

THE TRAILBLAZER

Quarterly Bulletin of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County
Volume 3 Winter 1963 Number 1

History at Oak Hill
Arthur M. Fisk

In 1853 the Common Council (now the City Council) put the City of San Jose in the cemetery business, by purchasing 40 acres to be known as San Jose Cemetery. Prior to 1853 this property was commonly known as the "graveyard," and had been so used since 1839.

December 1858 the name was changed to "Oak Hill Cemetery," and put under the protection of the City Marshall.

Many controversies arose and debts were incurred over the San Jose Cemetery. Finally on December 22, 1913 the City of San Jose sold the cemetery to the Oak Hill Cemetery Association.

Today in the quiet peace of the pioneer section lie many of the men and women who crossed the Great Plains in covered wagons or came across through the jungles of Panama and those who sailed "around the Horn."

Dr. John Townsend of the Townsend-Stevens-Murphy Party of 1844, that opened the Truckee river route over Donner summit. Dr. Townsend was the first American physician to present a medical diploma in California. He became a large landowner in San Jose and just a few weeks before his death in 1850 helped to organize San Jose Lodge No. 10, F. & A.M.

Moses Schallenberger, who survived the winter of 1844-45, when left alone at Donner Lake to Guard the wagons that could not be taken over the mountains, because of snow. He lived a few miles north of San Jose until his death in 1909. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Pioneer Society and Trinity Episcopal Church.

John Murphy, gave the name "Truckee" to their Indian guide. It later became the name of the lake, river and eventually the town. He was elected County Recorder in 1851 and Sheriff in 1859. He married Virginia Reed, a survivor of the Donner Party tragedy, and lived in San Jose until his death in 1892.

James Frazier Reed, of the ill-fated Reed-Donner Party served with Abraham Lincoln in the Blackhawk War.

The party trapped by the early snows of 1846 near Truckee lost nearly half their members from cold and starvation. Reed and his family lost all their possessions but escaped to live out their lives in San Jose. Reed, Margaret, Virginia, Martha and Keyes Streets - commemorate this valiant pioneer family.

William Henry Eddy, led the "Forlorn Hope Party" of ten men and five women, left the snowbound Donner Party for Sutter's Fort. Half of these perished, and the others stumbled, starved and exhausted into a ranch near the present town of Wheatland. Eddy returned to the camp later, to find his wife and two children had died of starvation. He began life anew in San Jose, eventually remarrying and living here until his death.

William "Big Bill" McCutchen, of the Donner Party, went ahead to reach Sutter's Fort for help and then returned to rescue his wife and several other members of the party. McCutchen was elected Sheriff of Santa Clara County in 1853 and lived here until his death in 1895.

There are many more names etched for eternity at Oak Hill Cemetery. Their stories and accomplishments are detailed in City and County records, and in the memories of the living.

SAN JOSE'S 1887 CITY HALL

Clyde Arbuckle

As a corporate American city, San Jose had only two city halls prior to construction of the present one.

The first, designed by architect Levi Goodrich in 1855, stood at what is now 35 North Market Street. It was a two-story, crenelated brick structure 68 feet long and 42 feet wide, resembling a parapeted medieval castle. Its lower floor housed the Common Council (now City Council) Chambers and municipal offices. The upper floor divided into two small rooms and a public meeting hall.

Both Council and public felt that this "elegant edifice" would serve the City for many years to come, but after the Civil War and completion of the transcontinental railroad, the City grew fast. In the early 1880's the problem of more commodious quarters for the City's government again presented itself.

This was solved in 1887 by a successful bond election that provided for a number of much needed public improvements, including a new city hall.

On May 16 of that year the Council voted to locate

the new city hall in the Plaza of 1797. At the same meeting, it appointed Theodore Lenzen architect.

Estimated cost of the new structure was \$139,482. Proctor R. Wells got the building contract on September 12, and construction got under way almost immediately thereafter. On Saturday, November 5, the Grand Lodge, F. & A. M., of California laid the cornerstone whose inscription read "Erected in 1887."

Some 19 months later, on April 17, 1889, the Major and Common Council of the City of San Jose met in their "magnificent new City Hall for the first time."

Certain kinds of finishing work continued for some time after that. In 1890 the Council awarded one contract for lighting the building by electricity and another for construction of "Artificial stone sidewalks" around it. In 1891 it voted to install an efficient heating system, and in 1892 it considered the problem of lighting the "City Hall Clock."

The 1887 City Hall served the city well for many years. But like its predecessors, it suffered from earthquake and general deterioration, to say nothing of becoming too inadequate in its latter years for a fast growing modern city of more than 100,000 inhabitants. Its lack of space and Victorian arrangement of facilities forced many of the City's new departments and offices to seek quarters in equally antiquated or unsatisfactory structures about town.

Therefore, San Jose's citizens decided in 1952 to move their seat of government to a new civic center. On September 27, 1955, they voted \$1,975,000 for the present city hall, which they dedicated on March 27, 1958.

Soon after that, the 1887 City Hall fell under the wrecker's hammer.

MINERAL RESOURCES OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Pauline Jones

(Main source of material: State of California Division of mines. Also County Planning Commission.)

Mineral production in this County from 1850-1950 reached a value of \$176,824,370 made up of:

Quicksilver 31.3%. Cement, brick, magnesite, petroleum, limestone and clays 59.9%.

Crushed rock, sand and gravel 7.4%. Miscellaneous-sandstone, chromite and gold 1.4%.

In the year 1950 alone total mineral value was

\$13,814,298 made up of:

Quicksilver 09%

Cement, Brick, magnesite, petroleum, limestone 93.56%

Crushed rock, sand, gravel 5.82%

Clays .53%

This County ranked tenth in the State in value of mineral production in 1950.

There are about 83 reported minerals in this County. Many appear only in traces and others were mined commercially as early as 1846 (quicksilver).

Chromite has been mined in the Red Mountain area, back of Mt. Hamilton, and in the Santa Cruz range between Los Gatos and Gilroy. Production was mostly during World War I. In 1952 a discovery of chromite was made in the hills north of Edenvale and production begun; a year later another deposit was found northeast of Morgan Hill. A mill was built in the area to reduce the ore.

Gold and silver have been found in various spots of the County. In 1870 gold was found in San Francisquito Creek, near Palo Alto, and a placer camp was established near Mayfield, but of short life. Stevens Creek and Los Gatos Creek yield gold-bearing rocks in small quantity. In the hills around Aldercroft Heights a deposit of copper was found in 1900. This was developed in 1917 and further in 1929. Not enough copper was found to make further development feasible, but between 1936-38 small amounts of gold and silver were recovered from the sulfides of the copper ore. A small quantity of gold was panned in Coyote Creek during pioneer days but it was not commercialized.

This County ranks third in the State in the number of known manganese localities and ranks seventh in quantity produced. During World War I over 3000 short tons were produced, and in World War II nearly 6000 short tons, but no production since 1946. Most of the deposits are in the Red Mountain area.

No mention need be made of the quicksilver mines of the County - the oldest metal mines on record in the State and with the longest continuous production. This story was told in a recent issue of the TRAILBLAZER.

Cement is a mineral, being composed of certain rocks with limestone the important ingredient, and is an important product of the County. Permanente Cement is said to be the largest portland cement plant in the world.

Clay also is a mineral, and this County's clays contain a generous amount of sand, making them important in producing bricks, tile, sewer pipe and earthenware. Clay

is important also in making cement. Two of the oldest industries in the State in continuous operation are the Remillard-Dandini Co., and the San Jose Brick & Tile Co., established in the mid-1860's to make brick. Another brick plant, producing in 1869, is now owned by Gladding Brothers Manufacturing Co. and they expanded the products to include roofing tile, sewer pipe and earthenware. Many companies were formed to make pottery, among them Garden City Pottery in 1904. Banks of the Coyote and Los Gatos Creeks provide much of the clay. Of course, common clays were used to make adobe buildings in the early Spanish days.

Limestone is important for many industries - chemical, cement, agriculture, building and road construction. Limestone outcroppings follow the trend of the San Andreas fault through the County, and quarries opened near Los Gatos (Limekiln Canyon); near the Guadalupe quick-silver mine; near Gilroy; and recently along Permanente Creek. The latter, operated by Permanente Cement Co., is the major one now producing.

The first commercially produced lime on record in the County was in a kiln near the Guadalupe mine about 1864, and was operated for about 30 years. There were other plants of small scale, but in latter years the main source of lime is at Alviso with the processing of oyster and clam shells from the bay.

In the mountains back of Mt. Hamilton is a large magnesite deposit, important for steel, insulation, chemicals, etc. This deposit was known as early as 1885; development began in 1899, the first shipments made in 1905 by way of Livermore. Between 1905 and 1945 about 870 thousand tons of magnesite were produced. The mine changed hands many times until it is now owned by Food Machinery. Another deposit, too small to merit much development, is just east of Madrone.

Mineral springs in the County were long known to the Indians of this area. Congress Springs (Saratoga), Gilroy Hot Springs and Madrone Hot Springs were "discovered" by settlers about 1866 and became popular resorts for many years. No production of mineral water has been reported since 1932.

Crushed rock has been produced in the County for many years. The great spurt in building and road-making recently is evidenced by the rapid growth of new quarries - 13 new applications accepted immediately before 1950, and 60 between 1950-62. A quarry one mile west of Saratoga has provided road rock since 1908. Most of the pro-

ducing gravel pits are along Coyote Creek from Madrone north; other quarries are in the hills between Saratoga and Los Altos; the Milpitas area. Sand and gravel are also taken from the Coyote and other creeks of the County to be used with or without the crushed rock.

A small quantity of serpentine was mined near Almaden in 1946-47 and sold to Permanente Metals Corporation where it was mixed with other materials, granulated and sold as fertilizer.

Stone was a popular building material in the late 1880's and until World War I. There was a large production of sandstone as early as 1866 in the Graystone quarries south of San Jose on the road to Almaden. Stone from here was used to build Stanford University, and two buildings in San Jose - the old post office on South Market Street (now the City Library) and the recently demolished Hall of Justice. This quarry still has some activity but it is negligible. South of Los Gatos is sandstone which has been used to build walls, wine cellars and some local buildings.

Some of the earliest oil prospecting in California began in this County, around Moody Gulch (near Los Gatos) and Sargent (the very southerly end of the County). Moody Gulch oilfield was discovered by lumbermen in 1861, operations began in 1878 and drilling continued until 1912. Nearly 64 thousand barrels of high gravity oil were produced up to 1952. The State highway now covers much of the site of the field. Sargent oilfield was also reported in 1861; about 1864 a refinery was built and oil taken from along La Brea Creek. It is estimated the field produced over 783 thousand barrels of oil until large scale production stopped in 1948. Drilling continues and there are sporadic findings. An application was granted in September 1962 for drilling a well near the Skyline Boulevard above Palo Alto.

"Rockhounds" find the County of interest; the Uvas and Llagas streambeds yield beautiful specimens of orbicular jasper; Lone Hill area has long provided small "thunder eggs"; Los Gatos and Stevens Creeks have produced gold-bearing rocks; there are pieces of petrified wood if one searches the stream beds; serpentine and malachite, chalcedony and chrysocolla; one could go down a long list of minerals to be found in this County by those having the patience and knowledge to make the search.

Pioneer Anecdotes

The Great Comet of 1882

"Go grind the coffee for breakfast, Lenore," called my mother from the kitchen, one morning.

Our home was the Galindo Adobe, which my father had acquired with his part of the Galindo Rancho he had purchased in 1869. It was located between Bascom, Davis and Union Avenue (now Park).

The coffee grinder was secured to a back porch post.

As my older sister stepped out on the wide south porch, I following her, a bright glow that dispelled the early morning darkness became immediately visible to us.

There, stretched half-way across the southern sky was a great comet, with brilliant head and spreading tail. We gazed and gazed, yet could not see enough of it.

For two weeks when we went out to grind coffee, we looked at the comet.

It was the greatest comet that had ever been seen in the world up to that time, nor has a greater one ever been seen since; so it has always been called, "The Great Comet."

Harriet Phelps Burnett

My grandfather, Julius A. Poppe came to San Francisco in 1844, and operated a cigar factory at the corner of Montgomery and Sacramento Streets.

He settled his wife and mother-in-law on his ranch, in what is now called the "Valley of the Moon."

Imagine the feelings of a young wife who spoke only German, having for neighbors a tribe of Licituit Indians, and a chinese boy, who was the "hired hand", and spoke only chinese.

Grandfather gave his young wife a gun for protection, but she would not accept it. "Give me an axe," she said. "With an axe, I'd never miss the mark."

Grandmother lived to be 98. She and I talked often about her early days on the ranch, and the axe that stood behind her door.

"You know," she said, "there were three languages spoken on the ranch. German, Chinese and Indian. None of us could talk with the others, but we got along just fine." She stopped a moment, then added mischievously, "maybe if we all spoke one language, then is the time I might have need to use the axe."

Marjorie B. Fisk

By-lines from the President
Minnie L. Clark

A recent Pioneer Bus Tour via Santa Rosa and the Petrified Forest to beautiful Napa Valley brought back many happy memories of the stories told me by my father, Amos Lester. He and his brother Nathan, in their youth, came from Connecticut, around Cape Horn to California with less than one hundred dollars, to seek a possible place to locate. They met with success growing wheat; taken to the old Bale Mill, which at that time furnished flour for the residents of Napa Valley.

The old Bale Mill was deeded to the County of Napa on June 19, 1941, and is now one of Napa County's tourist attractions.

After a few years, the two brothers went back to Connecticut to look for a bride.

The story of the courtship as related by my mother has always been interesting. My father was invited by the bride's family to a picnic and my mother made a cake and placed it on top of the flour barrel. In some way the lid tipped and the cake fell into the flour barrel. Mother brushed off the flour and not having time to bake another one, took the cake to the picnic and father told her that was the best cake he had ever eaten.

Result: The young man found favor both in the eyes of the family and the young lady. They were married and my father and mother lived happily together for over sixty years.

Nathan married another sister and after ranching several years in Connecticut, they both made the decision to bring their families to California. My father selected a ranch near Gilroy as his home.

When my brothers grew up they too became interested in ranching and fruit raising. Perhaps through the years you may have eaten a prune from the Lester Orchards.

Napa Valley will always hold a fascination for me, not only for the many interesting places, but for the success that my father had, which resulted in the selection of California as the home for his family.

In Napa Valley are to be found the Calistoga Hot Springs, a mecca for health seekers because of the volcanic ash mud from Mt. St. Helena and the natural hot mineral water and steam from the many geysers in that vicinity.

Here, too, we find the Robert Louis Stevenson monument, the Green Mountain Gardens with a display of tu-

berous begonias, grown under beautiful redwood trees, also some of the finest table wines in the world, as the climate and soil are especially favorable to the growing of fine grapes.

58 Years Ago

(From the files of the San Jose Mercury, January 1905)

Mrs. J. P. Morgenson and her mother were riding in an open buggy when it collided with an interurban car in Los Gatos. The left hand wheels of the buggy were literally riddled and the ladies were hurt quite severely.

The cornerstone of the new Hall of Justice, at the southeast corner of Market and St. James Streets will be laid this afternoon at 2 o'clock, with the solemn rites of the Masonic fraternity.

T. S. Bullock, of San Jose, President of the new Yosemite Railroad Co., stated last evening, that the company intends to begin construction as soon as the rights of way have been secured.

50 Years Ago

(From the files of the San Jose Mercury, January 1913)

Herman C. Pfister, County registrar, announced yesterday that he had quit the position he has held during the past year to go into the real estate business.

House dresses 95¢ each at Copeland & Co., First St.

The Republican County Central Committee has nominated Herbert C. Jones of College Park as the man to fill the seat which Black occupies.

One hundred and ten saloons and roadhouses in Sonoma County went out of business today, under the ordinance adopted at the last general election.

Parcel Post law went into effect January 1st, said Postmaster J. R. Chace and parcel post carrier J. E. Halliday delivered 430 packages today.

The first package to be delivered by Parcel Post was sent out by Jay McCabe and delivered in 12 seconds after leaving post office. This is the record time in the United States.

Herbert C. Jones is elected State Senator: Herbert C. Jones 2371 votes; William H. Kelly 1146 votes, majority for Jones 1225 votes.

Mrs. Gertrude Atherton defends cigarette smoking by women. She says, "I favor Anti-Cigarette leagues for boys, but not for women."

Pears' Soap, established in 1789.

Look for it Here

MARRIED in Reno, Nevada, September 8, 1962, Thelma Thompson and Frank Gaumer. They are now at home, 5220 Pearl Ave., San Jose. Our congratulations.

The City Council has appointed two of our members to the Historical Landmarks Commission; Laurence Bulmore and Arthur Fisk. They will succeed Dr. Earl E. Rhoads and Dr. Benjamin F. Gilbert.

PIONEER TOWN received the blessing of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting on November 5, 1962, but referred the matter of establishment of such a museum and exhibits to the Santa Clara County Fair Association for their consideration. The purpose of Pioneer Town is to gather and safeguard for posterity the County's colorful heritage, as well as to preserve and exhibit its unique and abundant examples of natural history. It would help solve the problem of what to do with some of our landmarks that must go, because of progress and the rapid growth in Santa Clara Co.

Seven members over 85 years of age were honored at our quarterly meeting on December 1st. Those present were: Mabel Gallagher Luce, Harriet Burnett, Albert A. Haehnlen, Emma Clinton Ridley, Emma Rutan, Elizabeth Berberich, Lavinia Lindemann. Those that could not be present were: Mrs. John Drew, Minnie Sicotte, Adelcisa Fortini and Flora Brooks. If there were others, sorry you didn't let us know.

Miss Gertrude Bernhardt headed a party of 15 Pioneer members for a Thanksgiving day dinner at the De Anza Hotel. She also arranged for a Christmas day dinner for members at the Country Fare Dining Room in Los Gatos, followed by a party at 82 South 9th Street, San Jose.

PIONEER BUS TOUR to Death Valley, March 9, 10, 11 and 12th. Overnight stops at Baker, Furnace Creek Ranch and Mojave. Price \$55. For further information phone Miss Gertrude Bernhardt, CY 3-3087.

Members expecting to attend quarterly luncheons please make reservations, so we will know how many diners to order.

Welcome

Congratulations to our new members: Alice Barkley, Clarisse Benoit, Claudia Benoit, Geraldine Benoit, Cecilia Benoit, John D. Blackmar, Muriel A. Burdick, Cecile M. Daniel, Paul Hoernicke, Hilda Hoernicke, Nina E. Jacka,

Ethel G. Lester, Agnes Lewis, Bessie McCaustland, Gertrude Wright Morgan, Josiah D. Morgan, Robert E. Nelson, Ruth Inez Nelson, Ruth Russell Nicholson, Wilmot J. Nicholson, Elfonzo R. Parks, Edna Parks, Azalia Rider, Roberta Jane Ross, Mary Siarrino, Mable L. Spaulding, Alillion Wilhelmy, Tosca Woehler.

Under the Weather

Mrs. Ann Colby has been reported seriously ill.

Mrs. Anita Baker was badly burned, and at the last report was confined in the Carmel Hospital.

Miss Carrie F. Williams would enjoy hearing from her friends. Address: Sanitarium, Napa County, Calif.

Mrs. Gladys Budde is now at the Georgian House Convalescent Hospital, 455 O'Connor Drive, San Jose.

Mrs. Flora G. Brooks is convalescing at the Mission Convalescent Hospital, 410 Santa Clara-Los Gatos Road.

The following members are confined at home and would enjoy hearing from their friends: Mrs. John Drew, Bertha Clift, Minnie Sicotte and Gertrude Blackie.

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. Lovene Lührman. Phone CY 2-0070.

Beyond the Horizon

Charles H. Northup

April 14, 1889 - October 18, 1962

H. Price Webb

November 12, 1901 - October 22, 1962

Mary F. Hourican

February 18, 1867 - November 23, 1962

Emmett W. McGrath

December 13, 1882 - November 23, 1962

Nellie B. Henning

January 1, 1873 - December 13, 1962

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

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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 concerning Club activities call Mrs. Kate L. Owen, CY 5-1153.

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

Any items for the Pioneer scrap book may be sent to Mrs. Elsa Jensen, 520 Bradley Ave., San Jose 28, Calif.

Return to: 595 So. 13th Street
San Jose 12, Calif.

Return Requested