

THE TRAILBLAZER

Quarterly Bulletin of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County		
Volume 1	Summer 1961	Number 1

By-lines from the President
Austen D. Warburton

GREETINGS, PIONEERS! -- CONGRATULATIONS, TOO!

The officers and board of directors are happy to see another of our Society's plans fulfilled in the commencement of this publication. The committee has worked diligently to provide a means of communication between quarterly meetings. The result in this interesting issue, and future issues, will demonstrate its usefulness to us all.

Our record-breaking membership now approaches five hundred.

Our annual scholarship in local history at San Jose State College has produced excellent results. The papers which have been presented by the recipients at our June meetings have been outstanding. We have been ever alert to assist in the preservation of matters of historic interest and to encourage the preservation of our Pioneer heritage.

Outstanding among our activities has been the series of excellently planned trips to spots of beauty and historic worth, which Miss Gertrude Bernhardt has arranged.

Our past programs for quarterly meetings have been of a high quality and future programs are planned to continue the same tradition. Incidentally, be sure to note the change in the September meeting to September 9th, Admission Day -- (an appropriate time to get together!)

The social group meeting at the beautiful quarters provided by Mrs. Mabel Ogier carries on its own lively round of activities for the enjoyment of all of our members who desire to participate.

Other functioning committees, such as our committee for the "shut ins" help keep our Pioneer group like one big Pioneer family.

All in all, we have come a long way in our Pioneer Society -- but in keeping with the tradition we are still on the trail with much more to be done. Let's be about it!

Historical Library Clyde Arbuckle

HIT AND RUN DRIVERS make a lot of news these days, but they're nothing new. We've had 'em in San Jose for more than three quarters of a century. August 8, 1869, the Mercury reported that one of these elusive fellows had hit and injured Miss Virginia Bishop, daughter of the town's traction magnate, Samuel Addison Bishop. "This sort of thing must come to an end," the paper stated.

The modern hit runners, are just variants of an earlier problem. Almost every issue of the Mercury from 1870 to 1900 told how someone had been killed or badly injured when thrown from a runaway horse or overturned carriage. A nut behind a modern steering wheel is admittedly dangerous, but an old-time horse or mule with ideas of its own was equally so.

In 1860 Joseph Lee brought a redwood seedling down from the Santa Cruz mountains, and planted it in front of his home on East Santa Clara Street. In the early 1920's Lee's house faded into history, and the San Jose Hospital took its place. But the redwood seedling, now a great tree, remained. It's still standing in front of the hospital -- the most venerable landmark in that section of town.

For the first four years after our County government's organization in 1850, the County Assessor was ex-officio superintendent of schools. Then, in 1855, we got our first regularly elected superintendent, Freeman Gates elected on the Know Nothing Ticket!

San Jose Streets and Avenues in the early days had any number of dual, triple and even quadruple names. Park Avenue in 1875 was Park Ave. from Market St. to the Guadalupe River, Sunol St. from the Guadalupe to Los Gatos Creek, South St. from Los Gatos Creek to the curve at Meridian, then Union Ave. to the town of Santa Clara.

Meridian Road took its name from the Mt. Diablo meridian on which it was laid out in 1852. Nathaniel Hicks and Edwin Everett, asked that it be laid out, "on the meridian from the Alameda to Arroyo de Los Gatos.

Looking Backward

Arthur Fisk

100 Years Ago - Civil War

"Hostilities" began with the secession of South Carolina from the Union, December 20, 1860. On January 9, 1861, the "Star of the West" was fired upon in Charleston harbor. The fall of Fort Sumter, on April 14, 1861, aroused the North to the imminence of the crisis.

California had always been a Democratic state, and men of southern birth and southern principles had controlled its affairs. Nearly all the leaders, elected or appointed, were southerners, subservient to southern interests. The Marysville Express conducted a clearing-house of all news and information for the southerners and boasted of eighteen thousand members, who were flying palmetto flags.

It was common talk that California would be taken out of the Union. This became quite acute when Albert Sidney Johnston became commander of the military force in the state. He made no attempt to control the southern sympathizers. Edward D. Baker who had resided in San Jose for a short time was a friend of Lincoln and an orator of great eloquence, used his influence to have Johnston relieved, and on April 24, 1861, he was relieved by Unionist General E. A. Sumner.

The Civil War had made its way west, and Congress, convinced of the conspiratorial plot in California, required all easterners to secure passports before they could go to California.

Ulysses S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman and John C. Fremont were in California at the outbreak of the Civil War. They were all well known in San Jose, having visited here on many occasions. At the outbreak of the war they left for Washington to be commissioned officers.

The widow of John Brown, who was one of the participants in the "Osawtomie" massacre and led the attack on Harper's Ferry, is buried in the Madrona Cemetery at Saratoga.

Santa Clara County played an important part in the Civil War and many home town stories of importance came out of this war, but space will not permit us to print them in this issue.

98 Years Ago

(From the files of the San Jose Tribune, June-July 1863)

Summer schedule: On and after Friday, May 1st 1863

the following arrangement will take effect. The new and fast steamer Sophie Mc Lane, will make daily trips from Alviso to San Francisco. Returning the boat will leave Broadway wharf at 2 p.m.

Felix Sourisseau, Gunsmith, percussin caps, powder flasks, game bags, shot pouches, wadding and wad-vutters. Shop on First Street, San Jose.

The War: It is quite useless to fill up the paper with telegraphic announcements concerning the war. We have no doubt that Grant is doing his best and fighting bravely, but whether he will be able to maintain his ground before Pemberton in the fortification of Vicksburg with Johnston operating in the rear remains to be seen.

Washington Livery Stable, new carriages and good horses, on Santa Clara Street, San Jose.

According to returns made to the board of Education, there are in the City of San Jose: Males under 18 years of age 465. Females under 18 years of age 455.

Edward Albion, coffins, any size and quality. Prices are low. First Street, San Jose.

Fall meeting, San Jose Race Course will commence on Tuesday, September 8, 1863 at Race and the Alameda.

Note: The San Jose Tribune sympathized with the South and it was forced to close. The last issue was printed September 11, 1863.

60 Years Ago

(From the files of the San Jose Mercury, August 1901)

August 2, 1901 - Fire broke out at 9:27 a.m. in a two story frame barn in the rear of Lord and Westlake's livery stable on San Pedro street. The fire demonstrated the worthlessness of two of the engines belonging to the department, both machines breaking down while in service.

Special at Hales: H & M corset, made of black sateen, long over the hips and abdomen, low in the bust and under the arms, boned with wide boning; suitable for stout women. Price \$1.00.

The Figprune Cereal Co., desires to inform the public that a limited amount of stock is now open at the Garden City Bank and Trust Company. George C. Anderson, Secy.

Shaves 10¢ and hair cuts 20¢ at 33 Fountain Street.

Assembly amendment No. 23, exempts Stanford University from taxation, was recorded in this County August 1.

An enjoyable evening can be spent at the Rural Gardens, on South Second Street.

40 Years Ago

(From the files of the San Jose Mercury Herald, July 1921)

6 room bungalow for sale, with sleeping porch and built in features, garage with cement floor. On street car line. \$4,750.00.

The stretch of highway is finished from the Summit to Glenwood and that completes the highway from Santa Cruz to Patchin. The road from Los Gatos to Patchin will be finished by August 1, 1921.

Gus Wendt & Son, Saturday special, Leg of Pork 25¢ lb.

A talk by Dr. Tully Knoles, President of the College of the Pacific, was the magnet that filled the I.O.O.F. hall at Campbell on Tuesday evening June 28, 1921.

Pioneer Anecdotes

In 1890 Thomas Mayne maintained a wild duck pond in the New Chicago area, near Alviso. Prominent sportsmen of the County enjoyed fine shooting and paid him \$100.00 per month to keep all others out.

One Saturday morning when Mayne was absent, a group of hunters entered the area. His wife, Margaret knew her duty was to chase out the intruders. All heeded her admonitions except one.

Margaret was very much afraid of firearms, but an excellent housewife, and always wore a tie-on apron. When outside she had formed the habit of keeping her right hand under her apron.

Margaret yelled, "get out, this is private property!"

Upon seeing her hand under her apron, he immediately took to his heels, never stopping until he was safe in the "Pelee Cafe."

There the frightened hunter related his experience, about the woman who chased him out. Keeping her hand under her apron all the while, and he was positive that she had a pistol in her hand.

Jules Pelee, owner of the cafe and a close friend of Mr. and Mrs. Mayne, knew of Margaret's fear of guns. He was a man who enjoyed a good joke and very seriously replied. "Man, you are sure lucky that woman didn't shoot you. She always carries a pistol under her apron, and she is an expert shot."

Virginia M. Mayne

Years ago, my father, William F. Fitts, was superintendent of car lines in San Jose and Santa Clara, horse drawn and later electric.

There was a horse car line on Stockton Avenue about four blocks from our home. It ran from the Alameda to Polhemus Street, where the College of the Pacific was located. My sister and I felt quite privileged, and we would walk or run to Stockton Avenue and one would drive the horse and other collect fares. Sometimes we were alongside the car, sort of a race.

Some days we would go to the car barn corral, which was located at the point where the Los Gatos and Guadalupe creeks came together. We would ride bare back, and knew we were disobeying, but gee we had fun.

Minette F. Chloupek

Look for it Here

Sixty years ago, vacationers flocked to Capitola. A few ventured as far away as Pacific Grove, but today- its different! **Miss Alice Vetterle has returned from a tour of Utah & S.W. Indian country. **Miss Lou Luhrman visited her sister in Ukiah during June. **The Rudy Fischers left recently via bus for a 4 weeks tour of Alaska, they will return via steamer. ** The Hubert Hoods expect to visit Mexico, plus Panama. ** Mrs. Ortenzia Little will spend her vacation on the Eastern Seaboard. ** Mrs. Elisabeth Telfer will visit "South of the Border" with the Vagabonds. ** Miss Caroline Rogers will spend about four months in Southern Europe. ** The Pioneer bus tour to Chico, June 10th & 11th was most instructive and enjoyed by all. ** Dr. and Mrs. Earl Rhoads enjoyed a delightful trip to British Columbia. **Mrs. Clyde Arbuckle recently returned from a trip down the Rogue River on a raft, with the Sierra Club.

There was a unanimous vote at the quarterly meeting to send a resolution of recognition and appreciation to Dr. A. T. Leonard, Jr., in San Francisco, for his many years of interest, loyalty, hard work and inspiration contributed to our Society. This included the message that we miss him at our meetings, and have the best of wishes for his welfare.

For information concerning chartered bus tours for members of the Pioneer Society, phone Gertrude A. Bernhardt, CY 3-3087.

Your officers elected at the June 12th meeting, were duly installed at the Board of Directors meeting on July 10th. Mr. Forrest Von Dorsten served as installing officer.

Our next quarterly meeting will be held Saturday, September 9th.

Welcome

Congratulations to our new members: Ethel A. Anderson, P. Bernice Arnerich, Evelyn S. Davis, Edward P. Davis, William F. Dennis, Genevieve J. Jordon, Helen V. Northup, Bertha Ann Ogden, G. Milton Ogden, Clair B. Sheets, Malea D. Schirle, Cosby Ida Sheldon Weber.

Social

Social Club members enjoyed a well planned luncheon at the Hyatt House on Monday, July 3rd.

The Social Club of your Society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday afternoon of each month. Card playing and various activities highlight each meeting. For further information concerning Club activities call Mrs. Kate L. Owen, CY 5-1153.

Under the Weather

Mrs. Minnie Sicotte - 95 years old is in the Campbell Convalescent Hospital, 3580 Payne Ave. She is feeling fine and would be happy to have visitors and receive cards.

Mrs. Ida S. Steinagel is quite ill at home and would appreciate receiving cards.

Mrs. Flora G. Brooks is home after a short stay in the hospital.

Mrs. Gussie Maderis is at home and very much improved.

Kindly keep your officers informed as to the condition of any ill member, and report any sickness to the Chairman of our Good-will committee; Mrs. Irene Lial, phone CY 4-2057.

Beyond the Horizon

Arthur P. Taylor

December 27, 1873 - May 21, 1961

Paul R. Hichborn

September 21, 1898 - June 26, 1961

The officers and members of the California Pioneer Society of Santa Clara County extend their sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of our beloved members.

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End of the Line

The Old Murphy home at Sunnyvale faces certain razing, unless we can convince the State Park Commission that it should be saved.

The City Council of Sunnyvale voted not to pay the annual cost of maintaining the house. The State has agreed to restore the house as an historical monument, but will not maintain it.

Let us all do our bit to help preserve this 111 year old landmark.

Mountainous Move

In a recent Rand McNally Road Atlas, they did a mountainous job, by moving Mt. Diablo from its present location, 120 miles into Yosemite Park and added 1851 feet.