



VOL. 46 NUMBER 22

JUNE 4, 2005

PIONEER LUNCHEON _____ **\$18.00**

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2005 NOON AT LOU'S VILLAGE

Green Salad

CROSS RIB OF BEEF with

Seasoned red potatoes

RESERVATIONS

Rolls & butter

BEFORE

Seasonal Vegetables

WEDNESDAY

Ice Cream Sundae

JUNE 1, 2005

& COFFEE

554-7587 Make checks to Lou's Village

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

The June meeting always features the WINNERS OF THE ESSAY CONTEST. This year, the committee received 12 entries. Judges are Pat Loomis, Helen McCartney and David Mc Kinney.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT, JERRY ROSENTHAL

There is a new website available for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County: The Webmaster will be new member Jan French. She has volunteered (coerced by her father) and will add features as we progress.

The History San Jose location for our monthly board meetings is proving to be very satisfactory. The room in the Pacific Hotel is large and we have attracted several members who have dropped by to observe. Please feel free to join your board on the second Monday of each month at 2 PM.

The Nominating Committee is headed by Pat Loomis. The committee members are Carl Heintze and Jim Zetterquist.

Our big project will be to raise funds to renovate the Paulson House aboard and after viewing other available sites, was selected as our new home. The location, next to the Passetta House that houses Leonard McKay's great new gallery, will make it a prime spot to show off Mrs. Jackson's possessions. The treasury contains some funds that are earmarked for this purpose, but we must have more than \$200,000. in hand before we can go to the City of San Jose for approval and building permits. The costs look like:

Poulson House Projected Costs

Plumbing to street:	\$10,000.
Electric wiring interior	15,000
Wheelchair ramp	12,000
6 Door changes (handicap	12,000
Renovate Bathroom	10,000
Refinish floors	5,000
Exterior paint	5,000
Interior paint & remove lead	10,000
Re-do Kitchen into Kitchenette	7,500
Roof	10,000
Gutters and downspouts	2,500
Air and heat	20,000
Design and Permits	25,000

While many organizations such as ours ask members to remember us in their wills, a living donation at this time will not only be tax deductible, it will be provide a living museum for the Pioneers. Please consider!

Those of you who are talented in house renewal tasks could volunteer for some of the many jobs that will have to be done... or sponsor certain tasks to bring the house up to code. (Sweat equity)

There will be a kick-off picnic held at Kelly Park/History San Jose jointly sponsored by The Pioneers, History San Jose, the Clampers and The Digital Clubhouse Network. That date will be June 25th. This function will be part of DCN's Celebration of Community: A Special Day to Honor *Our Greatest Generation* on the 60th Anniversary of the End of WW II More details at the June meeting. Not only will it kick off the Poulson House project, but will begin the gathering of the Pioneers' Family Histories by the DCN.

Jerry Rosenthal ,President

California Pioneer By-laws.

All the Pioneer members present at the June luncheon will be asked to vote their approval of the revised California Pioneer by-laws. The last time they were updated was in 1981. The By-laws Revision Committee has been meeting during the past year to make them more relevant to conducting business in the 21st century. Several copies of the new version were distributed on the tables during the March 2005 luncheon.

Some of the major changes were to the size of the Board of Directors. There will now be 9 directors- President, 1st Vice, President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial/Membership Secretary, Marshall, Parliamentarian, and Historian. The Standing Committees will be - Auditors (3), Sunshine Chairperson, Archivist, Trailblazer Editor, Hacienda Cemetery Chairperson, Jackson Ranch Chairperson, Essay Contest Chairperson, and Communications/ Out-reach Chairperson. Hopefully, these changes, along with a new permanent meeting place, will encourage more members to actively participate in the running of our organization.

Carol Arnoldy, Melita Kelly, Bob Fisher

Message from the Membership Secretary, Melita Kelly Please check your mailing address on this issue of *The Trailblazer*. If it is incorrect, please let me know as soon as possible. My new computer does not work the same as my old tired one, and I have a lot to learn and much to do to get the records in proper order. If you have not yet remitted your dues, please do so at this time. There were over 100 members who have not yet sent in dues for 2005 and had to be sent *Past Due Notices*. Were you one of them? Give me a call if you have any questions. Don't forget to include a stamped, self addressed envelope if you want your membership card sent to you.

A DRIVE ACROSS AMERICA IN 1909

On June 9, 1909, Alice Huyler Ramsey, 22, cranked her new dark-green Maxwell DA to life and headed north from 1930 Broadway, Manhattan, for a 59-day journey across the United States. On August 7, she completed her adventure in San Francisco to become the first woman to drive an automobile from coast to coast. She had left her year-old son in the care of her husband, the city clerk of Hackensack, New Jersey. Riding with her in the open car were her teenage friend, Hermine Jahns, and her husband's two middle-aged sisters. They were somewhat protected from a maddening three-

day drizzle by a plasticized folding top and a flapping, isinglass windshield.

No-one touched that wheel but Alice, during that entire journey. She shushed off an offer to crank the Maxwell for her when they started and cranked it herself.

The Maxwell people hired the automotive editor of the *Boston Globe* to travel ahead of the women to make hotel arrangements, alert local newspaper editors of her journey, and arrange for local guides to escort them where there were no maps and nothing ahead but trails.

Rather than climb the Alleghenies with the little 30-horsepower car, Ramsey drove north to Albany before heading west. She was on the old Albany Post Road, a pre-revolutionary highway, for nearly 100 miles. She hit the route of the later famous Lincoln Highway near Ligonier, Indiana.

On Friday afternoon, June 25, the women were cruising west of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. They were stopped cold there by a flooding Weasel Creek. They had no choice. They stopped the car and sprawled out in it until dawn, when the waters receded enough to let them pass.

After a few more miles, the four-cylinder engine developed a miss. Using a hammer head, she grounded each spark plug against the block until she found the fouled plug. Presuming the other three would be fouled soon, she removed them all. In those days, plugs were in three pieces. She disassembled each one, scraped off the carbon, regapped them, and screwed each plug back into the head. The car then ran perfectly.

It took Ramsey 13 days to cross Iowa, fighting clinging mud almost all the way. Tires in those days were smooth, and of course there was no power steering. The mud was a daunting challenge but Ramsey gripped the wheel relentlessly. She gave up on the route on Friday, July 2, and left the mud of the Boyer River bottoms to drive north to cross the Missouri River at Sioux City, Iowa.

In the little town of Mechanicsville, Iowa, just west of Cedar Rapids, as the Maxwell neared town from the east a major thunder-storm was seen rapidly approaching from the west. Alice drove the car through an open doorway, which turned out to be a livery stable housing a number of very agitated horses, still hitched to their buggies. Two hours later, after the storm had passed, she checked into the Page Hotel.

She came back to the future Lincoln Highway at Columbus, Nebraska and stayed on or near it all the way through the trackless deserts to the Sierra Nevada and San Francisco..

Alice and her friends spent a night in an un-named hotel in Opal, Wyoming. They were awakened at 2 A.M. by a gathering of bedbugs, and spent the rest of the night on tables in the unattended hotel lobby.

Dr. Rich Anderson of Monroe, Wash. is painstakingly restoring a 1909 DA and his daughter, Emily, will replicate Alice's trip in 2009.

Alice Ramsey wrote a book about her journey 54 years after it happened, entitled *Veil, Duster, and Tire Iron*. That book had been out of print for 40 years, but Greg Franzwa, of Tucson, has just retitled and republished the book, now ***Alice's Drive***. He annotated Ramsey's book with 108 end notes & added an additional 100-plus pages, entitled *Chasing Alice*, to define her route in terms of today's roadways.

Ten years before women were given the right to vote, Alice Ramsey drove her motorcar across America, following much of the route that would become the Lincoln Highway four years later. The 268-page paperback has 200 photos, many taken by Ramsey in 1909. It is available for \$19.95, plus \$4.95 s/h. The Patrice Press 1-800-367-9242, for MasterCard or Visa orders; as well as an email address, books@patricepress.com Say **Mary Lou Lyon told you about it, you will get 10% off.**

TOURING WITH THE CALIFORNIANS **June, 2005**

Rose Crimi Muench -- Tour Director

Marie Rider --Phone Reservations: (408) 251-7887 M-F am

Beverly Fisher--Treasurer: 3435 Yuba Ave, San Jose, CA 95117-

Pauline Hawkins -- Luncheon Registrations

REGISTRATION for SUMMER TRIPS begins at the June 4 luncheon, 10:30 a.m. Checks are preferred, or exact cash. Preference is given to Pioneers members to register at the luncheon. Members present may register absent members after the luncheon, so that the members present have the opportunity to register first. We will accept checks for the first six people on the wait list, and notify them as cancellations occur. Non-members and guests may sign up starting June 13.

PICK-UP POINT (unless otherwise indicated) is at Valley Village, 390 N. Winchester Blvd., Santa Clara, on Dolores Street.

JUNE 18, 2005 SATURDAY, HALF MOON BAY
FLOWER MARKET and the JAMES JOHNSTON HOUSE

We will visit the James Johnston House situated on a hill south of Half Moon Bay, with beautiful views of the ocean and the mountains. Pioneer ranchers James and Pietra de Jara Johnston built their salt box style home in 1853. It is now on the National Register of Historic Places. A garden was planted last year, featuring historically authentic rose bushes, which should be in bloom for our visit. Next, we return to downtown Main Street to enjoy the monthly Flower Market. Local growers bring in cut flowers, plants, wreaths, and dried flowers. We will have free time to see the displays, and to have lunch on your own at one of the many restaurants along Main Street.

Leave: 10:00 a.m. Return: 4:00 p.m. Cost: \$17

JULY 20, 2005 WEDNESDAY ELKHORN SLOUGH

We travel to Moss Landing to experience the natural habitat of migratory birds and local wild life at Elkhorn Slough. We will take a boat ride with a naturalist guide who will narrate the slough ecology and history of the area with opportunities to view and photograph wildlife close up. We will also visit the Elkhorn Slough National Research Reserve where a docent will lead us on a comfortable walk along trails bordering the Slough. How fortunate we are that the area has been preserved in its natural state! On arrival at 11:30 a.m. we will have an included lunch at Phil's Fish House, a long-time local favorite. Choose from four entrees plus beverages and cookies.

Leaves: 10:15 a.m. Return: 6:15 p.m. Cost: \$58

AUGUST 10, 2005 WEDNESDAY MORE SAN JOSE EXPLORATIONS

Guadeloupe River Park and Gardens continue to develop —the latest accomplishment being the completion of the flood control installations which will prevent a repeat of the March 1995 flooding of the downtown area. Our docent will also show us development of walking trails along the river and tour us through the Heritage Gardens featuring vintage rose varieties. Next, we travel to Japantown for our included traditional Japanese lunch at Kubota Restaurant, with soup, rice, California roll, beef teriyaki, tempura, tea, and green tea ice cream. Next, we will visit the Japanese American Museum, which our member, Ed Sakouye, was instrumental in supporting, and take a short, docent led walking tour of Japan town. We next visit the Buddhist Temple for a guided tour. Our final destination is the Sikh Temple in the

Evergreen foothills which opened last year. The gurdwara is positioned on a rise with a spectacular view of the valley. This exotic building is patterned after temples in the Punjab with a gold dome, scalloped arches, and fluted lotus columns. We can see how San Jose continues to evolve from the days of wheat fields and fruit orchards.

Leaves: 9:00 a.m. Return: 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$34

SEPTEMBER 11, 2005 SUNDAY RECEPTION and PERFORMANCE of "HAUNTING OF WINCHESTER"

In co-sponsorship with the Preservation Action Council, we will attend the San Jose Repertory Theater musical production about Sarah Winchester. A reception will feature director Michael Butler; historic preservation architect, Leslie Dill; and local historian, April Halberstadt speaking on the creation of the production and the life of Sarah Winchester. Hors d'oeuvres and light desserts will be served. Curtain time is 2:00 p.m. Post performance discussion follows for those who wish to stay. We will not charter a bus, but free parking is available at two lots on San Fernando St. between First and Third Streets, or at the Fourth Street garage at San Fernando St. The theatre is located on Paseo de San Antonio between Second and Third Streets. One hundred seats are available for this event! Special flyers with tear-off registration forms are available. If you are a subscriber to the San Jose Repertory Theatre, you may exchange your ticket for the September 11 2:00 p.m. performance, and then buy a \$10 reception only ticket. Package tickets for both the reception and performance are:

Balcony: \$43 Students: \$31 Parterre: \$47 Students: \$33, Orchestra: \$55 Students: \$37 Tickets will be held at Will call. You may also register by phone with Marie Rider, as usual. Registration deadline is Sept. 1. Pick up tickets at Will Call: 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Reception: 12:30 p.m. Performance: 2:00 p.m.

PREMIER TOURS PRESENTATION for the SWITZERLAND, GREAT TRAINS and GRAND CANYONS, and the MAYAN RIVIERA trips will be held on June 23, 2:00 p.m. at Rose Crimi's home, 1289 Martin Ave, San Jose. You are invited to attend and learn more about these itineraries, all with one-hotel stays! Light refreshments will be served. R.S.V.P. to Rose Crimi Muench (408) 293-0896, or sign up at the June 4 luncheon.

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 6, 2005 SWITZERLAND

We fly round-trip San Francisco to Geneva, and take a short ride to Montreux for a one hotel stay at the five star Le Montreux Palace overlooking Lake Geneva. This area has a moderate climate and an incredible scenic setting. Every day we travel in a different direction for excursions to the Castle of Chillon, wine growing areas, cog railroad ride to Zermatt and the Matterhorn, capital city tour of Bern, St. Bernard Tunnel into Aosta, Italy, Mt. Blanc Tunnel into Chamonix, France, home of the first winter Olympics in 1924, plus optional excursions to Gstaad, Gruyere, and Lausanne. Cost is \$2399 and \$400 for single supplement. Gratuities to the bus driver and tour guide are not included. Optional cancellation insurance is available at \$129. We need 12 people for a group. Deposit is \$500. Final payment is due July 12.

OCTOBER 16 — 21, 2005 GREAT TRAINS and the GRAND CANYONS

We fly round-trip San Jose to Phoenix, Arizona for a one hotel stay at the Hilton Sedona Hotel. Touring includes a drive through Oak Creek Canyon with its spectacular white, yellow, and red cliffs, Grand Canyon Railway ride from Williams to the south rim of the Grand Canyon, Sedona Chapel of the Holy Cross, Spanish-Mexican village of Tlaquepaque, Montezuma Castle, old mining town of Jerome, Wilderness Train through Verde Canyon, Sunset Craters volcano, Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, and Old Town Scottsdale. Cost is \$1299 and \$425 for single supplement; includes all gratuities. Optional cancellation insurance is available at \$89. We need 12 people for a group. Deposit is \$300. Final payment is due August 1.

NOVEMBER 2 — 9, 2005 MAYAN RIVIERA

We fly round-trip San Jose to Cancun, Mexico for a one hotel stay at the five star Bahia Principe Tulum Resort. Our excursion to the Mayan ruins of Tulum built on rocky cliffs overlooking the Gulf of Mexico demonstrates the sophistication and architectural beauty of the Mayan civilization. We will also visit Playa del Carmen for a taste of Mexican small-town charm. Optional excursions will also be available to Chichen Itza, capital of the Mayan Empire, and the spectacular Aquarium at Xel-Ha. Cost is \$1799 and \$300 for single supplement. The amenities include all meals, all alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, 24 hour snacks, resort entertainment, and all non-motorized water sports. We need 12 people for a group. Deposit is \$300. Final payment is due August 15.

DECEMBER 26, 2005 — JANUARY 2, 2006 NEW YEARS on the MISSISSIPPI QUEEN This trip is filled except for replacing cancellations.

CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES Northern California Symposium at Casa Munras in Monterey on Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22, 2005. If there is enough interest – minimum of 30 people – we will charter a bus for participants.

Bus schedule is: Friday, October 21, 2005

9:00 a.m. Valley Village pick-up

9:20 a.m. Willows Senior Center pick-up.

11:00 a.m. Arrival Casa Munras

Sunday, October 23, 2005 Return trip

2:00 p.m. Casa Munras pick-up

3:30 p.m. Arrival Willows Senior Center

4:00 p.m. Arrival Valley Village Charter bus Cost is \$45 per person. If we have more than 30 people participating, we will rebate part of the cost. If you want to use the charter bus, please sign up at The June 4 luncheon, or call Marie Rider. Participants need to **Register Individually** for these events

MONTEREY SYMPOSIUM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 9:00 TO 12:00
REGISTRATION *\$30

11:15 Bus to Salinas & Steinbeck Museum, videos in bus

12:00-1:00 LUNCHEON at Steinbeck Museum

1:00- 4:30 View Steinbeck Museum; 3 parts, 1-Steinbeck's Life & Works, 2-Valley of the World-Agriculture in the Salinas Valley & 3-Depression Era Quilts; **\$50 for bus, lunch, admission & lectures**

4:30-5:00 Bus back to Casa Munras

6:00- 7:00- HAPPY HOUR (no host bar)

*7:00 - 9:00 **DINNER and SPEAKER \$35**

Tim Thomas, Historian of Monterey, History & Art Assn. on FISHING in Monterey Bay, Past & present.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2005

Breakfast on your own

9:00-10:00 Workshop on Photos, How to preserve, duplicate & sell copies by Pat Hathaway, Photo Archivist,

10:30-11:45 Historic slides of the Monterey History State Park buildings by Mary Lou Lyon

12:00 -1:00 - **LUNCHEON at Casa Munras (\$20)**

with Speaker Gary Munsinger on "Ghost Walks in Monterey"

1:00- 5:00 TOUR MONTEREY sites on your own.

Wear your badges for free admission . See included map. Most of the State Historic Park sites are not open continuously (budget cuts)

CUSTOMS HOUSE (30 min) State Park, PACIFIC HOUSE (30 min)

State Park, MARITIME MUSEUM (1 hour)(30 MIN. GUIDED)

3) O'DONNELL LIBRARY in 1st Protestant church (15 min)

4)COSTUME GALLERY in the HARRY DONNER HOUSE (open 2-4)

6:00 - 7:00 - HAPPY HOUR (No host bar)

*7:00 - 9:00-**DINNER, (\$35)** Kent Seavey on Pacific Grove

Forms will be available at the June 4 luncheon . .

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Wilbur Clark,

Sue Dunbar,

Shav LaVigne

William Jeffrey Heid,

Patricia Smith,

Barbar Endersbe,

Jan French,

Betty Spicher

GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS

Marijane Adams

C. Daniel Knowles

Peggy Malek

Robert Verbica

Dick Barrett

Lorraine Mulla

Alma von Waaden

Laverna Morgan

2005 OFFICERS CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Jerry Rosenthal President 6317 Whaley Dr., San Jose, 95135-1446
b25@earthlink.net 408-270-3101

Carol Arnoldy-2nd V.P. 1342 Prevost Street, San Jose, CA 95125-1754
(arno29@earthlink.net) 408-298-9043

Robert G. Fisher-Treasurer 3435 Yuba Av. San Jose, CA 95117-2966
(BeverlyJFisher@msn.com) 408-241-0224

Melita Kelly - Membership 460 N. 15th St., San Jose, CA 95112-1725
(melikel@pacbell.net) 408-292-2385

Recording Secretary & Parliamentarian-David McKinney 408-732-1946
P.O. Box 6772, San Jose CA 95150- 6772

Marshall & Liaison with Historical Societies-Rick Helin
1517 San Joaquin Av, San Jose, CA 95118-1062 408-792-2061
(rickhelin@aol.com)

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Leonard McKay-Historian -President Emeritus 408-292-5238
612 Morse St., San Jose, CA 95126-2116

Sunshine Virginia Bittle
520 S. Frances St., Sunnyvale, CA 94086-9601 408-736-3772

Trailblazer Editor -Mary Lou Lyon, (408-253-9514)
879 Lily Av, Cupertino, CA 95014-4261 (malyon_1999@yahoo.com)

Hacienda Cemetery & Jackson Ranch

Richard Hill 10393 Doris Ct. San Jose, CA 95127-3013 408-258-3449

Bud Amaral 6001 Vera Cruz Dr. San Jose, CA 95120-4864 408-268-4078

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

THE CALIFORNIANS-TOURS

Rose Crimi Muench 1289 Martin St. San Jose, CA 95126-2628
408-293-0896

The Californians -Reservations Marie Rider 408-251-7887

The Californians Treasurer Beverly Fisher
3435 Yuba Av, San Jose, CA 95117-2966 408-241-0224

P.O. BOX 8208 SAN JOSE CA 95155

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