

THE TRAILBLAZER

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THE ONE DOLLAR BILL

On the back of our one dollar bill is our country's motto, "In God We Trust," and a representation of the obverse and reverse of the Great Seal of the United States.

The first committee on the Great Seal was formed July 4, 1776, and consisted of Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. These men were great scholars, versed in foreign languages, and familiar with ancient history and philosophy.

The face of the Great Seal is on the right and shows the American bald eagle, our Nation's symbol. As the eagle lives nobly and majestically in high places, so should our ideals always be high. As the eagle's breast is protected by a shield, so are our individual rights, which we hold dear, protected by our Constitution. Clutched in the eagle's right claw is an olive branch and in the left claw are thirteen arrows, signifying that our Government has the power of peace or war. The head of the eagle always turns toward the olive branch indicating a desire for peace, even in war. In the eagle's beak is a ribbon with the motto E Pluribus Unum, meaning "Out of Many, One." Above the eagle is a heavenly burst with thirteen stars, which indicates the spiritual above the material.

On the left is the reverse of the Great Seal with an incomplete Egyptian pyramid representing "Solid Strength and Duration." The unfinished pyramid means that the United States will always build, grow and improve. The thirteen courses of stone in the pyramid refer to the thirteen original States and the separate stones represent local self-government. At the bottom are the words Novus Ordo Seclorum, meaning "A New Order of the Ages."

Above the pyramid is an eye within a triangle. Since ancient times this has been the "All-Seeing Eye of God." And last, the words Annuit Coeptis above the pyramid mean "God has favored our Undertakings."

LINGERING BY THE SIDE OF FRIENDSHIP ROAD

Lovesta Dorwin Davis

(Continued from the Winter issue)

Travel on The Alameda was not immediately improved with the coming of the Americans, even though the shady road was a short stretch of Hall and Crandall's regular stagecoach route to San Francisco. Later a franchise was given to The Alameda Turnpike Company to operate a toll road, with the understanding that accruing funds would be used to improve the road. It failed after six years, and the road was again free.

While the open lands to the west and south were still unfenced a few intrepid Squatters once brought lumber in the night and began to build beside the road. They were routed without delay and the legal width of the right-of-way was established as 115 feet. Later, a number of granite monuments were set up along the way to mark the boundaries.

With the elimination of the toll gates in 1868, other plans were made to improve travel along The Alameda. This necessitated removing the off-center row of trees. Immediately (then as now) there arose dismayed public outcry over the loss of even one venerable tree, but they were battered and decaying with age, and must be removed to make way for rails for horse-cars. These were operated successfully for about a decade, between First Street in San Jose and Main Street in Santa Clara. Then in 1887 came the electric railroads that soon displaced not only all the remaining center trees, but all the horse-car systems in the area. The mudholes finally disappeared as parts of The Alameda were macadamized.

New homes came too--beautiful two and three story houses set back from the roadway, making The Alameda the loveliest drive in town. But that is another story, with a modern setting. It could be titled "Felled by the Hand of Progress", for one by one, perhaps twos and threes or more, the decrepit old willows yielded to axe and saw, so that the opulent new homes might be properly landscaped. A shady way--el-alameda, was to remain however, for the fallen willows were replaced by elms and sycamores that soon reached their natural loftiness. Thirteen of the good Padre's willows remained until the year 1917. Gradually ten more went down, in the name of progress.

And then there were THREE standing staunchly there "by the side of the road" for a few years longer. As they lingered, like Patriarchs biding their time--what

exciting, often poignant, sometimes tragic tales they might have told--if they could! They might be dreaming of the creaking carretas and clattering hoofbeats, and loiterers in the welcome shade; of shouts of laughter by day and sometimes cries for help in the night; of lurching stagecoaches and laden freight wagons and clouds of dust; of swaying horsecars and clanging bells of electric cars; and then the sedate clop-clop of horseshoes on macadam, and the glittering surreys with the fringe on top, on a quiet Sunday evening.

And then at last the rush, the roar and screech of modern traffic along a broad, well-lighted, properly-curbed, modern city street. Still a "shady way" it was lined now by only a few of the earlier old dwellings, looking like interlopers set amidst the many sparkling up-to-the-minute commercial buildings.

As Time had slipped away these THREE tokens of Catala's goodwill became bent and hoary. Fragile with age and disease they required the services of tree surgeons and guy-wires, then they were laid low. Although the Division of Highways wished to spare them during the construction of the underpasses, it was not possible to do so. The lone Patriarch standing in the 2000 block fell in the summer of 1960. And then there were TWO, lingering frail and gaunt in the 1800 block until early spring of 1961.

During their removal ONE, alone, was found with a spark of life in it. From the partly decayed stump, at nearly ground level, a new green shoot thrust its way upward! The diseased stump was scientifically treated and covered over from sight. The spindly little twig was nurtured with loving care by the Owner of the property on which it stood. And it grows there, in the midst of the rush and roar and screech of modern traffic. It has a divided trunk, and the characteristic rounded leafy contour. At the tender age of about four or five years, it has grown to be about 20 feet tall.

New growth on an old buried and forgotten stump! A sturdy young tree--offspring of a willow cutting, itself taken from an old tree along the banks of the Guadalupe in 1797, and set out in that spot in 1799 by an unknown pair of slim brown hands. How long will it be allowed to linger there by the side of the road? A philosopher sees it in its present insignificance and ponders the Continuity of Life. The speed-mad traffic does not see it at all.

RHOADS' LETTERS

Permission to print granted by Dr. Earl E. Rhoads
(Following letter was carried from California to Missouri
by James Stice in 1847)

Dear Parents:

I take my pen in hand to inform you that we are all well and hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing. We all arrived safe in California except John Patterson. He died and was buried near the plains of California.

We made our arrival on October 1st through many troubles and difficulties. The first part of our journey was pleasant and beautiful traveling until we got about half way. We then began to get tired and out of heart and the grass was failing & our cattle were weak. After we came to the mountains, grass was very scarce.

Our travel was mostly up rivers. We traveled up the Platte to the mountains. Up Sweetwater to the South Pass. The mountains were passable about 15 or 20 miles at the pass. From there on we traveled down the stream. We came to Mary's River & down it 330 miles to the sink.

On the old route there is but one long drive. The route we came there are two--a day and a night's travel, each without water or grass. The first is from Big Sandy to Greenwood's Cut-off. The second is from the Sink of Mary's River to Truckey's River.

Between Mary's and Truckey's Rivers is boiling springs. There are rocks blown off half as big as a house.

These springs are not like other springs. The water does not run from them unless there is a blow-up. It is boiling like a pot. There are a number of warm or hot springs on the road. Also salt & soda & sulphur springs. At these soda springs there are about five within bounds of 10 feet, a clear, a red, a black and two soda springs.

We traveled hundreds of miles without seeing a stick of growing timber, but plenty of small willows.

We had exceeding good roads until we came to Truckey's River, which is about 350 miles from California. We crossed Truckey's River 27 times one day. The rocks, sized from that of a wash bowl to a kettle were so plenty that neither oxen nor wagon ever touched bottom. The last 300 miles is very near all rocks. The nearer California the worse the roads.

It took us three days to take our wagons and cattle from the bottom of the cascade to the top--about 4 miles. The oxen could be trailed from bottom to top by blood.

Since we crossed, there has been a new route found

that is a great deal better. Six or eight yoke of oxen can pull up a wagon in two hours.

On the top of this mountain is a lake and every 4 or 5 miles throughout the mountains there are lakes. Some of them are so deep in places there is no bottom found.

The last three days travel we had nothing but oak bushes for our cattle. Our old wagon brought us through safe and we then sold it for \$30. We got in with three yoke of oxen, two horses and one cow. One ox died when we got in, after hauling us two thousand miles.

Rhoads got in with 7 or 8 yoke of oxen and 18 head of loose cattle and three horses. (Daniel's father)

Our provisions gave out before we got in. Ours would have lasted us if the balance had had plenty. John Rhoads gave out & we divided with him. Then the old man. Finally all gave out. We killed cattle and ate that alone until we got near the plains.

John Rhoads went in on horseback and brought out corn. We boiled corn and ate it until we got in.

The first house we came to they sold wheat bran at \$3 a hundred. It was hard-times wheat. \$2 a fanaker of flour & \$8 for meal by the hundred. Peas \$2 per bushel. (fanaker - Spanish, spelled fanéga, 11/3 bushels)

A good fat cow is \$10. White & yellow domestic is 50¢ per yard. Calico & apron check are 50¢. Tea is \$2 a pound, coffee is 50¢, sugar is 25¢ a pound. Plates, tea cups & saucers are 50¢ apiece. Knives & forks are from 4 to 8 dollars a dozen. Shoes are from 2 to 5 dollars a pair. Everything is dear.

The Fannon boys & Thomas Rhoads enlisted for three months and went into the army. All the emigrants that could leave their families went along. They were determined to gain the country or die in the pursuit of it. Without help they could never have gained it.

Rhoads is making him a farm on the Cosummes River on a tract of land presented to him by his sons-in-law.

John Rhoads has no stationary place, but has a fine crop of wheat.

It was the commencement of the rainy season, when we got in, and too late to build a house and I was obliged to have a shelter. I hired to work from the 1st of November till the harvesting is over, which will be about the last of August. I am to get twenty-five dollars a month, a house to live in and my family boarded. I am to be paid in young cattle. Cows at the calving at \$5 a head. Bulls at \$3. I shall be able to drive home 40 to 45 head.

I do not know where we will settle but somewhere in

the Sacramento Valley.

The rainy season set in the 1st of November. It rains perhaps 2 or 3 days then a week or two of dry weather, then more rain. It rains this way until April or May. Then dry warm weather. This last winter is the coldest ever known in California. We had one shift of snow. It is moderately cool in Winter. In Summer it is very warm. The heat goes up to 100 to 110 degrees. The climate is mild and pleasant.

When we came in last fall everything looked horrible. No person was pleased with the country. But now everything is in full bloom and looks beautiful. The young grass came on in the months of January & February.

Some places the wild oats & clover are waist high. The soil is rich in places as the Missouri River Bottom. but not generally so. This country is excellent for wheat. Corn & garden vegetables will not do much without watering. In the Sacramento Valley on the coast they can raise anything else but wheat.

Mother Rhoads girls are married. Sally married a man named William Daylor. Katy married a Mr. Sheldon. Elizabeth married a Mr. Kaiser, a German. They have all done well. Elizabeth has done exceedingly well.

About half of our emigration went to Oregon. A part of what came to California went a new route, with Hastings, through by Salt Lake. About half of them got in before the snows. The balance got to the foot of the cascade & camped overnight. The snow fell about two feet deep. They decided to stay another day for the snow to melt off. The next night they had eight feet. It snowed the cattle under and them without provisions. They found some of their cattle which they ate until the first of February. Some of them attempted to come out two or three times. The snow being too soft they turned back. They finally decided they would have to die somewhere and they started again - 18 of them. They started with two pounds of meat, each of them. They didn't know the route and they wandered about in the mountains for four weeks. They all died but 7 and they subsisted on dead bodies.

They got in on the 15th day of January, the 5 women and 2 men. They gave the alarm that the people would all die without assistance.

There weren't more than 4 men in the Sacramento Valley. It was said that every company of men that would go should have \$5 per day. It was 2 weeks before any person would consent to go.

Finally it was concluded that we would go or die trying. For not to make any attempt to save them would

be a disgrace to us and to California as long as time lasted.

We started - a small company of 7 men, John Rhoads, Mr. Aquila Glover, Joseph Forster, myself and 2 sailors, Moultry & Coffeemeyer.

We took 50 pounds of provisions and a heavy blanket for each man and started. We walked on snow shoes over the snow that was from 5 to 25 feet deep.

At the end of a days travel we cached provisions to lighten our loads. We were seven days going to them. They had been living on rawhides for 3 weeks. They were dieing every day. There were 3 or 4 on a pile of dead persons.

We gave them their allowance of food and started back with 23 persons - all that were able to walk.

We had but little provisions to leave the balance.

On the way back a bear had got to one of our caches. That left us 3 days without food. We met another party bringing out provisions. They divided with us or we never would have got in. We managed to get in with 19 persons. Three died on the way. The second company started back with 14 and got in with five.

The most of those people lived on dead bodies from 4 to 6 weeks. There were but two whole families that got out, and a number of orphaned children. We saved 30 out of 80 persons. The most of them were from Springfield, Illinois.

It was the awfulest and most horrible sight that ever was seen, to go and see the human frame that was their's.

There are now men started to meet the emigrants and hurry them on. There is a large emigration coming from Oregon this summer. Two hundred wagons came over the mountains last year and 2 or 3 ship loads came by sea. Most are Mormons.

There are 2,000 wagons between here and the states. California is improving fast.

In the plains of California there is no good timber. The greater part of it is large, heavy, scrubby Oak. There is very fine pine timber but it is in the mountains where it will do no person any good.

Pine timber is \$10 a thousand. Horses are from \$10 to \$25.

Amanda is heartier than she has been for at least four years. We've a fine young son, born the 4th day of November. Amanda calls him for her father, Jesse Esrey Rhoads.

Amanda sends her compliments to all of her friends.

I would like to see you all. As yet I advise you all to stay where you are. We are coming back on a visit after a while.

Such weddings. All the girls from 14 up are getting married.

My best regards to you all,

Daniel Rhoads

* * *

SANTA CLARA COUNTY - 1894

(The following item from the San Francisco Chronicle December 30, 1894 was contributed by Mrs. Florence George)

Santa Clara County is one of the most delightful sections of the State. The area of the County is in the neighborhood of 1500 square miles. The County has more land than any of the counties of any state east of the Mississippi. It is one of the principal centers of production for the markets of California, while eastern marts as well receive from it a constant stream of produce.

The County has a length of fifty four miles, with an average width of thirty four miles, an area of 1,125,760 acres. There are over eighty school districts in the County with comfortable buildings furnished with modern educational appliances, where classes are held from six to ten months each year. The natural advantages of the County have been vastly improved by the people. The public highways are numerous and are perhaps the best in the state. The railroads which traverse the County have numerous stations where produce of all kinds can be shipped, stored or sold.

The City of San Jose is in the heart of the great Santa Clara Valley. It is located eighty feet above sea level, and including its eastern suburbs has a population of nearly 30,000. It has an even, genial climate, with an almost entire freedom from fogs. Among its many attractions are its educational institutions, fine drives, pleasure resorts and medicinal springs. The Alameda is a famous avenue bordered with willows, sycamores and live oaks reaching to Santa Clara, a distance of three miles.

Many fine residences and business blocks have been erected in San Jose during the past year or two. The city is one of the handsomest of its size in the United States. The country around San Jose is largely devoted to the cultivation of orchards and vineyards, some of the most profitable in the county being located near here.

* * *

By-lines from the President

Alice M. Vetterle

Spring has come again and with it the flowers and blossoms that are always welcome after the winter months. Each year we have to go farther away to view the orchards and flower fields, as the subdivisions and new buildings gradually replace the open spaces.

Preserving the fields seems to be beyond our control, but preserving the memories of what our earlier city was like is becoming a reality. The Historic Landmarks Commission has been successful, with the cooperation of many of the Pioneers, in having the San Jose City Council set aside acreage at Kelley Park for a Museum and Pioneer Town complex. We should now concentrate on how, we, as members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, can continue to give support to this project. As you think of ideas along this vein, or discover articles of Historic value or interest in your house cleaning, make a note of them and let those concerned with the project, or your Board of Directors know about it.

Our next quarterly meeting will be on June 5th at the usual place. The speaker will be Mr. Stephen Haines, San Jose State College student who is the recipient of our Scholarship Award in the Social Science area. He has chosen as his subject, "Progressives of Santa Clara County."

* * *

JUZGADO

The Juzgado, or "hoosegow," which was the Town Hall and jail for San Jose was built in 1798 and stood at what is now the northwest corner of Post and Market streets. In 1846 it stood at approximately the center of the plaza. The spot is identified today by the Historical Marker placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The marker states, "On this spot stood the Juzgado of 1798. Over its roof Captain Thomas Fallon raised the Stars and Stripes July 14, 1846."

The Juzgado was an integral part of the transition period from Mexican to American rule in San Jose. It was here the Mexican flag was lowered on July 11, 1846 and the United States flag raised July 14, and where the Mexican Alcade (Magistrate) Delores Pacheco was replaced by an American, James Stokes.

* * *

The Paralta adobe at 184 West St. John Street is the oldest home in San Jose.

LOOK FOR IT HERE

Won't you join our Social Group? Please do. We have such fun and you would too. We play Whist, Pedro and Canasta. There is an expensive (?) prize for each table. For further information call Kate Owen 295-1153 or Jessie Black 294-3405.

Mr. Clyde Arbuckle pinch hitting for Dr. Peter Conmy at our March 6th meeting, gave an extremely interesting talk on the four development eras of Santa Clara County.

On March 11th three redwood trees were planted in the north-west section of the Rose Garden, in memory of the Pioneers of Santa Clara County. Representing our society were: Clyde Arbuckle, Clyde Fischer, Theron Fox, Mr. and Mrs. William Heath, Alice Vetterle and Bert Gerlitz of the San Jose City Planning Department.

The old radio tower erected by the late Rev. Richard Bell on the northeast corner of the University of Santa Clara campus, has been torn down to make way for progress. It was one of the identifying marks that many visitors remembered about the University. Father Bell was the inventor of the microphone and detector.

The World War I Memorial Arch in Saratoga's Blaney Plaza will have to yield to the realignment of highway 9. It was dedicated on Admission Day 1919 to those "who gave their lives for their country: 1917-1918." The Saratoga Historical Foundation has suggested the arch be preserved and returned to a place of prominence after Blaney Plaza is redesigned. We will agree with this sentiment.

The campground of Col. Juan Bautista De Anza along the banks of Stevens Creek is destined to become a state historical landmark. It is located on the property of the Monte Vista winery near McClellan Road.

The old Notre Dame music conservatory and science building at Notre Dame Avenue and Carlysle Street will give way to progress shortly after July.

Following editorial from the California Historian.
 "Although all historical societies are keenly aware of their responsibility to preserve the past, especially the ancient past, many of them are overlooking a wonderful opportunity to be of service to future historians by preserving as much of the significant present as possible. Too many times our local California Historical societies assume the attitude that valuable, romantic and interesting history occurred only during the gold rush period in California. More recent and contemporary events are neglected and ignored in order to spade and record the limited knowledge of what happened in the 'mining days'."

"Juvenile delinquency in the United States has risen 370 per cent since 1940, but not in Montana--Montana dispensed with its juvenile courts two years ago and now deals in open court with all offenders regardless of age. Their names, addresses, crimes and the names of their parents are reported fully in the newspapers. Juvenile felony cases are down 49 per cent and juvenile traffic cases are down 75 per cent below what they were under the former system." ***

The Alta California Telegraph Company completed its line to San Jose in 1853. The first message received from San Francisco at the San Jose station was on October 15, 1853.

* * *

WELCOME

Congratulations to our new members: Harold E. Ahrens, Mrs. Harold E. Ahrens, Byron Bullard, Eleanor Bullard, Donald Campbell, Carolyn Campbell, Madge D. Cobb, Beatrice A. Dillman, Lenore Reed Jenner, Sally Wright King, Ruth McCormick, Virginia F. Petersen, Walter N. Petersen, Mrs. Charles E. Poage, Howard Sevier.

* * *

Under the Weather

Fred E. Lester, Mabel Snyder and Emma J. Rutan have been reported ill. Our best wishes and hope for a rapid recovery are sincerely extended.

Kindly keep your officers informed as to the condition of any ill member, and report any sickness or deaths to the chairman of our Sunshine Committee, Mrs. Ruth M. Heath. Phone 292-2609.

* * *

Beyond the Horizon

Bertram P. Ward

June 16, 1876 - December 26, 1964

Belle C. Brown

In behalf of the officers and members of the California Pioneer Society of Santa Clara County, The Trailblazer extends their sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of our departed members.

THE TRAILBLAZER

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Staff members: Walter and Claire Harriman

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* * * *

The SOCIAL CLUB of our society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday afternoon of each month. Card playing and various activities highlight each meeting. For further information call Mrs. Kate L. Owen, 295-1153.

BUS TOUR information for members of the Pioneer Society may be obtained from Miss Gertrude A. Bernhardt, phone 293-3087.

Any items for the Pioneer scrap book may be sent to Mrs. Elsa Jensen, 520 Bradley Ave., San Jose, Cal. 95128.

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