathered for the dual dedication of the bronze plaque declaring the "Kessling Shade Trees" a California Registered Point of Historical Interest - No. SCL - 56.

We are most appreciative to zealous Clamper Jim 'Boom Boom' Arbuckle, and Pioneer member, for motivating this long sought tribute to Kessling who led the way toward California's highway beautification program.

WHALE BLAZERS

ALVISO, January 1902: Hunters reported ducks were so plentiful at Alviso they could bag the limit in open boats without the need of blinds.

SAN JOSE, 1905: "Twenty-five cents a week will bring you a \$20 kitchen gas range with inside connections free. Contact your United Gas and Electric Co., "The happy home maker at 18 So. Market."

SAN JOSE, 1907: Physicians were attempting to discover a remedy for "Bicycle Eye," an affliction effecting long distance riders.

SAN JOSE HERALD, October 1907: A \$50 donation check was received by the Luther Burbank School District from Mr. Luther Burbank. He also promised to furnish the school grounds with trees and shrubbery. The district was named for the famous naturalist.

1908: The Smith Creek Hotel situated several miles below Lick Observatory had a few rules they adhered to according to signs on the premises. "No loud and unnecessary noises in rooms - No dogs or cats permitted in rooms - Baths have to be ordered in advance - Only one bath per week permitted - Beds must not be moved about or blankets and pillows taken out - Meal hours must be observed - Anything extra, besides meals, will be charged for - If there is any way we can be of service, please let us know. Smith Creek Hotel"

SACRAMENTO, 1927: The proposed old age pension bill providing for payment of one dollar per day to each aged indigent person and aimed to do away with poor houses failed to win approval.

ALVISO, January 1933: The meeting of the Alviso City Council took on the important matter of providing Chief of Police E.D. 'Bach' Bachigalupi with a star. After some deliberation 'Bach' was instructed to buy one for himself and not to pay more than 75 cents for it. Several council members pondered the point awhile and suggested if 'Bach' called on the neighboring police chiefs, one might offer him an old star for nothing.

SAN JOSE, 1937: Alum Rock Park was claiming more spring water containing iodine than any other locality in the state. It was attracting visitors to its twenty mineral springs, fourteen with iodine content, a goitre preventive.



PORTUGUESE HERITAGE RANCH

by Helen Arbuckle

Here prunes are still dipped in a hot lye solution to crack the skin and then spread on trays for drying.

Porter Lane, one of the older streets leading off Alum Rock Avenue follows a mile long route lined with modest homes along the eastern foothills and ends at a gate marked with a sign "End of the Road" and a smaller notice "Portuguese Heritage Ranch" below.

Beyond the gate is the home of Raymond d'Artenay and his son, George. The property consists of hillside orchard, house, barn and other outbuildings contiguous to a farm.

When d'Artenay and his late wife, Mary, (she died in 1983) bought the place in 1947, it was in a sorry state of dilapidation -- old chicken houses, rabbit hutches, sagging roofs, elementary plumbing, tractors and farm machinery rusting among the weeds and dying trees. About the only good thing one could say about the place was the view of the valley spread out to the west and Mt. Umunhum directly across.

It was formerly owned by Antonio De Silveria who planted the first trees in 1913 and made other improvements. The first long time owner was Andrew L. Huyck, and is still known historically as the Huyck Ranch. Before that it was a portion of a 500-acre Pueblo lot.

With a dual purpose in mind d'Artenays and their son proceeded to remodel the house salvaging what was useable to make it attractive and comfortable. They replaced the old carbide gas lights with decorative fixtures typical of the ethnic origins of the former owners. Tile from the Steve Mascovich (Mary's parents) home that stood at Minnesota and Lincoln Avenue in Willow Glen, now the site of Mackey's picture framing business, outline the fireplace. Every room in the house contains something old and sentimental, even some Portuguese tiles purchased during a trip to Portugal a few years ago.

Rotting boards of the barn were replaced with lumber Ray had taken piece by piece, including a few square nails, from the Mascovich ranch on Monterey Road when that property was sold. Other buildings received equal care in their rehabilitation. As a former in-

dustrial arts teacher in the San Jose school department he had a natural aptitude and appreciation of the material he had to work with.

As a teacher of home economics, Mary contributed her talents to the artistic arrangement of momentos, the flower garden, and preservation of the fruit.

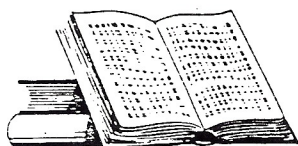
After devoting years of time and work to creating a tranquil spot surrounded by neatly pruned fruit and ornamental trees that separated them from cheek-by-jowl housing they weren't content to set back and admire their handiwork. Being a history-conscious family the d'Artenays wished to perpetuate the memory of the Portuguese families who contributed to the history of the Santa Clara Valley.

With the help of Mrs. Dolores Nunes Lowry, a member of a Portuguese pioneer family in the area, a special historic zoning application for eleven acres of prune and apricot trees was approved by the Board of Supervisors on November 19, 1979. It is the only complete working ranch in the Alum Rock area using old time methods and equipment for processing the fruit.

It's like taking a little trip back in time. They just wanted to save one little piece -- The Portuguese Heritage Ranch, like the valley was once upon a time.

A HISTORY OF MILPITAS

Our own Patricia Loomis scores again with "Milpitas - The Century of 'Little Cornfields' 1852-1952" Milpitas Historical Society - \$10. This authoritative popular journalist delights with views concerning town folks deeply rooted to its hills, flats, and canyons. Purr through a century of humor and hard work when real estate booms long overlooked the area while the town's problems were usually being settled at the local horse trough on Main Street. Generous with photographs.



BOOK MEMORIAL FOR OUR LATE PAST PRESIDENTS

Our Society has made such tributes to the California Room at the main San Jose Library in remembrance of two recently deceased past presidents, John Clark and Anthony "Tony" Sapena. To John went two books, "Judicial Odyssey" a history of the Federal Court System in our central coast area, and "Passing Farms and Enduring Values." To the memory of Tony Sapena, a retired San Jose Deputy Fire Chief, "Working Fire," a pictorial account relating to the San Francisco Fire Department was presented.



THE AMAZING MONTGOMERY MAZE

By Bill Chivers

Montgomery Maze was born in New York in 1836. He studied law and at the age of 19 was admitted to the New York Bar. He soon realized in 1855 that he didn't care for this type of business and that he needed something more exciting.

From New York to California the newspapers were telling of the adventures of General William Walker, soldier of fortune from Tennessee, and his private army that had invaded Nicaragua. Walker was giving free transportation from the States to Nicaragua plus 25 dollars a month if and when it was available plus a title of up to 350 acres of land, contingent in subduing the country. Nicaragua during this period was the shortest route from New York to San Francisco. The whole trip took about 25 days which was many months less than crossing by way of the Overland Route in North America and weeks shorter than the Panama Route. There also was more attention at this time given to Nicaragua than to Panama as the prospective sight for an Atlantic to Pacific Canal. Montgomery Maze took up the offer of General Walker and joined his army in Nicaragua.

Walker's army soon overcame the locals, and this soldier of fortune and freebooter was in July 1856 inaugurated President of the country. Towards the end of that year, Walker was being attacked on several fronts by a combined Central American Alliance consisting of most of the Central American countries. General Walker lost support from his financial backers in the States, and everything went downhill from that time on. Without supplies, arms and ammunition, Walker's hold on Nicaragua failed, and by February 1857, all was lost for him as many of his soldiers were evacuating to ships on the Pacific Coast and going to California. Montgomery Maze, it is believed, was one of them.

The next adventure in Maze's life and for which he is most remembered was in 1860. He was among the first to join the famous Pony Express Riders. His run was between Fridays Station about one mile east of the present state line at Lake Tahoe which was the western end of his route and Reese River station (now Austin, Nevada), the eastern end.

The famous Pony Express Route started in April 1860, and went from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California.

In August 1860, the Virginia City Territorial Enterprise Newspaper reported a shooting involving Maze as follows - "One day last

week H. Trumbo, the Express Station Keeper at Smith Creek, got into difficulty with Montgomery Maze, one of the Pony Express Riders, during which Trumbo snapped a pistol at Maze several times. The next day the fracas was renewed when Maze shot Trumbo with a rifle, the ball entering a little above the hip and inflicting a dangerous wound. Maze has since arrived in Carson City bringing with him a certificate signed by various parties exonerating him from blame in the affair and setting forth that Trumbo had provoked the attack."

It was also at Smith Creek Station a few months later that a fellow rider and acquaintance of Maze, William Carr, earned the dubious honor of being the first man legally hung in the Nevada Territory at Carson City. Carr murdered Bernard Chessy with whom he had quarreled some time before at Smith Creek Station. it is said that at one time Maze was Station Keeper at Sand Springs Pony Express Station located about 25 miles east of the present city of Fallon, Nevada. It is a known fact that station keepers and riders were continually changing.

When the Pony Express went out of business in October 1861 because the transcontinental telegraph was completed, Montgomery Maze came to San Jose. The war between the States had begun, and Santa Clara County was loyal to the Union. Men were voluntarily enlisting from their own cities. San Jose had many men volunteering for the Infantry and the Cavalry. One of the units was the Second Regiment California Infantry organized November 29, 1861, made up of Santa Clara County men, one of whom was Montgomery Maze enlisting as a Second Lieutenant of Company A. These men were generally credited to the City of Mayfield (now Palo Alto), and served in Northern California and Arizona keeping Indians under control.

A draft was never ordered in California to secure its proportion of troops. There was always a more than sufficient reserve of volunteers organized under State laws for any emergency that might arise. Most of the volunteers were kept in the West. With the exception of 500 men who enlisted as the California Battalion in the Second Massachusetts Cavalry, California forces took no part in the great battles of the Civil War. They occupied nearly all of the posts from Puget Sound to San Elizario, Texas.

Montgomery Maze, while in the Army, was a scout, guide and also an interpreter in the Apache country in the Southwest. He was mustered out of the service in 1866 and came back to San Jose. He registered to vote in California for the first time in that same year. Historian and author, Patricia Loomis, has written that he married Kate Geneva Scott, daughter of Joseph Scott, one of the first ranchers in the Warm Springs area. Maze and his wife had four children. One of them, also named Geneva, married George E. Owens, Hale Brothers Store executive in San Jose for many years, and nephew of San Jose Mercury Editor, J.J. Owens.

Maze was self employed as a researcher of records and conveyancer. He decided to run for San Jose City Clerk in April 1873 and won the office over incumbent John T. Colahan, by a vote of 317 to 266.

Some time later, J.J. Owens, Editor of the Mercury, had assailed



Maze in an editorial, and the small light but stockily built Maze met Owens at the northwest corner of Santa Clara Street and Market Street and talked about the alleged lie that Owens had printed. It was then that Maze sailed in to make mincemeat out of the veteran Editor. Owen's cane made the first blow, and Maze stopped surprised but not daunted. He made another rush and made contact with Owen's nose. Encouraged by his success, he tried a left hander, missed the mark and the cane did its headaching work again. From that time on, it was cane and fist, the cane doing the most damage. Bystanders finally stopped the fight before any serious damage was done. Both combatants were good sports and friendly relations were soon established.

It was a sad day in San Jose when its City Clerk, Montgomery Maze, died of a heart attack on June 19, 1875, at the young age of 39 years. His wife was pregnant with their fourth child who was born the following November. A girl, she died just two months later. His wife, Kate Geneva Maze, lived until July 28, 1909. She and Montgomery are buried at Oak Hill Memorial Park with their baby daughter. The grave sight has two tombstones. One is the family monument type stone, and the other a military stone. Maybe some day someone will put a plaque there commemorating this man as one of America's historic Pony Express Riders.



Member seeks exterior photograph of the A & D Emporium located in the New Century Block from 1935-1953. Carroll & Bishop occupied the site later. Will compensate. Phone Edward Allegretti (408) 998-7924 or (408) 258-7751

THE EUCALYPTUS STORY



Perhaps someone in our midst can recall this arboreal stand of 'blue gums' that enhanced Lincoln Avenue from Minnesota Avenue to Willow Street for years, but not necessarily the 1894 electric trolley. These wonders of admiration, planted in the early 1870's, ranged in height from 50 to 90 feet. Even in the 1920's they were hefty landmarks as their waving plumes sheltered children at Willow Glen School who played under them for forty-five years.

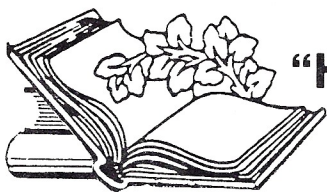
Unfortunately with the arrival of 1913, a number of residents were seeking county permits to cut down the trees fronting their property. Horace Keesling, our highly regarded horticulturist of the time said, "The loss of part of them already has been felt by folks who pass this way. The trees have given Lincoln Avenue distinction and their removal is tragic!"

Also, one cannot overlook one Thomas J. Gillespie who for more than fifty years carried on a thriving gum tree business in San Jose. This knowing, hefty, freckled faced native from the hardwood areas of Ohio arrived in San Jose in 1875 where he founded the Garden City Planing Mill on El Dorado Street, now Post Street, in downtown San Jose. Gillespie realized early the possibilities of eucalyptus for furniture and commercial needs; so he equipped his enterprise to this hardwood product.

In a 1911 interview T.J. said, "The eucalyptus variety we call 'San Jose' is a distinct species of blue gum and makes one of the best timbers I have run across and I guarantee it! It will stay in place better than hickory and I consider 'San Jose grade' one of the best."

The Gillespie planing mill was the first to manufacture threaded eucalyptus pins on which were mounted shafts of glass acting as insulators for electric and telephone utilities. Called the Locke Insulator it served its purpose well, detailed to carry 40,000 to 60,000 volts under the severest of conditions.

As for Lincoln Avenue, once called El Abra, trees are once more making a comeback. This time they are European sycamores making their bid to veil the popular avenue.



CLYDE ARBUCKLE'S "HISTORY OF SAN JOSE" DUE SHORTLY

It is almost impossible not to go overboard when a book such as Clyde Arbuckle's "History of San Jose" comes along. This enthralling work, the results of a lifetime of dogged research, is a treasury of ranchos, miners, immigrants, trolley cars and blossoming vistas. The author even trots out an engrossing assemblage of heros, heroines and scallawags. Captivating photographs are ample and well chosen with many never before published. The lavish edition has been defined to give a meticulous meaning to local history. Any Pioneer member who wants to introduce anyone to San Jose's vigorous past will find this a superb gift ... \$25.

ALL CALIFORNIA PIONEERS and THEIR FRIENDS
Are Invited to the
Gala Autograph Book Signing Party
for "CLYDE ARBUCKLE'S HISTORY OF SAN JOSE"

The Party will be Held at the
San Jose Museum of Art (Market & San Fernando Streets)
On Thursday, March 13, 1986 from 5 until 7 p.m.

*(Books will be for sale at the party or at
Smith McKay Printing, 96 N. Almaden Blvd., San Jose)*

OUR PIONEER ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCED



High school students and adults are once again eligible for cash awards this spring for recreating historical events of Santa Clara County's past. The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County is sponsoring its annual essay contest covering significant local persons, places and happenings of the past.

There is both a high school and general public division with similar prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 for three top essays in each classification.

April 30 is the deadline for these essays which must be in the English language and contain at least 3000 words. Winners will be honored at the June Quarterly Luncheon.

For the complete rules of the contest, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Wade Brummal, Essay Contest, California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155.

Pioneer membership application forms may be attained by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to California Pioneers, att. Mary Wahlberg, Financial Secretary, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155.

RAMBO REMEMBRANCES

Cutting cots? - every year that I could belly up to a tray! One year I cleared \$35. I bought a Sherman (medium size) bicycle at SID MINNIS BIKE SHOPPE on Santa Clara's Main just off old Franklin, the main street. I believe that Pierce was THE BIKE of the day. We pause to wander down old Franklin Street, ideal replica of an Antique Shopping Center. I can still name 14 diversified stores. To us, in totally undeveloped Cupertino, Santa Clara was our shopping center. It had anything we might require. We even took our luscious Early Crawford peaches and our brown hen eggs and traded them at Alderman's Grocery for groceries.

Remember, in horse-and-buggy days, when circuses visited San Jose yearly with long parades down our main street? One year our one little street sweeper with the straw hat and a carnation on it quit his job because two circuses came to town that year, each with twenty elephants parading 'his' streets!

Thanks, Ralph

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Anita Amerio
Maude B. Askine
Nancy D. DeLara
Jack Fischer, Jr.
Adeline Gerdtz
John C. Gerdtz, Jr.

Diane Ikeda
Irene Johnson
Robert A. Johnson
Ida F. Mello
John B. Patron
Yvonne M. Perreira
Larry P. Seymour

Margaret Spearman
Evelyn Thrift
Dorothy P. Trevethan
Morse E. Trine
Irene West
Russell L. West



Beyond the sunset

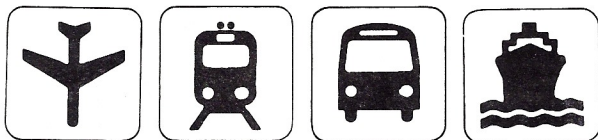
Florence Berg	Mildred E. Goodsell	Louise Re
Leona R. Davis	Peter J. Patron	Henry Zetschok

Minnie Clark, *Past President California Pioneers
of Santa Clara County*

MINNIE LESTER CLARK

March 11, 1889 – January 18, 1986

Minnie was very interested in history and heritage and joined the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, cherishing and enjoying her comradeship with the members and the activities of that organization. She and her son, John, became the only mother/son combination of President in the over 100 year history of the society.



Touring With The Californians

RESERVATIONS by phone begin on Monday, December 9th, for MEMBERS ONLY. Call RUTH GROSS at 294-9830 ONLY BETWEEN 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon MONDAY THRU FRIDAY. After Ruth confirms your reservation, make check payable to the Californians and send to P.O. Box 32121, San Jose, CA 95152. After the quarterly meeting, a Trip Brochure and Flyers can be obtained by mailing a stamped, self-addressed legal size envelope to the above address.

Western Americana Awaits You -- Call now for our MT. RUSHMORE, SOUTH DAKOTA outing. Space is still available for July 17-24, 1986. This trek includes Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska. Marvel to the work site of the 563 foot memorial to the American Indian, Crazy Horse. Marvel at Mt. Rushmore with its monumental faces 60 feet from chin to top. Our seven day venture takes in the landmark treasures of our nations heartland. Near Scottsbluff, Nebraska, wonder at the 500 foot landmark spire on the Platte River that guided our California-Oregon bound wagon trains. Hundreds of spectacular surprises await you at every turn on this historic loop.

Also, at the March Luncheon reservations will be taken for: A springtime overnite to HEARST CASTLE, a late September trip to EASTERN CANADA, including several one-day "Mystery Trips" to new and popular places!

DON'T BE A DELINQUENT MEMBER

Annual dues are now past due. Members who have not paid for 1986 by the March luncheon, March 1, 1986, will be considered delinquent. Delinquent members WILL NOT receive the TRAILBLAZER until the dues are paid.

Financial Secretary Mary Wahlberg will be available both before and after the luncheon to receive payments. If necessary call her at 246-5503 with any questions about this.

Those who wish to mail their dues can do so by sending their check for \$5 along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to California Pioneers, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155. Your membership card will be sent by return mail.

PLANNING A MOVE?

Let us know too! Please mail address changes to James O'Connor, Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155.

P.O. BOX 8208
SAN JOSE, CA 95155

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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San Jose, California
Permit No. 1234

MARCH 1.
Luncheon
Phone 247-6606
Anytime, So we can properly prepare

MENU <i>Swiss Steak Salad Vegetables Dessert Beverage</i> 7.50	<i>Featuring</i> LEE INGRAHAM <i>Local Research Consultant for the Santa Clara County Geneological Society will speak on the "TRACING OF ANCESTRY"</i>	<i>Low's Village DOORS OPEN 10:30 Luncheon 12... ...Bring a Friend</i>
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H.C.

DUES: \$5 Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of your membership card. Make checks payable to California Pioneers and mail to Financial Secretary, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155.

THE TRAILBLAZER issued February, May, August and November.

Editor - Henry Calloway, 1899 McDaniel Ave., San Jose, CA 95126

Associate Editor - Laura Calloway

Assistant Editor - Bill Chivers

Staff Artist - Ralph Rambo

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SUNSHINE Please notify of SICKNESS and DEATHS:

Mary Simas, 1722 Husted, San Jose, CA 95125. Phone (408) 448-6102.