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OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY
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CHRISTMAS CANDY LEFT IN WILL

by Sara Powell Millar

Thanks to the generosity of a man who died in 1873, the children of the Los Gatos Grammar School enjoyed peppermint candy sticks at Christmas time for over 60 years.

On September 12, 1873, George W. Teasdale died in Los Gatos and, under the terms of his will, left the residue of his estate, \$300.00, to the Los Gatos school district. The interest as it accumulated was to be used to purchase "toys and for all celebrations on all holidays". However, no part of the principle was to be used for any purpose. The interest could be used at the discretion of the trustees.

This fund was further increased in 1905 by the bequest of Edward A. Johnson who left \$300.00 for the same purpose as stated in the Teasdale will. So far as anyone knows, however, the interest was never actually used for toys but has always been used to purchase candy for the children, with two exceptions.

About 1915, it was used to buy playground equipment for the school because at that time the trustees felt that the children would receive more pleasure from the much needed equipment than from candy. The second time will be discussed later in our story.

According to some of the Los Gatos residents who attended school there in the early 1900's, the children used to decorate Teasdale's grave every Decoration Day and only those who did so received candy. However, some stories say that Mr. Teasdale started giving candy to the children even before he died.

Continued to page 4

WHALE BLAZERS

*** October 20, 1902: The Executive Board of the Santa Clara County Society of the California Pioneers met and audited allowing outstanding bills, two applicants for membership were reviewed. A special committee, to which was referred on concerning a new membership button, had presented a design which was approved while the Society was instructed to procure 1000 which was agreed upon. Also the matter of the purchase of land and the erection of a building which had been referred to the board by the members, was brought up by the offer of J. H. Rucker & Co. of a number of pieces of property available in the central part of the city. A special committee of five was appointed to investigate the various proposals. Five members were also appointed to organize a choir in the Society to furnish music for funerals and other occasions. Also, samples of group-pictures of members of the Society submitted by Andrew P. Hill, which were much admired, the only defect being they contained less than half of the members as only 220 faces were shown. Three were purchased for the Society and a good number by individuals.

*** San Jose, November, 1902: The mayor and common council had offered and adopted on the first reading a proposal on the limiting of saloons in San Jose. The resolution stated there were then 89 saloons in the city and that when ninety were reached there would be one saloon for each 240 inhabitants. Also, it was asked that the electric light at Orchard (now Almaden Ave.) and Colfax be removed to Willow and First Streets, as it was needed there more. Also the street committee was given power to purchase a new roller for street maintenance.

*** San Jose, November, 1911: With a shortage in the police fund of \$900. the 'bluecoats' were informed they would have to accept a pay cut for one month and would probably have to "make ends meet at half pay".



President's Message

Ruth Patton

My report to you this issue begins on a more positive note than in August. As you will notice we are, once again, issuing a "regular" edition of The Trailblazer. We are very grateful to Sara Millar and Mary Wahlberg for their efforts in getting information and news to you when we were without a permanent editor.

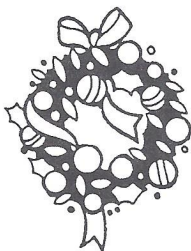
It is my pleasure to announce that Vanley Batchelor, a Life Member, has agreed to assume the duties of Trailblazer Editor. She has already consulted with former editors and contributors and, with her background and experience, seems well-suited to this important task.

The Board of Directors of this organization has a responsibility to you members to keep you apprised of our activities. What commitments do we make? How do we spend the monies entrusted to us? We try to do this with our minutes and financial reports, but there are those who still want more information - especially about our expenditures.

At our last Board meeting Treasurer, Sara Millar, said that she would be willing to speak to anyone who called her about this. She mentioned a few of our expenses: \$3,430.67 per year for the Trailblazer, mandatory insurance coverage, publishing expenses of the Pioneer Papers, our Historical Essay Contest and routine office expenses. And, we must always remember that some of our funds are trust accounts which we cannot deplete. Sara's number is: 377-2001.

I hope we will see you at our next luncheon on December 7, 1991. Until then I do wish you all Happy Holidays!

-Ruth Patton



CHRISTMAS CANDY from page 1

When the property was no longer a cemetery, it was acquired by the Hunt Bros. as a housing area for their workers. It was known locally as the "Cannery Camp". When the cannery closed in the 1930's, the land was eventually developed as "Little Village".

From the little that can be learned about Teasdale, he was apparently a bachelor and a man of small means. According to his will, he left only clothing and other personal things, besides his gift to the children of Los Gatos.

The grave of George Teasdale was in the original Los Gatos Cemetery which was located at what is now the corner of Santa Cruz and Saratoga Avenues in Los Gatos. The property is now known as "Little Village". This property is on the south east corner. The property on the north east corner, now occupied by American Savings and other businesses, was at the time of Teasdale's death, occupied by the Hunt

Bros. Cannery. The Los Gatos Grammar School was on University Avenue at the location of what is now "Old Town". Since the two locations were but 5 blocks apart, it was easy for the children to go from school to the cemetery to decorate the grave.

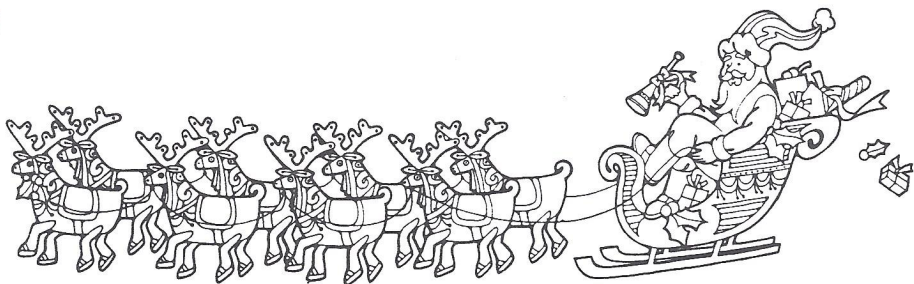
In 1903, the Town of Los Gatos wanted the cemetery moved to a new location out of the heart of the town. A new location was selected on Los Gatos-Almaden Road and it is there still. Where family could be located and were willing to pay to have the graves moved, they were moved to the new cemetery. As George Teasdale had no family, his grave was not moved and is still in it's original place as are many others.

CHRISTMAS CANDY from page 4

When I was a child attending Los Gatos Grammar School in the 1930's, we were still receiving candy at Christmas, but I don't recall that we knew anything about the man who left the money so that we could have this treat. Later when I was on the staff of the San Jose Mercury Herald, it was a thrill to me when I was assigned to write a story about this Christmas gift. My research took me to the original will and the information in this story. However, when I wanted to write this account, I tried to find more information. That is how I learned that funds were used a second time for something other than candy.

According to a story in HISTORY OF LOS GATOS by George G. Bruntz, when Don Eddy became the District Superintendent of schools in Los Gatos in 1970, he came across a "Teasdale Fund" that seemed to continue to collect interest but had not been used for years. The account contained \$1,200.00. Apparently the school had stopped giving candy when the student body became too large for the interest to pay for it and the account had become dormant. When Eddy heard the whole story, he decided that one again the children would enjoy playground equipment. This was done and the account was closed.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



GOOSETOWN IN RETROSPECT

by Dr. Daniel C. Lopez

Goosetown, San Jose, did not have a post office, a surveyed geographical entity, or a formal governing body, but it did exist before the turn of the century and up to roughly the late 1940's.

It was basically ethnically Italian -- and its parameters were loosely bounded by Alma St. on the South, Auzerais St. on the North, First St. on the East, and the Guadalupe River and the Southern Pacific main line on the West.

Its inhabitants, in the main, were from Central and Southern Italy. They were enticed to come to America where there was a tremendous need for laborers and field and agricultural workers. The climate of Santa Clara Valley was akin to the Naples area replete with mountains, orchards and a coastline abundant with fish. Once Santa Clara Valley was discovered by the "Paisanos," they came in droves and settled in the "Goosetown" enclave. There were numerous such settlements throughout the United States, and were generally labeled "Little Italys".

They brought a rich cultural tradition and heritage to California which has influenced the arts and the culinary appetites of countless "Americani", as the native American was identified. Pizza, ravioli and calamari today are an important part of daily living.

Religion was central to Italian life. Mostly, women and children and the elderly were the main partakers, although the men played very active roles in times of festivals and parades. Music and pageantry accompanied some special Saint's birthday. Notably was the "Feast" of St. Joseph with tables of exotic, regional cuisine from the old country. Religion was often the catalyst for social activities and the nurturing of a "we" attitude among "Goosetowners".

Home life and housing were simplistic. Most of the homes were of the standing board construction. Interior decor was made up of papered walls from The San Jose Mercury Herald. There was little room for growing flowers or ornamentals. All available tillable land around a house was planted in onions, garlic, herbs, fava beans, artichokes, and other

vegetables "in season". Many homes had a type of Dutch oven where the heavy crusted loaves of bread were baked.

Meat was often provided for by chickens, ducks, rabbits, pigeons and goats for milk and cheese. Wine cellars graced many domicile. The basement provided cool family summer living and also served as a warehouse for sugar, flour, pasta, olive oil, beans, cheeses, and dry sausage. Families had to be very self sufficient, since work was seasonal and it was a long winter between the prune harvest and the first spinach harvest the following Spring.

Families tended to marry into their own ethnic groups. Girls were carefully chaperoned and often courtships were arranged by a "go-between". Husbands, in many cases, were much older than their wives. After marriage, the new bride and groom tended to settle near one or the other's parents which was convenient when the "bambinos" were born.

Legend has it that "Goosetown" got its name from the migrating ducks who stopped overnight on one of the many ponds on Vine or Orchard Street, when Santa Clara Valley had an abundance of Artesian water. Some San Jose "old timers", contend that the name came from the myriads of honkers raised by the early Italian settlers. Either version is plausible.

World War II, and the assimilation of "Goosetowners" into the scheme of American Society began to erode this once lusty and beautiful community. The public schools also played a major role in the "Americanization" of the native Italians.

This ephemeral community could take pride in the citizens it developed. Three Superior Court judges, physicians, lawyers, college professors, teachers, merchants, business men, opticians and a few millionaires can lay claim to the start in life which had its inception at the crossroads of Orchard and Willow Streets. Many of its other inhabitants made contributions in untold ways to the City of San Jose. The parameters of "Goosetown" are still there, but it has faded and diminished as an Italian enclave. Today, other ethnic groups are moving into the area and building a new frontier amid the echoes of a colorful Neopolitan past.

WHALE BLAZERS

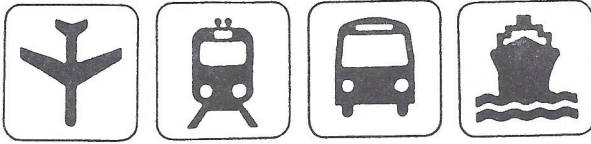
*** SAN JOSE, November, 1902: At the meeting of police and fire commission, a communication stated prisoners could no longer be fed at 12½ cents a meal, and that on November 1, 1902, the Russ House (a prominent San Jose downtown hotel) would cease to furnish them food at that price. Also, it was stated that a special watchman be employed for one month to inspect each street light in the city at least once during his nightly tour and would be paid \$52.00 for his services.

*** SAN JOSE, November, 1911: As the result of experimentation, Dr. S. G. Royte was showing a new breed of fowl that he named "The Patriot". The hens had bright red heads, pure white body plumage with blue tails.

*** November, 1914: Police and sheriff officers were still trying to find the owners of buggies, furniture, tools, live stock, and one automobile among other 'loot' discarded by mischievous celebrants of Halloween.

*** SANTA CLARA, November, 1918: Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Warburton were to again resume the manufacture of tamales and enchidadas. For several months, in fact during the entire summer season, the firm closed due to the warm summer months. Several lunch rooms and stores were agents for the popular palatable Mexican items.

*** September 7, 1938: The Palo Alto Historical Society was organized on this date with the purpose being to preserve community and vicinity history.



Touring With The Californians

EGYPT: The Nile January 10-19, 1992

Three nights in Cairo and a 4-night cruise from Luxor to Aswan visiting Memphis and Sakkara, Giza, Luxor and Karnak, the Nile Valley, Aswan and Abu Simbel. Don't delay! Sign up for this tour to assure a spot on this exciting trip.

Go **DUTCH TREAT** - The Tulips of Holland plus The Rhine River and Paris - May 5-15- 1992. Visit a different kind of museum - Hortusbulborum, a living flower bulb museum of types that are no longer grown but have historical or cultural significance. This trip is a beauty!

BRING YOUR CALENDARS and checkbook for you will want to be prepared to sign up for the day trips in January, February and March. Look for Barbara and helpers at the **TOURS** table.



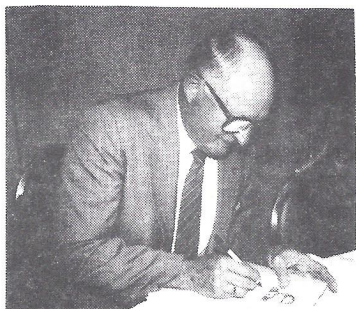
July 8-16, 1992 --

Join our own **HELEN ARBUCKE** as she leads a trip into her native state of North Dakota. Yellow-stone and Grand Tetons will be revisited. Itineraries and reservations at the December 7th Pioneers Luncheon.

To obtain a brochure: send a stamped, self-addressed legal size envelope to: **THE CALIFORNIANS, 1365 Lindsay Way, San Jose, CA 95118.**

To make reservations:

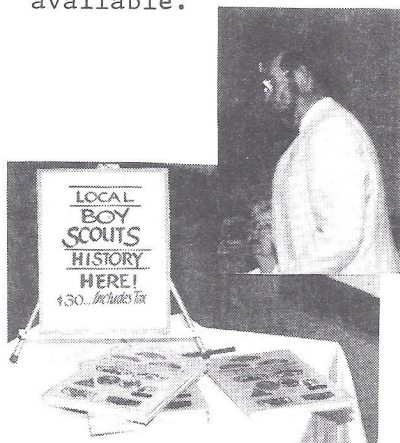
Call Nancy Hill at (408) 258-3449.



SCOUTING!

Leonard McKay - "Yes, we do have copies available."

James P. Sturrock, Chairman of the Council History Task Force, autographing a copy of SCOUTING IN THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY 1920-1990. Mr. Sturrock was the speaker at our September 7th meeting.



Welcome New Members

Diana Anderson
Richard Anderson
Carol Stelling-Arnoldy
Margaret N. Bellany
Barbara Lloyd

Richard Lloyd
Audrey McInerny
Margaret D. Monchamp
James E. Reid
Murial Carole Tobin



Beyond The Sunset

H. J. 'Nick' Carter
Lillian T. Jones
Wilford T. Lund

Anita Moore
Kenneth W. Van Gundy
Olive Whitmire

ATTENTION!

ATTENTION!

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ATTENTION!

This is your BILLING NOTICE that Membership Dues of \$7.00 are due for 1992 on January 1st. Save 58¢ postage by paying the 1992 dues at the December luncheon. If you pay by mail, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of your membership card.
CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
P. O. Box 8208
San Jose, CA 95155



TOMMY WARREN
Call
241-8942 for
membership
information



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