

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 2

JUNE, 1998

CARRIE STEVENS WALTER --(1846-1907)

by Helen Arbuckle

Little was known in 1900 about the forest of giant trees that grew deep in the Santa Cruz mountains in the area now known as BIG BASIN. Andrew P. Hill, the photographer and artist, had heard many stories about the strange, big trees and the grizzly bears that had from time to time attacked or killed the early pioneers. He decided to take his camera and explore the area. The property owner denied him permission to photograph the trees. The rebuff aroused Hill's indignation. He resolved that earth's oldest living things should be preserved for future generations, rather than be limited to a few lumbermen who intended to cut the trees into shingles, railroad ties and fence posts. Conservation and preservation became his buzz words.

Hill knew it wouldn't be a one-man effort. One of the first persons he asked to help him with his preservation efforts was Carrie Stevens Walter, a well-known writer and newspaperwoman with a love of the outdoors. She was one of a group of government officials, the press, business, the professions and clubs to lobby the legislature for a park. Among these were Benjamin Ide Wheeler of the University of California, M.H. de Young of San Francisco, David Starr Jordan of Stanford University, James D. Phelan, Mayor of San Francisco, John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, Mrs. Louise (Stephen) Jones, President of the San Jose Woman's Club, the Reverend R.E. Kenna, president of

Santa Clara College and the Sempivirons Club.

Carrie Walter, who traced her ancestry through both parents to the Revolutionary War and the Mayflower, came to California from Missouri in 1856. Her father, J.E. Stevens, acquired his education on the frontier as had Abraham Lincoln, by reading at the light of the fireplace after days of back-breaking farm work. He drove a herd of cattle across the plains and sold them to butcher shops in the mining camps. During the family's early years in California, Stevens was a cattle dealer, when the Mother Lode counties were still wild and unsettled, infested with robbers and other low characters.

Carrie often accompanied her father on his business trips because they enjoyed each other's company. On one occasion, while riding their horses along a narrow trail, her father observed two riders through the trees approaching them. At the same time, they spotted Stevens, their behavior suddenly became strange. They seemed to be drunk and both fell off their horses, landing in such a way that Carrie and her father would have to pass between them. Stevens often carried large amounts of gold in his saddle bags so he quickly checked his holster, otherwise giving no sign of suspicion or fear. "My heart was in my mouth," Carrie remembered.

Within a few hundred yards of the men, the road abruptly descended in a ravine where a thick clump of trees hid them from view. The instant they were out of sight, Stevens turned and whispered, "Hold on, Carrie," giving her pony a flick of his quirt and both plunged down the ravine. They had a head start before the robbers discovered they had been given the slip. the robbers gave chase and fired a few shots. As they neared their hotel, the robbers retreated. Mrs. Walter always believed that one of them was the notorious bandit, Tom Bell.

In an article written years later for "Historic Facts and Fancies", Mrs. Walter recounted the experience. "Some months after this, Tom Bell was captured.

Unfortunately, I do not remember the circumstances of his capture.

His trial took place in Marysville and my father was one of the jurymen. During the trial, a trunkful of the highwayman's various disguises was opened in the courtroom and he was requested to put them on. He put on a Mexican disguise that father instantly recognized as that of the leader of our foiled robbers. Father asked the prisoner if he remembered the attempt to waylay us. He frankly acknowledged that he did, and described his surprise at our escape. He said that he had been 'laying' for father for some months, and had been told by a spy when he left Eureka North with his saddle bags full of gold."

"I am not certain about the fate of the famous, 'Terror of the Northern Mines'." He was condemned of course, but whether to State Prison or death, I do not remember. Probably the former, as I do not remember any murders committed in his famous career." Joseph Henry Jackson, in his *Bad Company*, (Harcourt Brace, 1939-1940) recounts Bell's capture and hanging by a posse on October 4, 1856 at age 26.

Carrie Stevens came to Santa Clara County in 1867 and taught at Berryessa school. At age 21, she met and married William Walter, a rancher in Santa Clara and Contra Costa Counties who later became identified with mining in El Dorado County. They were the parents of two sons and one daughter. One of the sons, Roy, was San Jose's City Auditor for about forty years.

When the children were small, the family lived in the area of Doyle and Stevens Creek Roads, moving later to 600 North Third Street in San Jose.

Early in 1893, Carrie edited and published, *The Santa Clara and the Tourist: A New Monthly Magazine for Travelers*. One Year for \$1.50. It carried real estate ads for land at prices ranging from \$5 per acre for the poorest hill country to \$12 per acre for good pasture land. A forty-acre orchard of bearing trees in the Saratoga foothills was

advertised for \$5,000; \$1500 down and balance on long time at low interest.

In other issues, Walter carried on civic fights for electrical illumination for the streets; bringing the railroad to San Jose, and the Preservation of the Alameda as an historic road.

She wholeheartedly accepted the Bicycle for women, however, she suggested abolishing the flowing skirts for the riders and adopting the "neat, modest, safe, divided skirt fastened at the ankle. This, above a tidy, well-fitting boot, with a soupcon--(gay nineties terminology for a very small amount, or mere suggestion) of stocking, either imagined or dimly discerned, is an ideal costume for the woman bicyclist, who is not 'coming' but already here."

She was an outspoken advocate of equal rights in the professions. She claimed a profession should be sexless. Why should a woman, more than a man, fling the idea of her sex into any sort of work? She protested the use by female physicians of Mrs. preceding their names in advertising columns--Mrs. Dr. H.S. Spoondyke. Does a man refer to himself as Mr. Dr. John Smith? Walter was equally annoyed with women who had no legitimate claim to a profession yet basked in the glow of their husband's title--Ms. Judge Rhodes or Mrs. Col. Atkins.

After six years, Carrie discontinued publishing the magazine and joined the campaign to save Big Basin. She helped fight the battle for preservation, step by step, until it was accomplished. It meant fighting the lumbermen who wished to utilize the huge trees to enhance their own income and satisfy the demands of newcomers by the thousands, pouring into the state for housing and business. It meant convincing the legislators of the many advantages of acquiring the property.

She used her writing skills to appeal for public support. "Imagine," she wrote, "some thousands of acres of giant trees girdling from ten to 75 feet and standing hundreds of feet in height . . . the delicious odors that bring health and rejuvenation to sick and tired humanity. Imagine, if you can,

the stately grandeur, the marvelous beauty, the mysterious stillness that draws you like a magnet into its depths."

Her prescience was confirmed when she wrote in the July, 1900, *The Advocate*, "Think what such a park would be to the great mass of crowded and city-smothered humanity that surrounds it! A breathing place for millions, when the West Bay Peninsula shall become one solid city. . . as it will in time. . . as far south as San Jose and farther."

After an intense crusade, sometimes discouraging when only Hill was carrying on the battle, the legislature passed a bill providing \$250,000 to buy 3800 acres. Governor Henry T. Gage signed the measure on March 16, 1901, making Big Basin, California's first State Park.

Because of its proximity to metropolitan centers, Big Basin draws close to a million people every year. Many just drive though its shady, winding mountain roads and about 200,000 pay to picnic, hike or spend the night camping.

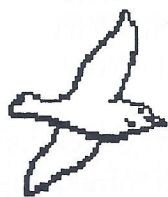
Besides her interest in conservation, Mrs. Walter was a member of Santa Isabel Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR); was active in the newly organized San Jose Woman's Club, the Woman's Suffrage Movement along with Clara Foltz, Sarah Knox-Goodrich and Laura Watkins. She wrote creditable poetry and published a book of verse, *Rose Ashes*.

Her funeral at St. Joseph's Church on April 28, 1907, drew a large attendance of city, county and state officials. The Sempivirens Club and Woman's Club held an impressive memorial service later at the Woman's Club House where members paid special tributes in her honor.

GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS

LUCINDA M. BEHNES
BERTHA BERRYESSA
MARIE E. BERRYESSA
VIVIAN G. CHUBB
ESTHER C. CROSBY
LUCILLE FLYNN
CLIFF HUNTER

MARCH 30, 1998
FEBRUARY 4, 1998
MARCH 7, 1998
MARCH 9, 1998
MARCH 15, 1998
FEBRUARY 14, 1998
JANUARY 1, 1998



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BOB FISHER

For some time, the Board has held discussions on the rates we have been charging for our Annual Dues and Life Memberships. Our only income is membership dues and interest earned on our bank accounts. It is from this income that we are able to provide the services to our membership that we do.



Because of inflation and rising costs of doing business, we have noticed that our income has not kept up with expenses. Our annual dues have not been adjusted for quite some time and the Board, therefore, voted to increase the fees to make up for the steady decline in the monies available for Pioneer projects.

Effective January 1, 1999, the following rates will be applied:

ANNUAL DUES--- \$10

APPLICATION FEE FOR MEMBERSHIP from \$4 to \$5

LIFE MEMBERSHIP -SINGLE- increased from \$75 to \$100

LIFE MEMBERSHIP-COUPLES-increased from \$125 to \$175

See you all at the quarterly meeting. Bob Fisher

DATE CHANGE NOTICE from Jim Arbuckle

Mark your calendars for September 5 and DECEMBER 12
the SECOND Saturday in December

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Edna Campbell

Patricia Curia

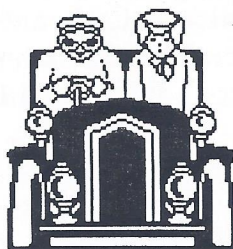
Forest & Glendoris Fingerle

Lara Gularte

Doris Lane

Diana Wirt

Anita Yow



On the sick list are Irene Johnson and Robert Muench who both joined the Bionic Bunch with new knees.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewals have been quite good this year. We have only 52 delinquent members as of May 1. Some have even paid twice. Please look at your mailing labels to see if you still need to send in dues for 1998. As you have noted by the President's message, dues will be increased for 1999 to \$10, but for those 52 members who owe for 1998, we will still accept \$7 to make them current. Send your check to Bob and Irene Johnson, 445 North 15th St., San Jose, CA, 95112- together with a self addressed, stamped envelope for the return of your membership card. Please be certain to send us a change of address card if you move, as it is costly to buy back the undelivered Trailblazers which the Post Office defaces, and send out new ones to our members.



HELEN ARBUCKLE AT 90 in an Atlantic City Beach Chair
"Go it old girl!" (as the Cockney man told Queen Victoria as she drove to her 90th birthday Celebration.) Photo by M.L. Lyon
NOTE: the photo of Clyde Arbuckle in the March issue was taken by Bev Hesse

SEE THE EXHIBIT ON THE GOLD RUSH SHIP *THE FROLIC*
at the Maritime Museum, San Francisco. It ran aground 60 miles north of Ft Ross in 1849 and marine archeologists have been diving to find her treasures.-Beautifully Presented!



Touring With The Californians

Rose Crimi Muench - Director

Nancy Hill - Phone Reservations (258-3449-M-F before noon)

Pauline Hawkins - Treasurer-

1223 Redcliff Dr., San Jose, CA, 95118-1228

Registration for Summer Trips Begins at the June 6 Luncheon. Non-Members & Guests may sign up starting June 15. If you did not get a trip flyer at the Luncheon meeting, send stamped self-addressed legal sized envelope to the above address.

Pick up Point (unless otherwise indicated) is at Valley Village, 390 North Winchester Blvd., Santa Clara at the Dolores St side of the complex.

JUNE 25 THURSDAY - PENINSULA MANSIONS-REGISTRATION IN PROGRESS We continue to explore Bay Area historic homes with a visit to the Kohl Mansion in Burlingame. Completed in 1914, the imposing 63 room English Tudor home was nestled in 40 acres of oak-studded grounds. It later became a convent for the Sisters of Mercy and then a girls' school. For our included lunch, we travel to the Redwood Cafe and Spice Co. in Redwood City. The restaurant is housed in the old Dielmann House built in 1874. Two adjacent old homes are now a country store and an antique shop. We will have the opportunity to browse after lunch. Our final visit is to the Lathrop House, a rare example of Steamboat Gothic built in 1863. It was the home of three prominent San Mateo County residents before it became a boarding house and later, apartments. It has now been restored to its original condition and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

LEAVE 9AM

RETURN 3:30 PM

PRICE \$36

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13 PRESIDIO & LEGION OF HONOR, THRACIAN TREASURE EXHIBIT

We travel to the Legion of Honor Museum in San Francisco at Land's End overlooking the Pacific Ocean. We will have a docent tour of "The Wealth of the Thracians" exhibit from Bulgaria featuring over 200 gold and silver treasures from 1200 to 400 BC including the latest discovery unearthed in 1986. We will have 1 1/2 hours free time to see other exhibits and have lunch on your own at the Museum Cafe or bring a picnic lunch to eat in the lovely sculpture gardens on the grounds. After lunch, we will follow the scenic shoreline to the Presidio. Founded by Captain Juan Bautista de Anza in 1776, it served as a major military post under Spain, Mexico and the United States until it was decommissioned in 1994. From the Visitor Center, a National Park Ranger will give us a guided tour including the Military Cemetery, Post chapel, Infantry barracks, Officers' Row, Presidio Museum, Crissy Field and the Pet Cemetery and other points of interest over its 1480 acres.

LEAVE 9 A.M.

RETURN 5 P.M.

PRICE \$23

MID-SEPTEMBER NAPA VALLEY GETAWAY

A special flyer will be available at the June luncheon for a 3 day visit to the Napa Valley during grape harvest time. Some of our adventures will include lunch at the Culinary Institute of America West Coast Branch in St. Helena with a tour of the old Christian Brothers Greystone Winery, the Silverado Museum & Library celebrating Robert Louis Stevenson, Calistoga's "Old Faithful" geyser and the Petrified Forest, the Sterling Winery tramride, tour and lunch, the Sharpsteen Museum featuring its founder, Sam Brannan 19th Century Calistoga and many other attractions.

4TH OF JULY-SPIRIT OF AMERICA

We are invited to join the Sirs (Sons in Retirement) 4 day tour, July 3-6, featuring Donner Memorial State Park, Carson City Historic District and Capitol of Nevada, Virginia City Fireworks display, 4th of July BBQ,, hayrides and bluegrass

entertainment, Ponderosa Ranch, pancake breakfast & tour, M.S. Dixie II paddlewheeler luncheon cruise on Lake Tahoe. We will stay at the Reno Hilton Hotel. The cost is \$488 + \$129 for single supplement. Californians tour director, Rose Crimi Muench will escort our group. Act quickly on this. Call Ed Schwartz (268-3129) or Rose (293-0896) for a brochure.

DECEMBER 30 PASADENA ROSE PARADE

We are invited to join the SIRS 5 DAY ROSE PARADE TOUR DECEMBER 30-JANUARY 3, featuring reserved grandstand seating for the Rose Parade, Preview of floats, New Year's Eve Ball, Los Angeles City Tour, Tour of the new J. Paul Getty Museum, stay at the Anaheim Hilton Hotel Cost is \$688 + \$200 single supplement. Rose Crimi Muench will escort our group. Brochures will be available at the June luncheon.

The CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES Fall Symposium will be in Grass Valley-Nevada City October 9-11 to celebrate the Gold Rush. More information in the next newsletter.

SAN JOSE HISTORICAL MUSEUMS is sponsoring a comprehensive 14 day trip to Alaska, August 4-18 aboard the Universe Explorer and a Convair 580 with Lifelong Learning including Vancouver, B.C., British Columbia's Inside Passage, Wrangell, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, Gulf of Alaska, Seward, Valdez, Prince William Sound, Yakutat Bay, Hubbard Glacier, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria, B.C., The Kenai Peninsula, Anchorage, Mt. McKinley, Kotzebue Eskimo Village and Fairbanks. Call 800-854-4080

ONGOING SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED --The Oakland Museum Gold Rush! Exhibit until July plus a special exhibit on Art of the Gold Rush and another on Photos of the Gold Rush. Take Bart to Lake Merritt Station and walk one block.

BANCROFT LIBRARY HAS A SMALL EXHIBIT, ALSO

**1998 OFFICERS - CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

Robert G. Fisher-- President

3435 Yuba Av. San Jose, CA
95117-2966 408-241-0224

David McKinney, 1st V.P.

P.O. Box 6772, San Jose CA
95150-6772 408-732-1946

Jim Arbuckle, 2nd V. P.

988 Franquette Av. San Jose
408-265-9722

Jane Brownnton-Corresponding Sec

10 Kirk Av, San Jose CA
95127-2214 408-929-7591

Doris Herschbach-Recording Sec

Telfer Av, San Jose CA
95125-3346 408-294-1509

Mimi Wells-Treasurer

16 Ayer Ave, San Jose, CA
95110-2201 408-293-0134

Robert & Irene Johnson

Financial Secretary & Membership

445 North 15th St, San Jose, CA
95112-1726 408-275-1389

Helen MacCarthy-Archivist

270 Umbarger Road #123
San Jose, CA 95111-2032
408-578-4485

Paul R. Bernal-Legal Advisor

70 West Hedding,
San Jose, CA 95110-
408-299-7400

Hacienda Cemetery

Richard Hill

10393 Doris Court,
San Jose CA 95127-3013
408-258-3449

Bud & Marie Amaral

6001 Vera Cruz Av,
San Jose CA 95120-4864
408-268-4078

Audit Committee

Hal Messimer
18950 Sara Park Circle
Saratoga, CA 95070-4177
253-3888

Joseph (Bud) &

Marie Amaral

6001 Vera Cruz Av
San Jose, 95120-4864
408-268-4078 95125-2619

Ruth Savage -Sunshine

4002 Club House Ct.,
San Jose, CA 95135-1482
408-531-8496

Beverly J. Fisher-Sunshine

3435 Yuba Av. San Jose, CA
95117-2966 408-241-0224

Melita Kelly-Marshall

460 N. 15th St.
San Jose, CA 95112-1725
292-2385

Parliamentarian

Californians-Tours

Rose Crimi Muench

1289 Martin St
San Jose 95126-2628
408-293-0896

Californians -Reservations

Nancy Hill 408-258-3449

Before Noon

Californians Treasurer

Pauline Hawkins,
1223 Redcliff Dr.
San Jose, CA 95118-1228

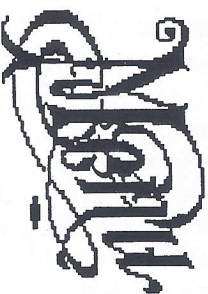
**Submissions to the Trailblazer For the September Issue must be
received by July 15 Mary Lou Lyon- Ed 879 Lily Ave, Cupertino, CA
95014-4261 (408-253-9514)**

PO BOX 8208 SAN JOSE CA 95155
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

PIONEER LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, JUNE 6 AT NOON
LOU'S VILLAGE

COME MEET THE WINNERS OF THE
1998 PIONEER ESSAY CONTEST



*Cross Rib of Beef
Salad & Bread
Roasted Potatoes
Vegetable*

\$15 *Sherbert & Coffee*

RESERVATIONS 554-7587
BEFORE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CUPERTINO, CA
PERMIT NO. 543

RECORDS COORDINATOR L
10393 DORIS CT
SAN JOSE, CA 95127-3013

