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Number 2

ALVISO

Arthur M. Fisk

Some thought Alviso would become the most important shipping point on San Francisco Bay. During the 1840's, 1850's and until January 1864 when the railroad was completed between San Francisco and San Jose, Alviso flourished. It was incorporated March 6, 1852 and became one of California's first cities. It had its own post office. Today it is within the city limits of the City of San Jose, but still retains its uniqueness and character.

Rincon de los Esteros Rancho was granted to Ygnacio Alviso by Mexican Governor Alvarado. Alviso came to California as a child with the De Anza expedition in 1776 and later returned to this area to make his home at the mouth of the Guadalupe River. In 1849 part of Alviso's land was surveyed by Chester Lyman for Peter Burnett, J. D. Hoppe and Charles Marvin; this survey became known as the town of Alviso.

The following excerpt from Pen Pictures by Foote, 1888: "For a time it was a very active place. Warehouses were built and buildings erected for hotels, dwellings and stores. The railroad however diverted the travel and it became nearly deserted. The town was incorporated in 1852 with John Snyder its first treasurer and A. T. Gallagher its first marshal. Thomas West and Robert Hutchinson were members of the first Board of Trustees. Its charter has now been allowed to lapse and it has no independent existence."

September 30, 1971 Superior Court Judge Marshal Hall upheld the disputed election of Alviso to consolidate with San Jose. The vote was 189 for and 180 against.

Alviso has lost its autonomy.

(Land grants made after April 11, 1822 were all Mexican)

THE PIONEER

Thanks to Miss Virginia Williams for providing us with the following information from the "Pioneer," official publication of the Society of California Pioneers.

"On August 30, 1850 the following notice appeared: 'The early Pioneers of California are requested to call at the office of the iron warehouse of Howard and Mellus, on Montgomery Street on Saturday evening, August 31 at 7 o'clock. It is expected that all old pioneers and residents of three years and upward will attend. The object of the meeting will be announced.'

The meeting was well attended and a committee was appointed to draw up a constitution and by-laws. The Society of California Pioneers was formally made a corporation January 8, 1863.

From 1856 to 1863 the pioneers were housed in the old Bella Union at Washington and Kearny streets in San Francisco. In 1863 James Lick gave them a piece of land at Montgomery and Gold streets where they built their first home. Later Lick gave them a piece of property on Fourth Street just below Market where they built a pretentious home in 1886. It was four stories in height, of Venetian Gothic design and topped by a huge tower. The building material was pressed brick set in black mortar, the pillars and window adornment were of sandstone and black marble. The facade was decorated lavishly with medallions depicting various events in California's history. April 18, 1906 the earthquake and fire in San Francisco leveled their building in which collections of historical material, paintings, books and furnishings, lay a burned and tangled mess.

In 1907 the pioneers rebuilt on the same site with a *large hotel facing Fourth Street and a two story annex opening on Pioneer Place to house the Society. The hotel was never a success and the Society became deeply in debt. In May 1936 they sold their holdings to the Santa Fe Railroad for a bus terminal.

The Society then moved to 456 McAllister Street where they opened a museum and library free to the public and became a tax exempt corporation in 1939. An organization of this nature can never lose their momentum. To retain this forward motion the members of the Society must constantly push toward goals of greater membership and increased sources of income to support an institution that has become known not only statewide, but throughout the world as a repository of California's history."

*The Argonaut Hotel.



THE COGSWELL FOUNTAIN

Henry Calloway

A gratifying boyhood memory was when Grandpa tied the horse and buggy near the Eagle Brewery and close to City Hall Park where I was let to romp and capture all the excitement I could choose, perhaps a circus act, entertaining vendors, clowns and balloons, popcorn and jelly beans---yes, for a boy just in from the country it was all "bug-eyed" activity, all at City Hall Park.

A big part of this merriment was the Dr. Cogswell eighteen foot water fountain. To all youngsters it was always there to embrace, scale, explore or just gaze at. This lofty figure was complete with frock coat, plug hat and chin whiskers with one hand held out with a glass of water. The fountains were so made that the water which fell into the basins under the faucets drained into smaller ones below where dogs could drink. Here the high form of the Doctor looked down on figures in base relief such as birds and pigeons perched on rocks observing thirsty dogs lapping water from basins filled with live fish.

Dr. Henry D. Cogswell was born in Connecticut, March 8, 1820. He was a San Francisco dentist and Prohibitionist. This man reaped a fortune through land investments in California. Cogswell appointed a foundry to turn out these images of himself in quantity and hoped that the water fountains would deflect thirsty folks from saloons. Often described as monstrosities; it was said they drove people back into saloons rather than out.

Between 1876 and 1895 the Doctor gave away over two dozen fountains costing him well over \$100,000 to cities from coast to coast. His plans were to give San Francisco a statue for every one hundred saloons in town, but the saloon population there was too much for Cogswell and he was out of fountains in short order.

The dentist had no children and had little interest in those of others. He never owned a dog, a cat or horse but his fountains carried these inscriptions: "Presented by H. D. Cogswell to our boys and girls who will soon pass on to take our place." Another scroll read: "Accept this offer to my country for the good of my countrymen---Men and faithful dogs will find herein refreshing welcome."

We doubt that the merits of water dramatized by this crusader had little effect on Grandpa as he left Joe Hartmann's Eagle Brewery and we headed for home, as this exhausted country boy munched his last jelly bean.

The San Jose fountain considered an eyesore by some civic organizations was dismantled in the early 1930's and later became part of a war time scrap drive.

* * *

HISTORIC BRIEFS

Among America's first dirigibles was the "Spirit of California." Capt. Thos. Baldwin flew it over the bay area in 1903. This ship was built in the Rose Carnival Pavilion near The Alameda and Race St. It was 85 feet long and was propelled by a 12 H.P. engine. ***

MORELAND SCHOOL at Payne and Saratoga Ave. was established in 1851. This is the oldest known rural school district in California. In 1852 the home of Zachariah Moreland was used for the school house. The district was named in his honor. ***

The William McKinley statue in St. James Park was unveiled Feb. 21, 1903. It cost \$13,500 and the sculptor was Rupert Schmidt. ***

SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA until 1902 was called Encinal. It was incorporated in 1912. ***

COLLEGE OF NOTRE DAME

"The massive buildings and beautiful grounds of the College of Notre Dame, standing in the heart of the populous city of San Jose, in no way indicates the small beginning from which they sprung. The College was founded by Sister Mary Cornelia, of the Order of Notre Dame in 1851." So states H. S. Foote in Pen Pictures, 1888.

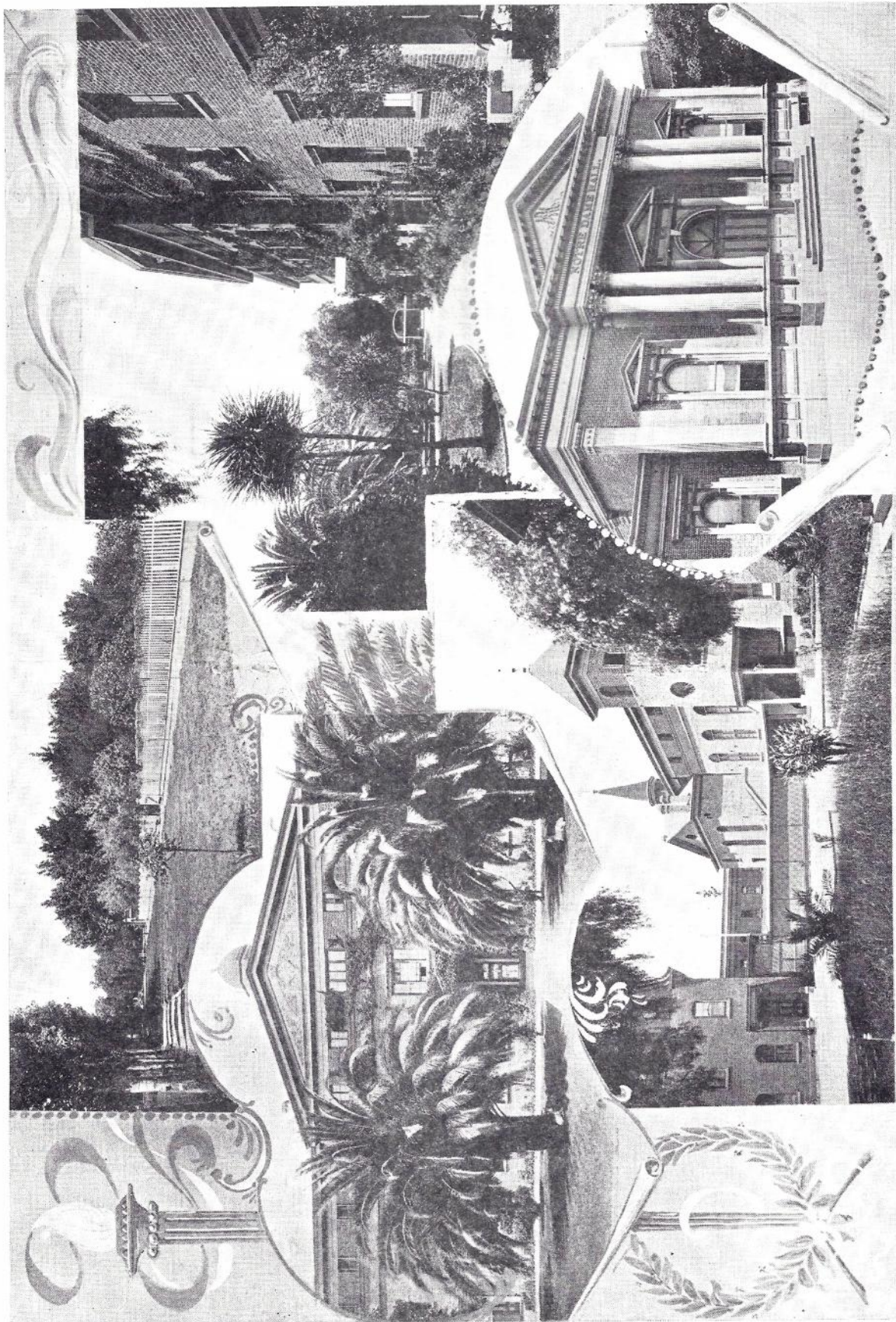
Sister Mary and Sister Loyola came to California from Oregon in 1850 to meet some other Sisters of the Order, who were to arrive in San Francisco by boat. While waiting for the vessel to arrive they accepted the hospitality of Martin Murphy on his ranch at Mountain View. Father Nobili of Santa Clara suggested that they should establish an educational institution here and with a little urging from Martin Murphy and others the Sisters were persuaded.

There was no West Santa Clara Street at that time and no improvements west of Market Street, so they chose about ten acres on the north side of El Camino Real approximately where the De Anza Hotel stands today. According to Foote, "San Jose only had but twenty-six houses and they were nearly all on Market Street or further east."

Mr. Goodrich the architect was employed and work on the erection of the college buildings began at once; they were built mostly of brick. A magnificent chapel, handsomely finished and furnished was completed as a place of worship for both teachers and students. The assembly hall was a handsome structure in Corinthian style of architecture and the campus was beautifully landscaped. In the pictures shown on pages 6 and 7 the upper left is the front view of the main entrance, lower left the west wing of the college showing the chapel in the rear, upper center a view of the grounds, upper right college buildings from the east, lower right the assembly hall.

Mr. Eaton in his history of Santa Clara Valley says, "In addition to the regular curriculum there are departments in music, drawing, painting and other ornamental branches. Music is taught in all branches and there are twenty-three separate music rooms, in each there is a piano. An improvement of great merit is the Janko piano keyboard, which has recently been introduced, this is the only one owned by any educational institution in the west. The cosmopolitan character of the institute, and the constant correspondence of its members in the different parts of the world, keep Notre Dame ever in touch with the great educational interests of the world."

A.M.F.



Front View of Main Entrance.

COLLEGE OF NOTRE DAME, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA.

A Glimpse of the Grounds.

West Wing of College, showing rear of Chapel.

CIRCA 1894

*Notre Dame College from the East.
Notre Dame Hall.*

LETTERS

The following account was submitted by one of our members, Clarence R. Dorsey, oldest grandson of David Parker, Jr.: David Parker, Jr. was born November 22, 1829 in Waterville, Maine. He was educated in the local public schools and learned the boot and shoemaking trade. In 1854 he arrived in San Francisco via the Isthmus of Panama and soon found himself in the mother lode country near Columbia. In 1863 he returned to Portland, Maine and married Abby Greeley, they returned to Columbia, California via the Isthmus of Panama the same year. In 1870 the Parkers moved to San Jose where he opened a boot and shoe store on the north side of East Santa Clara Street between Second and Third. He also purchased residential property on the west side of South Tenth Street, between San Salvador and William Street where he built several houses. The Parker's celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in San Jose, October 31, 1913. Mr. Parker died November 25, 1913 and Mrs. Parker passed away in February 1924 in San Jose. Clarence R. Dorsey

* * *

Dear Mr. Bailey:

My aunt, whose father, Mike Madigan is buried in the cemetery which is now the site of the city offices in Mountain View, enjoys the Trailblazer as much as I do. She and my Dad, John Madigan were born in Mayfield (now Palo Alto). My great grandfather came from Boston to work for Stanford in connection with the latter's horse breeding project. My mother was in training at O'Connor Hospital at the time of the earthquake in 1906. I am always delighted in her account of the great quake. She and my Dad were married in the Mission in Santa Clara. Several former Santa Clara Valley residents live in Yuba City and Marysville, so The Trailblazer goes on to them and is passed around. Sincerely, Wyn Madigan.

* * *

The following information was received with the application for membership from one of our newer members, Mrs. Gladys Farnsworth Berger: "I was born and raised on the Prusch property on South King Road when that property belonged to Frank E. Williams, my Grandfather. My great Grandmother, Charlotte White then owned property on the west side of King Road. Both Grandmother White and Grandma Williams (her daughter and my mother's mother) crossed the plains in covered wagons, not too long after the Donner Party."

Gladys Farnsworth Berger

* * *

BY-LINES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lynn L. Vermillion

I wish to thank all of the Pioneers who have helped to make this year of serving as your president a most pleasant and meaningful one. It has been a privilege to have served in this office.

I know that I can count on all of you to cooperate with and support the new incoming president.

* * *

THE ICE WAGON

by A.M.F.

Looking backward into the horse and buggy days of the early 1900's, horses played a big part in our life, not just the horse and buggy, but from a boy's point of view it was the ice wagon. It was pulled by a good husky horse; the wagon was covered, and had a tail gate to keep the ice from sliding out the back of the wagon while it was moving. The housewife would place a card in the window showing the amount of ice she needed. When the iceman arrived he would chip off a hunk of ice with an ice pick to fill the order and carry it around to the kitchen door. We boys would lean over the tail gate and pick up the largest chippings we could find, then brush off the sawdust and enjoy the coolness internally as well as on our hands. No doubt we picked up lots of germs, perhaps this was offset by the extra minerals we consumed, but who cared about germs, our pleasure was in getting cooled off.

* * *

LOOK FOR IT HERE

Saturday, June 2nd at 12 o'clock noon is the time and date of our next quarterly meeting to be held at Lou's Village. A good program has been promised. ***

The SOCIAL CLUB of our society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. For further information call Mrs. Frances Grant, 292-3852. ***

TOUR COMMITTEE: Mrs. Esther Adams, Chairman; Mrs. Frances Grant and Miss Alice Vetterle. Address: 60 North 3rd St., Apt. 919, San Jose, CA 95112. ***

FOR TOUR INFORMATION, phone 292-3852, 264-8119 or 294-7510, 9 a.m. until 12 noon, Monday thru Thursday. ***

Helen Arbuckle scores again with an article in the March issue of the Western Horseman, titled "Heyday of Palo Alto's Stock Farm." ***

O'Connor Hospital 89'ers honoring pioneers and members of pioneers families who settled in Santa Clara Valley prior to 1900 will celebrate with a luncheon at the Hyatt House on May 6th. Joseph Ridder will be master of ceremonies and speakers will be Clyde Arbuckle and Austen D. Warburton. ***

In Frank Freeman's column recently he mentioned a little bit of 20th century history that is worth preserving. It seems that Clyde Arbuckle in his youth was a charter member of the Western Aero Club, organized July 12, 1920 by a group of Aviation enthusiasts dedicated to promote flying in San Jose. Clyde was a rigger but also flew the plane. San Jose's airport at that time was known as the Garden City Aviation Field at Capitol Ave. near Santa Clara Ave. (now Alum Rock Avenue). ***

The old Miliias Hotel in Gilroy, built in 1922 has been sold to the Bridges Construction Co. of San Jose. It will be remodeled and converted into 48 apartment units complete with kitchenettes and baths for senior citizens. George Miliias came to San Jose in 1880 from Czecho-Slovakia when he was 13 years old and later went to work at Big Nick's Restaurant on The Alameda where he worked for over six years, attending night school at the same time. George wanted to go into business for himself and bought a restaurant in Gilroy for \$800, just south of the present hotel. In 1898 he bought the corner lot and in 1922 built the modern three-story Miliias Hotel on this corner lot. ***

The old Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mountain View at Dana and Bailey streets, built in 1904 has been replaced by a new church building located at 1425 South Springer Road. The new building was dedicated January 27, 1973. ***

The Santa Clara Tile Co. on Mathew Street a landmark and at one time the only industry in Santa Clara has been demolished by a wrecking crew. The company was founded by Lester F. Hinz and at one time was one of the main tile producers on the West Coast with tile that gleamed in kitchens and bathrooms across the nation. During World War 2 when there was very little building going on, they produced bisque dolls. These bisque dolls are now collectors items and worth a good price. ***

A young air force pilot was at home holding his baby when suddenly he stood up, handed the baby to his wife and said, "I think Junior's had a malfunction with his afterburner." ***

WELCOME

Congratulations to our new members: Gertrude Boone, Manuel L. Bonito, Mary G. Buchanan, Genevieve Calvello, Edna H. Carey, Charles T. Combs, Marjorie A. Cruce, Georgia B. Dwyer, Marie M. Gard, Dorothy A. Gordoy, Helen R. Jarret, Mary LoVilla Kain, Vera M. Kosanke, Marion B. Lehrbach, Ione Long, Elizabeth Mahan, Thelma C. Miguel-gorry, Bobby Neff, Amy W. Parker, Manuel J. Rodriques, Juanita Roth, MaBelle Smith, Margery Spargur and Ruth R. Wade.

* * *

Kindly keep your officers informed as to the condition of any ill member and report any sickness or death to the chairman of our Sunshine Committee, Miss Doreen Magud, 751 S. 3rd St., Apt. 2, San Jose 95112. 288-9165.

* * *

BEYOND THE SUNSET

Olive M. DeLapp

- February 3, 1973

Dorothy A. Brown

June 13, 1903 - February 3, 1973

Esther C. Macauley

May 17, 1900 - February 9, 1973

Pearl G. Castle

September 3, 1882 - February 9, 1973

Violet H. Oliphant

December 8, 1885 - March 5, 1973

Hal C. Statler

- March 1973

Ira T. Johnston

September 8, 1896 - March 24, 1973

Mabel M. Wiley

October 25, 1887 - March 25, 1973

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.

* * *

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2nd Vice President. Laurence E. Bulmore
Recording Secretary Byron K. Bullard
Corresponding Secretary Imogene T. Clark
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Moxley, Anthony R. Sapena, O. J. Schmaelzle, Henry Clyde
Stout, A. Bernice Van Gundy and Austen D. Warburton.

* * *

PLEASE SEND DUES to Curtis S. Bailey, 390 N. Winchester
Blvd. 9C, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Phone 244-1360.
SEND APPLICATIONS for membership and address changes to
Bernice Van Gundy, 561 Fuller Ave., San Jose, CA 95125.
SICKNESS and DEATHS please notify Doreen Magud, 751 South
Third St., San Jose, CA 95112. Phone 288-9165.

* * *