

THE

TRAILBLAZER

QUARTERLY BULLETIN
OF THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

INCORPORATED 1875

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1850 - 1876

**A
Golden
Age**

WHALE BLAZERS

FATHER FRANCISCO PALOU, who was Father Serra's assistant, cites distance by "distance of a gunshot." The Spanish musket, best then made in the 1780's, was unrivaled, and carried a round ball 1,350 feet. Its true target range was 350 feet. Some Santa Clara Mission properties were measured in this way.

THE SANTA CLARA MISSION is covered with more than 12,000 Indian-fired cover tiles that were restored from various old mission buildings when the present roof was laid in 1928. This tile was made and fired as far back as 1790 and 1822-1825.

THE PIONEER REPORTED Feb. 24, 1877. "The annual patching of our streets has been going on for some time, The last hole will be filled in time to commence over again."

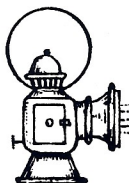
It further commented, "It will be a great convenience to the students and the public generally, if the East Side Horse Railroad track goes through, instead of around the Normal School Square."

In 1870 EVERGREEN, CALIFORNIA was a post office. F. J. Smith was the postmaster. This position paid a salary of twelve dollars a year. The office was discontinued in 1914.

NEWHALL ST. in San Jose was named for Henry M. Newhall, San Francisco land speculator and railroad tycoon. Newhall and Saugus, California are named in his memory. Saugus was Newhall's birthplace in Mass.

NATIVE DAUGHTERS OF THE GOLDEN WEST asked as a special favor that the merchants of San Jose close their stores Admission Day, Sept. 9, 1915, to allow all local folks to go to San Francisco for the day. Trains would operate at reduced fares.

H. C.



PIONEER SPOTLIGHT

by Hank Calloway

"Don't listen to me if you are not happy" is the cheerful philosophy of Inez Green Getchell, our warm winsome Pioneer. We interviewed this captivating member at her comfortable home on North 6th Street, a home her father, Mathew Green, built in 1882. "I was born in this very neighborhood on April 20, 1887. Adolph Hitler," she laughingly confesses, "had the same birthdate."

This native daughter is the granddaughter of William Green who fought in the War of 1812. Seriously wounded he survived to raise twelve children. "My dad was an 1850 California ox-team arrival. In 1889 he bought the mill and lumber yard on St. John Street near Fifth from Mountain Charley McKiernan. Dad did a lot of building," she states alertly. "The 1907 Carnegie Library at 23rd and Santa Clara Streets was the last of his many projects."

Inez began her education at Grant School in 1893. Her principal was Henry Meade Bland, later to become California's State Poet Laureate while a professor at San Jose State Teacher's College. Inez is a 1908 San Jose Normal graduate.

"My first teaching assignment," she enjoys recalling, "was at Bryson, a forlorn hilly ranch settlement in southern Monterey County. It was a slow spring wagon struggle," she sighs, "from the railroad stop to my 15 student, one-room, hill top school of eight grades. Folks were poor and part of my time was devoted to welfare and nursing efforts. After two terms I returned to San Jose and Gardner School which was then a county school. I left teaching in 1918 to marry my late husband, Robert Getchell, a Southern Pacific locomotive engineer."

Inez is grateful for her many friends and helpmates. "We saved the Rose Garden," she says proudly. "During World War II a group of us ladies pruned, trimmed and spaded the city garden from fence to fence as no men were available."

We must admit knowing Inez Getchell is a love affair. You can greet our beam of sunshine at the special 85 year and older table at our gala Christmas luncheon, on December 7th.



THE AMAZING WORLD OF EFFIE MAE HAWKINS

BY HER BELOVED
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

MYRTLE HAWKINS

Effie Mae Hawkins born on May 24, 1895 in Victor, Colorado was the daughter of early day miners. She attended San Jose Normal and completed her formal education at the University of California. She married William E. Hawkins, St., a Hollister Realtor and rancher, in 1919.

After 35 years as a teacher and principal in Hollister Schools, she moved to San Jose to be near her son, William E. (Ed) Hawkins, Jr. and his family, but she couldn't quit. She was a substitute teacher and did private tutoring. In 1960 she completed her training as a physiatric technician and was certified by the State Board of Vocational Nurse examiners. At 70 she was accepted for enlistment in the Peace Corps because of her excellent health, background and ability to work with people of India. She did complete her training in New York City, but declined the overseas position, at the request of her family.

She was seventy-six years old, but still very active and making plans for the future. A dedicated and successful tour leader for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County was concerned with their comfort and interests. As a narrator on the trips, she

kept her audience informed of the historical aspects of the area being passed through.

Her life was one of service far beyond her line of duty.

She was an active member of 13 organizations and had served on the Senate of The San Jose Metropolitan Adult Education.

Many beautiful memorials were sent in her memory including the Cancer Society, YWCA, Jobs Daughters, Humane Society, Park Hill Memorial Park in Hollister and "Indian Lore of the North California Coast" which was presented to the San Jose Historical Museum by the 1970-71 Board of Directors of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County.

Very keen and agile, she made the most of every day. She was very devoted

to her immediate family, her son and grandchildren, Debra Ann and Bruce Alan Hawkins. She was a tremendous help to me in my art career and a boost to our children's interest in striving for a good education and always attended lectures and classes to further her knowledge and education.

Her apartment was filled with mementos of her travels and shelves lined with books on travel, history and nature.

A very adventuresome woman, she climbed by rope the back side of Half Dome in Yosemite and traveled to most every part of the globe.

We are proud to have had a part in the life of such a remarkable person as Effie Mae Hawkins --- her memory and spirit will be with us always.

* * *

Our book SANTA CLARA COUNTY PIONEER PAPERS has been dedicated as a special memorial to Effie Hawkins for her outstanding service to our society and in leading the traveling group known as "The Californians." Included in the volume are three of the scholarship papers which generated wide interest, an early history of our organization as well as a reprint of the first edition of THE TRAILBLAZER.

Have you purchased a copy of this fine book? You will have another opportunity at our Dec. luncheon. Mail orders may be made to Lynn Vermillion, 2176 Cherrystone Drive, San Jose, CA 95128 for \$7.50 postpaid.

FIREFIGHTERS GOLDEN AGE

Hank Calloway

Fire codes in San Jose had taken a firm stand by June 1850. Structures of canvas, willow, cotton, tules, reeds and mustard stalks were regarded as hazardous and banned! Haystacks were prohibited within the city limits, unless they were "enclosed or guarded." Violators were subject to heavy penalties.

The City Council then decided on two fire districts, one extending from St. James to San Carlos St. and the other snuggled a water ditch from San Pedro to Second St. This convenient water supply met the needs of volunteer bucket brigades and hose reel carts of the districts.

On November 4th the same year San Jose's first fire company, Engine No. I, was organized, however, less than a month later was renamed Eureka No. I, because there was no engine.

In 1854 two additional volunteer companies were organized, Hook and Ladder No. I and Engine Co. No. I, costing the city \$1800 for an old hand pumper which had been shipped around Cape Horn.

The growth of our early fire department now involved a housing problem, that is until, Frank Light-

ston, a fiery spirited citizen offered help. Lightston remodeled a building of his and immediately rented the property to the city for 25¢ a year. Other eager groups passed the hat collecting \$404 for the purchase of a sizeable fire alarm bell. It did the job well for the vigilant firefighters and on special occasions signaled contests of speed and endurance among volunteers with vocal encouragement from partisan rooters. The volunteers merged from all ranks. Butchers, gardeners, blacksmiths, clerks, bankers, and merchants all responded to the fire bell. Mayor Sam Hensley was a volunteer as was George Donnor, II, survivor of the Sierra tragedy.

With our firefighting needs on the increase, the town provided an artesian well for the department in 1864.

The city grew and with it the fire menace. We were now introduced to the steam age of firefighting with the grand arrival of a Silsby steamer on June 6, 1867. From the railroad depot a "fire conquest" parade began with the gift wrapped \$6215 engine towed by elated volunteers to

Live Oak Park where a lavish picnic was provided. A thrilling demonstration followed as the jubilant crowd watched this matchless engine shoot an one inch stream 216 feet under 60 pounds of pressure. Newspapers reported, "This new engine will prove a squelcher when wanted!"

Prestige entered the volunteer organization by 1869. Volunteers with five or more years of service were considered "exempt," that is, they were free from jury duty, military service or poll tax payments.

Prized silver trumpets

were inscribed with a Company's inspiring motto such as "First in Danger" or "Always Ready." Its blare could be heard a county mile.

After several years the Empire Engine Co. and her rugged caretakers had to admit wrangling a two ton steamer to fires by hand was exhausting. They appealed to the City Council for a driver and a team of horses. On March 20, 1871 the Council approved the horsepower request, marking the start of 44 years of faithful fearless fire horse teams.



These daring 1876 fleet-footed volunteers of the Alert Hose Co. established a national record at a State Firemen's Convention by hauling a cart hose reel 300 yards to connect with a hydrant in 39 seconds.

No man walked our streets with greater pride than the pre-horse volunteer fire fighter. He was a hero in his time. A snug harbor of protection, he was his loyal neighbor's keeper.

LOOK FOR IT HERE

OWN A PIECE OF THE BLOCK! THE PERALTA ADOBE WILL BE RESTORED AFTER MORE THAN A CENTURY OF NEGLECT. The initial phase has begun, but additional funds are needed. As a Pioneer you can understand how ruthless we have been in the destruction of the past. Your contributions, large and small, will help towards a setting, showing the children of today and tomorrow how we began. WILL YOU TAKE PART? WE NEED YOU! Send your contribution to Peralta Adobe Restoration Fund, 12 South First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

We cordially welcome to our midst the "Clampers," The Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus, Mountain Charley Chapter 1850, Los Gatos. This colorful, historical and charitable brotherhood never overlooks a pilgrimage to save or restore some shrine of early day significance. Our best wishes to the new chapter and the reigning Noble Grand Humbug.

Clyde Arbuckle recently made a survey on some of our oldest living valley white oaks. The monarchs, well over 200 years old, are on the property of Dr. A. J. Benson near Coyote, once a part of the huge Laguna Seca Rancho. Almost fifty feet high with a girth of 17 feet and nearly six feet in diameter, the trees support branches up to 48 feet in length. Mr. Arbuckle believes one branch alone could provide five cords of wood. These trees were already giving shade when our early explorers passed this way.

MAY WE REPEAT: Every person of good moral character who has resided in the State of California fifty years or more, AND every person who is a descendant of someone who lived in California fifty years or more is ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN OUR SOCIETY. A qualified example is Marc A. Clark, one of our recent members, who is 15 years old and our youngest member. Happy Trails, Marc.

Dues date for 1975 has arrived and payable; however, we still have a few "turtles" on the 1974 dues roster. Please remit to Curt Bailey, 390 N. Winchester Blvd. 9C, Santa Clara, CA 95050.

Look For It Here

ARE YOU PLANNING TO MOVE? If so, please inform THE TRAILBLAZER six weeks in advance of publication to prevent interrupted service. Returned TRAILBLAZERS create added postage fees and a burden on our membership chairman. PLEASE HELP!

OUR SOCIAL CLUB now meets at the Town Park Towers at 60 North Third Street, on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. A 50¢ luncheon is provided at 1 pm followed by social activities. Remember, gentlemen are welcome too. Call Lovene Luhrman, 292-0070.

All our members 85 years of age or beyond will be specially honored at our Dec. 7th Christmas meeting. If you have reached the 85 year milestone, by all means notify Ruth Heath, 390 N. Winchester Blvd., 3-3G, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Phone: 241-4436

URGENT REGARDING RESERVATIONS

At the September Membership luncheon we made reservations for 479 who indicated that they planned to attend the luncheon. Only 371 were present. Lou's Village was about 100 reservations overly prepared. This can NOT happen again or we will lose our good relations with the management of Lou's Village. What happened? It is certain that those 100 who failed to attend did not cancel their reservations by phone calls.

PLEASE NOTE: If our December luncheon is overly subscribed, it will be necessary for the directors to have the membership pay IN ADVANCE for the luncheons. We have no other alternative. There is no better place to hold our luncheons than at Lou's Village, but we must cooperate with them.

IF YOU make a reservation for the Dec. meeting and find you have to cancel, please phone either: 243-5752 or 241-4436 or 244-1360.

LOOK FOR IT HERE (Cont'd)

TOURS: For reservations call Mrs. Ruth Gross, 379-4877, from 9am to noon, Mond. through Fri. Mail to Californians 2150-97 Almaden Rd., San Jose, CA 95125.

The 1903 Teddy Roosevelt Parade in our last issue has brought forth three responses from members who were spectators to the stirring occasion. Inez Getchell viewed it from St. John Street, Ralph Rambo was near the Winchester House and Laurence Bulmore reported he and his Union School classmates were at the actual tree planting.

On Sept. 22 the Saratoga Historical Foundation welcomed members and friends to an old time picnic at the Garrod Ranch fruit cutting shed. Hoedown dancers, singers, dramatic sketches and buggy rides provided a round of pleasure for all at a really old-time get-together.



O. I. Schmaelzle

Our September Membership Luncheon meeting was a real success in many ways. The attendance was good, the food was delicious, we recognized many new members and the San Jose Fire Dept's program was informative and educational. But there was one disappointing aspect of the meeting. Almost one hundred members who made reservations failed to attend the luncheon and did not cancel. This caused embarrassment to the directors and was a real financial loss to Lou's Village.

After a conference with the management of Lou's Village, the directors at the Oct. Board meeting decided to try once more the present plan for reservations but if the final reservation number is not accurate, it will be imperative for the March Luncheon meeting to have all reservations paid in advance. Please read carefully the notice elsewhere in this issue concerning this matter. Thank you for your full cooperation!

Our December Luncheon meeting will be a delightful affair. Our first vice-president, Tony Sapena, has been able to secure the choir of the Sacred Heart Church, San Jose, to sing familiar Christmas carols and hymns.

Invite some eligible friend to attend as your guest for this excellent program.

Welcome New Members

Lillian Anderson
 Thelma F. Atwell
 Ann Bagar
 Walter J. Bagar
 Katherine Baiocchi
 Ann Marie Bair
 Jeannette Blanchard
 Edna I. Bontrager
 Mildred V. Brown
 George G. Bruns
 Hilda Bruns
 Muriel H. Bushnell
 Hazel E. Campbell
 Esther Carlson
 Elmer S. Carson
 Ruth W. Carson
 Laura B. Chivers
 Myrtle Cox
 Gladys M. Czapkay
 Estelle E. Edmonds
 Katherine Frantz
 Anthony Gomes
 Grace Gomes
 Marie Griffis
 Sam F. Griffis
 Botilda Hansen
 Irene Hansen
 Eileen L. Harper
 Lucille E. Hassler
 Ruth A. Henderson

Gladys Higgins
 Ellen L. Holmes
 Clara L. Hunter
 Madeline E. Irons
 Mabel G. Jenkins
 Hermine C. Johnson
 Audrey Knight
 John F. Knight
 Alice M. Kohler
 Muriel S. Lacy
 Ella Larrus
 Evelyn M. Lootus
 Leanor C. Malott
 Elsie L. Maydole
 Rose B. Mendoza
 Barbara Miklica
 Emma E. Naucke
 George F. Prole
 Adele W. Renaud
 Leon T. Renaud
 William T. Renaud
 Carlton O. Rouse
 Ethel Rouse
 Dr. Louis J. Silva
 Dorothy Skold
 Jo Ann T. Stobaugh
 Wilma Tognazzini
 Lorraine F. Walsh
 Audrey A. Winters



Beyond the sunset

Feb. 18, 1903 -	Vernon F. Mead	- June 13, 1974
Dec. 12, 1901 -	Edmund W. Burr	- July 21, 1974
Aug. 7, 1904 -	Ben Camicia	- Aug 3, 1974
Sept. 18, 1901 -	Alice L. Johnson	- Aug 3, 1974
Aug. 17, 1891 -	Lola B. Spink	- Aug. 18, 1974
July 28, 1901 -	Ramona W. Moxley	- Aug. 22, 1974
Dec. 15, 1887 -	Maude P. Gorgers	- Sept. 7, 1974
May 21, 1883 -	Stella Baggs	- Sept. 8, 1974
May 21, 1894 -	Irba L. Close	- Sept. 30, 1974
Jan. 20, 1898 -	Jessie E. Black	- Oct. 7, 1974
May 11, 1891 -	Birdie A. Munson	- Oct. 24, 1974

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SAN JOSE, CALIF. 95155

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Van Gundy, Gene E. Vennum, Austen B. Warburton.

* * *

DUES: \$3 per year (tax exempt) To Curtis S. Bailey,
390 N. Winchester Blvd. 9C, Santa Clara, CA 95050

Phone: 244-1360

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - ADDRESS CHANGE: To Bernice
Van Gundy, 561 Fuller Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125

SICKNESS and DEATHS: Please notify Ruth M. Heath, 390
N. Winchester Blvd., 3-3G, Santa Clara, CA 95050 Phone:
241-4436