



VOL. 46 NUMBER 4

December 3, 2005

PIONEER LUNCHEON \$18.00

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2005 at NOON

Last Time at AT LOU'S VILLAGE

Green Salad

Stuffed chicken breast stuffed with apple & almonds

Au gratin potatoes Seasonal Vegetable

RESERVATIONS

Rolls & butter

BEFORE MONDAY

Ice Cream Sundae/ cookie

November 28, 2005

& COFFEE

Make checks to Lou's Village

554-7587

(For a Vegetarian Meal call 408-298-9043)-

Our Christmas Treat is to hear the-Four Tune Cookies-

A Barbershop Quartet that is registered with the National Barbershop Harmony Society as "Four Tune Cookies" since 2002. The four singers of our quartet are: Dan Garland (Lead singer), Jerry Irving (Tenor), Ric King (Baritone) and Ken Yuen (-Bass).

In recent months, they have sung many places for our local communities including: the City of Los Altos (July 4th Celebration in Shoup Park and City Picnic at the Bus Barn Theatre in August), the San Jose Elks Lodge (Flag Day Ceremony in June), and the Palo Alto VA Hospital (Fisher House ground breaking ceremony in June & Labor Day ice cream social.) We are also scheduled to sing at the VA Hospital on December 16 for the third year. We love to sing for private parties, birthdays, and anniversaries. For some good old barbershop, Contact Ken at 408-446-4971 or Fourtunecookies@pacbell.net

The President's Corner

We continue to add members due to the great work of *The Californians*, Rose, Marie, Beverly and Pauline, and the Board. Now, if we can get some of the new people to become active as we need help. The Board meets the second Monday of each month, 2 PM at the Pacific Hotel at History Park. Every one is welcome! Speaking of History Park, the Pioneers are affiliates of *History San Jose* and that makes our members also affiliates!

Several of the newbies have volunteered to help in the renovation of the Paulson House. We have a point person to direct the builders and another who will help direct the interior design team. I hope that we will have more news on the funding before too long. We really need more help from the members! Think about adding the Pioneers to your will!

In the next few weeks, we will be moving the Jackson "stuff" from the house to storage at History San Jose. When this move is completed, HSJ will mount a show of Pioneer owned art work. The wonderful records that Dick Hill has provided astounded the curators. They have indicated that they will assist us in the restoration of those paintings that need work and when the conservation is completed, a showing will be in the gallery at the Pacific Hotel. Thank you Dick for 20 years of great dedication!

Conservation is complete on Aphelia F. Cochran 's* side saddle and it is now at HSJ. Bob Mattson, a saddle maker located in the Carmel Valley, has done the work, squeezing the time from his restoration of Hearst Estate saddles and harnesses. Made in San Francisco sometime earlier than 1860, this was the first saddle that Mattson had seen that used deer hair for padding rather than horse hair! That is what established the outside date of 1860.

The Digital Clubhouse has a need for adult mentors to help build an exciting system of showing stories using IBM database software. If you have time and like to work with young people, guiding them, using your experience to help them in intergenerational story telling, let me know. Their latest project is recording the stories of the families who have lost someone in Iraq. There are seven local families who have completed memorials. These are moving, healing stories that preserve the histories of both the families and their young

heroes. The Clubhouse kids helped them write the script, assemble the memorabilia and then record the story. Look at www.digiclub.org/sv/ Jerry

***Aphelia Farrington Cochrane** was a successful ranch owner in Morgan Hill area. She was born in Bangor, Maine in 1845, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Farrington. Her father had come from England in the 1830's. Her mother was descended from patriots of the American Revolution. In 1850, her parents left their daughters with their grandparents and came to California via Panama. The father died a few years later in San Francisco. The mother remarried to A.J. Van Winkle, a rich man with extended property in several counties, including the West End Distillery in San Francisco.

The mother went back to Maine for her daughters in 1859, bringing them across Panama and up the coast on the *S.S. Sonoma*. Aphelia was educated at the Denman School on Bush Street, followed by two years at a Finishing School. She wed John Cochrane in San Francisco in 1864.

Mr. Cochrane had made money in the mines and owned large holdings in several parts of California, including 250 acres next to the Presidio in San Francisco where he had the prosperous Pioneer Dairy. He set out the first cherry trees in California there. He also owned thousands of acres on the Sacramento River in Colusa County where grain was grown.

In 1869, Mr. Cochrane moved his family to Santa Clara County and the old Ojo de Agua de la Coche, later, McElroy Ranch, which was located on the watersheds of Coyote Creek and Packwood Creek. Here he built up a fine dairy ranch on the 5500 acres, employing Swiss butter and cheese makers. He completed building Cochrane Road in 1893. He was a booster for the area, participating in many civic events.

The couple had five children; Emma F., Minnie B, Charles, Aphelia May, and Elsie B. The first three died in child-hood. Mrs. Cochrane was a prominent member of Morgan Hill society, the Presbyterian Church, the W.C.T.U., a trustee of Live Oak Union School District and other civic groups. She died in 1949 at the age of 103.

Aphelia May married A. J. Jackson and they had Alfred and Gladys. Gladys and her foster sister, Ruth Lowe were the last inhabitants of the Jackson Ranch, living in the house her mother had built in 1914, until it was badly damaged in the earthquake of 1984., even after it was moved up the hill to the southeastern shore line to make room for Anderson Reservoir. Gladys died at 88 and Ruth at 91, in 1987 The property was willed to the Santa Clara County Pioneers. The restored house sits in Anderson Lake County Park.

MEMBERSHIP Report

Melita Kelly, Financial/Membership Secretary

It's that time again! Your annual dues for 2006 are now due and payable. Please send your checks made payable to the *California Pioneers* to: Melita Kelly, 460 North 15th Street, San Jose, CA 95112-1725. Current dues are \$15.00 per member each and every year. If you have questions of your status, give me a call at (408) 292-2385. Please notify me if you change your mailing address. We do not guarantee that your Trailblazer will arrive if you have moved. The Post Office does not forward the Trailblazers to you. If you have filed a change of address form, we are notified, usually *after* the Quarterly Luncheon.

NEW MEMBERS: Julia Aiello. Patricia Alpers, David Cortese, Lorinda Foss, Barbara Frederickson, Darlene Read, Charles Toeniskoeter, Karen Williams

GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS Christie Barrie, Hazel Belli, Marian Minninger, Richard Sachen, Fay Sells

From the files of the *San Jose Tribune*, June-July, 1863...
"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."

THE HISTORIAN'S CORNER by Leonard McKay

The license plate on his car reads, Why-Not? And he closes his newspaper columns with Finalleigh. Who is he?

Certainly, one of the greatest promoters of our fair city is *Mercury-News* columnist, Leigh Weimers. Leigh, humorous and skilled at his trade, is possibly the best known person in San José ... when you go to any public meeting, everyone seems to know him and greet him on a first name basis.

He arrived in San José in 1953 from the small town of Napa to attend San José State University. While in high school he showed a talent for writing and his teachers encouraged him. Soon he was covering local sporting events and submitting his stories to the local newspaper for 10 cents a column inch. He sent in so many stories that the paper decided it was cheaper to pay him a salary.

At State, Leigh majored in journalism and graduated in 1958. His college career was interrupted by a two year stint in Uncle Sam's Army with a duty assignment in Germany. Whenever he got leave, he managed trips to various parts of Europe.

Soon after graduation, he was employed by the Ridders at the *San Jose Mercury News*. His 47 year career there gives him seniority over most other employees. He was soon writing a newspaper column along with veteran columnists Frank Freeman and Dick Barrett. When they retired, his was the solo feature covering the local scene.

Leigh has a sonorous baritone voice that he uses to good effect when doing volunteer reading for the sight impaired on the Books Aloud Program. This organization furnishes tape recordings, free, to the blind and Leigh has read and recorded some 100 books. Although he had no formal speech training, his recordings are a pleasure to listen to, and are in much demand by the patrons.

Geri, his wife, and Leigh, recently celebrated 42 years and have two grown daughters. He has written the libretto for the play, *Sarah Winchester*, along with Gael Douglass, who wrote the music.

He has announced his plans to retire this winter from the daily columns we have grown used to looking for. We will miss him. Who will speak for the historical community and their concerns once he gives up his daily pen?

TOURING WITH THE CALIFORNIANS

ROSE CRIMI MUENCH – TOUR DIRECTOR

MARIE RIDER – phone reservations and cancellations, 408-251-7887 M-F a.m.

BEVERLY FISHER - TREASURER: 3435 Yuba Av, San Jose, CA 95117-2966

PAULINE HAWKINS – Luncheon Reservations

REGISTRATION for WINTER TRIPS begins at the December 3 luncheon, 10:30 A.M. Checks are preferred, or exact cash. Preference is given to Pioneers Members to register at the luncheon, so that the members present have the opportunity to register first. Non-members and guests may sign up starting December 12. PICK UP POINT is at Valley Village, 390 N. Winchester Blvd, Santa Clara, on Dolores Street side.

DAY TRIPS

Holiday at Bonfante Gardens, Saturday, December, 10, 2005, 4:00 – 9:00 p.m. the park will be decorated with thousands of twinkling lights and will offer live entertainment, gentle rides for all ages, an included holiday buffet, and special Christmas displays. Children and grandchildren are especially invited. We will not be chartering a bus because the cost is prohibitive for family groups. If we have 45 people, the group rate is \$27 per person for all ages. Please mail your check to Beverly Fisher for the number of people in your party at \$27 each by November 21. We will distribute the tickets and maps at the December 3 Pioneers' luncheon.

January and March Day Trips will appear in the Quarterly Flier at the December Luncheon.

FEBRUARY 19 - 24, 2006 RESORT GETAWAY

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Premier World Tours: We fly to San Diego for a five-day stay at the Barona Valley Ranch Resort. Activities include: tram tour of the world famous San Diego Zoo, San Diego city tour and Coronado Island, Pacific Surfliner train ride to San Juan Capistrano for a winery tour and visit to the Nixon Presidential Library, Palm Springs tour, a ride on the aerial tram to the top of Mt. San Jacinto, and a performance of the Palm Springs Follies. Cost is \$1199 including RT airfare San Jose/San Diego, resort stay, eight meals, and tour fees. Optional cancellation insurance is available. Brochures are now available.

MAY 8 -19, 2006 MICHIGAN - WISCONSIN TULIP TOUR

Trieloff Tours: We experience another world of Midwest scenic wonders as we circle Lake Michigan including a tour of Chicago, tulip fields and festivities in Holland City, the Gerald Ford Presidential Library, Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes, Mackinac Island and its famous Grand Hotel with the wraparound porch, Hiawatha country, Green Bay Wisconsin, Door County's scenic villages, Circus World Museum celebrating the Ringling Brothers Circus begun here in 1884, a boat cruise through the Wisconsin Dells with unique pre-glacial rock formations, a visit to the House on the Rock and a tour of Madison, Wisconsin's beautiful capital city. Cost is \$1799, \$600 single supplement, which includes RT airfare San Jose/Chicago, hotels, 20 meals and the tour fees. Optional cancellation insurance is available. Brochures are now available.

SEPTEMBER 13 - 23, 2006 ALASKA'S INSIDE PASSAGE

Golden Gate Tours: Cruise aboard the Regal Princess departing from San Francisco. Ports of Call are: Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Victoria, B.C. plus cruising Tracy Arm. Cost depends on cabin categories. Inside cabins, \$1335 and \$1350. Ocean view cabins from \$1635 to \$1750. Balcony cabins, \$2100 to \$2195. Cost includes RT transportation San Jose/San Francisco pier (no air flights!), all meals and amenities on board, port taxes and fees and stevedore tips. Book early to get best choice of cabins. Optional cancellation insurance is available. Brochures are now available.

LATE FALL, 2006 RIVER CRUISE

14 DAY TOUR of CHINA and YANGTZE Arrangements are pending. Highlights include: Beijing's Forbidden City, Great Wall of China, Ming Tombs and the Summer Palace, three day Yangtze River cruise, Xian and the terracotta warriors, and Shanghai touring

Lou's Village!

Lou's Village reached another milestone, celebrating it's 55th anniversary in 2001. You sure couldn't tell by the looks of Lou's, after extensive remodeling, this San Jose landmark looks brand new.

Founded in 1946 by Lou Santoro, a retired Firefighter, who later teamed up with Frank Muller, *Lou's Village's* first bartender. This historical San Jose mainstay, has not only been able to boast about having the same family ownership for all of it's fifty years in business, but also way back when it was THE nightspot for live entertainment. Lenny Bruce, Scatmen Brothers and the Ink Spots are just a few of the popular entertainers who graced Lou's Village stage.

After Lou Santoro passed away, Frank Muller's sons came aboard. Tim Muller became involved in the family business after obtaining an M.B.A. from the University of Santa Clara in 1973. Tom Muller, a San Jose State graduate, joined three years later after a career as a musician.

Throughout the years, Lou's has been renovated many times. In 1957, the first large banquet room was added. By 1996, Lou's Village had 10,000 feet of banquet space as well as the popular Shark's Cove sports bar. Thousands have enjoyed parties and the restaurant's fine food in a multitude of small banquet rooms, the main dining room and its ever popular aquarium and nostalgia. Over it's long and colorful history, Lou's Village has grown from 6,000 to 28,000 square feet with 4 acres of free parking.

When you walk into Lou's, you can revisit the "good

ole days" and take a look at a photo display of fifty years of Lou's Village. Check out photographs of performers and the many gala events that have all been part of the Lou's Village tradition, plus try the great food in a warm and friendly environment.

The Santa Clara County Pioneers have been having their quarterly luncheons there for a long time at least as far back as 1979. We will miss them as we scramble, looking for another place to meet with their quality and accessible parking.

Anecdotes from previous Trailblazers... (1961)

Remember when by Marjorie B. Fisk

The color tints of autumn forecast the holiday season ahead and we look forward to Christmas. Do you remember the Christmas of years gone by?

Mothers and daughters created hand made gifts for those they loved. Tatting, hair pin lace, cross stitch embroidery, crocheted doilies, knitted socks, sweaters and scarves, hemmed tea towels and needle work, embroidered pillow shams for the spare bed and anti-macassars.

Younger children gathered seeds of the Job's Tears plant, to string for necklaces. Petals of roses, pinks, lavender and leaves of lemon verbena were picked and dried. Later, with the addition of salt, cinnamon, orris root and lavender oil, the fragrant mass became a potpourri for a beloved grandmother or aunt.

The girls reveled in creating lavender sachets made by weaving pastel ribbons and long stalks of English lavender into a cornucopia that was stuffed with cotton. They cross stitched a floral design on the hem of blue and white checked gingham aprons. They hemmed bleached flour sacks for dish towels and perhaps etched the outline of an apple in one corner.

The boys gilded walnuts to add to the Christmas tree

decorations. They helped create gorgeous cornucopias of flowered wall paper to hang from the Christmas tree boughs. They hiked with father into the hills to cut the finest Christmas tree they could find.

The great day finally arrived. It began with family prayers, exchange of gifts, arrival of relatives, the aroma of roasting turkey and spicy puddings. The afternoon brought the family into the parlor, where someone played the organ and everyone sang the beloved Christmas hymns of their faith.

The Christmas we remember in the days of our youth is a day of reunion, one of reverence and one of heart warming expression of love for those dear to us.

For a 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!

Meridian Road took its name from the Mt. Diablo Meridian 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

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.

(1921) 6 room bungalow for sale, with sleeping porch and built in features, garage with cement floor. On street car line. \$4,750.00

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