

Volume 10

Summer 1970

Number 3

TIOGA PASS - 1915

Herbert C. Jones

(Senator Herbert C. Jones a member of our Board of Directors for a number of years and a frequent contributor to the Trailblazer since its inception, passed away in a San Jose Hospital, March 21, 1970 at the age of 89.)

1915 was the first year the Tioga Road was opened since the old mining days. That year the Federal Government and the State combined in employing an engineer by the name of Newell to open the road. The original Tioga Road ran from the Tioga Mines westward for nearly 100 miles, not swinging more than five miles off an east-west line.

From the top of the grade one had a magnificent view of the entire canyon below and the road winding along the side of the canyon wall. We headed down to the Post Office at Mono and Mono Lake at the bottom of the grade. Then we traveled up the desert through Bridgeport and Minden. There we turned up the grade that took us to Lake Tahoe.

In the days of yore there was a section of the Tioga Road that could be reached only by stage over a rough, mountainous road. When a prospective passenger inquired at the ticket office for a ticket he was asked whether he wanted first class or second class. When he asked what was the difference, he was told that when the stage came to a steep hill, the first class passengers got out and walked and second class passengers got out and pushed.

On some of the grades approaching the summit I was a second class passenger.

SAN JOSE BANDS

Leo Sullivan

The writer had the privilege of hearing a Brass Band play for the first time at Live Oak Park in the gay 90's. The Park, a veritable sylvan paradise studded with magnificent oaks, was San Jose's only center of out-door entertainment--located on the corner of Park Avenue and Marliere Street. The dell extended eastwardly to the Guadalupe River. The park later became the site of the Red Star Laundry.

As led by Frank Schubert, the 5th Regiment Band proved popular at Live Oak Park. Frank Schubert was the father of violinist Adolph Schubert, who became leader of Phelan's Victory Theatre Orchestra on North 1st Street, and eventually acted as Secretary of Elks Lodge #522, then located on the S.E. corner of 1st and St. John streets. (now located at 444 Alma Street).

Schubert's Band was the remnants of the 5th Regiment, a semi-military company stationed in Santa Clara Valley during the unrest and turmoil of the post Civil War days.

P. D. Conterno, a product of the old school, took charge of the 5th Regiment following Schubert's retirement. Conterno dolled up his musicians in elaborate European style uniforms, and the picturesque group won instant favor. The band enlivened business openings, celebrations, parades, ball games and horse and bicycle races at Agricultural Park. This park composed of some 70 acres, extended from Park Avenue northward to The Alameda and Magnolia Avenue, then westward to Park Avenue (once known as Union Avenue). The Park contained a mile horse track, a bicycle saucer track, baseball diamond and picnic grounds. A large pavilion erected for indoor activities of the Carnival of Roses held in honor of President McKinley's 1901 visit, later became the Varsity Roller Skating Rink.

Fredricksburg Brewery was conveniently located for the thirsty, opposite Agricultural Park. Frank Schubert, the retired band leader, doled out Fredricksburg suds from kegs in an old fashioned beer garden at 5¢ per glass. "Hard liquor" cost 10¢ and the customer helped himself and no questions asked. The best brands of whisky sold at \$1 to \$1.25 per quart. 5ths were to come later.

The high-light for Conterno and his 5th Regiment Band was the annual summer trek to Capitola, the popular

seaside resort some 30 miles over the Santa Cruz grade. Capitola-By-The-Sea was a swanky, fashionable retreat for people escaping the heat and humidity of Central California--the rich, productive San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys.

Conterno's Band was Capitola's only source of entertainment, playing daily concerts on the beach and for balls and dances at night in the Town Hall. The peace and charm pervading the quaint little village was enhanced by the renewing of old friendships.

Italian and Chinese nationals, following an old world custom, hired brass bands for funerals. The musicians accompanied the cortege some blocks out of town, if the individual was of sufficient importance the band went to the cemetery in carryalls.

William Lake, 1st cornetist and letter carrier, stepped into Conterno's shoes as leader of the 5th Regiment Band when the latter retired at the turn of the century. Will Lake was a colorful individual. Having a prodigious memory, Lake enjoyed standing on 1st and San Fernando streets in front of Navlet's and wager some friend he could name off-hand the correct addresses of the next three out of five pedestrians. He seldom lost.

The main annual event for Lake and the 5th Regiment Band was furnishing music for the yearly Salinas Rodeo and Wild-west show. Lake celebrated New Year's Eve by climbing the 237-foot iron tower at Santa Clara and Market streets and playing Auld Lang Syne.

The only street lights in the 90's were huge arc lights, suspended at intersections, which gave off a dim light at their best. Bands playing night parades used a torch bearer who marched in the center of the group with his huge kerosene flair enabling the musicians to read their music.

The torch bearer for the 5th Regiment Band was an individual named Frank. The son of a full-blooded Indian woman, Frank bore a remarkable resemblance to the accepted likeness of Christ--in fact many people called him "Jesus Christ." True to his Indian background, Frank was a child of nature, his lodging and home being under the bridge just below the confluence of Los Gatos Creek and Guadalupe River.

Bill Lake, as leader of the band, arranged to have his Indian torch bearer, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, housed comfortably in an old soldiers' peninsula

hospital. Lake's protege found institutional life not to his liking and a few weeks later the half-breed was back enjoying his beloved freedom and home sweet home under the bridge. Frank had a strange idiosyncrasy. Almost every afternoon he'd stand on the corner of Market and San Fernando streets gazing intently at St. Joseph's Church, but he was never known to have entered the edifice.

A colorful custom old-timers miss are the political torch light parades. During important campaigns both Republican and Democratic parties staged competitive night parades. Street lighting being practically nill, the hundreds of torches rolling in a wave-like motion through the dark of the night made an impressive sight.

In 1900, Fred Brohaska, a local musician, formed what was then a distinct novelty, a band composed entirely of young women, naming his group "The Ladies' Band." Brohaska's Melody Maids proved their worth in the 1901 Carnival of Roses parade lending color to the big event honoring President McKinley.

Don Page, a local jeweler and musician, assumed leadership of the 5th Regiment Band succeeding Lake. With the help of a music lover, Edward Strohmaier, the name of the organization was changed to the American Legion "Blue Eagle Band." Raising funds, Page and his "Blue Eagles" journeyed to Miami, Florida, where in competition with much larger eastern groups, Page and his men "brought home the bacon"--Third Trophy--a high honor for little old San Jose.

Following Page, Melio Mayo taking the spotlight, changed the band's name to "The San Jose Municipal Band." Mayo is still going strong after a quarter of a century of successfully fulfilling the musical needs of the City of San Jose. Presently, Mayo and his organization plays Sunday Concerts at Alum Rock Park, featuring such artists as Patricia Calarrudo and Nace Hill.

San Jose State College has, or rather did have a Novelty Marching Band led by Roger Muzzy. According to news media, this organization has gone out of existence. The writer never had the opportunity of seeing or hearing the College Marching Band, but from all accounts it must have been a snappy organization. Here's hoping Mr. Muzzy's collegians may be reorganized and brought back to life.

FORBES MILL
Arthur M. Fisk

The beautiful Los Gatos Creek canyon seemed to be the ideal spot to locate a flour mill that would supply this area with much needed cereal. This was done in the early 1850's.

James Alexander Forbes was born in Inverness, Scotland, of wealthy parents. He was well educated and mastered in languages. When a young man he spent several years with an uncle in Spain. In 1828 he shipped for San Francisco (then Yerba Buena) aboard a Spanish man-of-war, arriving in California the same year.

In 1830 he was reported living at the Mission in Santa Clara and helping out as a teacher for the local Indians and clerk for Father Viader.

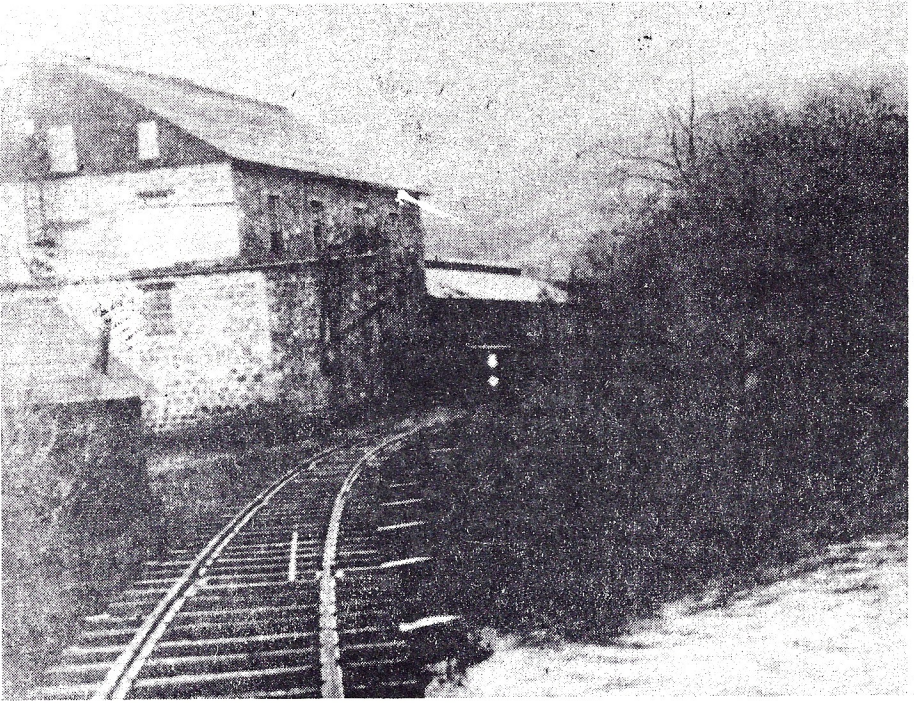
Later he became financially connected with the New Almaden Mining Company, and was one of the principals in the long litigation over the mining property.

In 1850 he began construction of a flour mill at Forbestown (now Los Gatos) on Los Gatos Creek where he had purchased some 3,000 acres. The building was made of stone, which was carted in by ox-teams. The timbers were made from hand-hewn redwood from the higher Los Gatos Creek area. The original mill was four stories in height including the attic, and one of the tallest buildings in Santa Clara County. The mill wheel was powered by water from Los Gatos Creek, brought in through a wooden flume. Forbes did extensive landscaping on the mill grounds and had plans for subdividing his property, but his venture proved a failure and he went through bankruptcy in 1857.

Through efforts of the Landmarks Commission the mill became a state landmark in 1950 and a bronze plaque was placed on its walls at a special commemorative ceremony.

Forbes was married in the Santa Clara Mission Chapel to the daughter of Juan Galinda, who was the grandson of Juan Galinda who came here with the Anza Party. After his marriage, Forbes lived for some time in quarters at the Mission and helped Father Real in the translation of the English and Spanish languages. In due time Forbes built a beautiful brick home near the Mission, between Lafayette and Washington streets, which he later sold to the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Forbes also acquired some 2,000 acres east of The Alameda, which he misrepresented and sold to Commodore Stockton as a league and a half of land for \$10,500. Stockton had the land surveyed by Chester Lyman and found



FORBES MILL ON LOS GATOS CREEK ABOUT 1880

that he had only 1,949 acres, and the transaction finally wound up in court. (This is now the San Jose Airport).

Forbes believed that England should seize California from Mexico for the payment of a debt owed to England by Spain, and was responsible for rumors that England was actually about to seize California. He was greatly disappointed when Commodore Sloat seized Monterey on July 7, 1846 and raised the Stars and Stripes.

* * *

Dear Mr. Fisk:- Yes, I was born at Wright Station on January 6, 1893 on my Dad's ranch, 800 feet above Wright Station and right over the tunnel you speak about in the Trailblazer. Our home was next door to the old Summit Hotel. Every Sunday as a boy I used to walk down the old trail to Wright Station to get the mail at Charlie Squires' Store.

I was a very scared boy of 13 when the 1906 earthquake struck. They always talk of San Francisco and the earthquake, but we were right over the fault. The whole mountain the railroad tunnel went through was moved nine feet and it took from 1906 to 1908 to redrill the tunnel. It took hundreds of cords of redwood to crib up the sliding earth that came down in the tunnel and from then on to 1940 when the railroad was abandoned there was a tunnel gang on duty at Wright Station replacing broken timbers in the tunnel.

During those days there was a meat market under the hotel at Wright Station, which you show a picture of in the Fall issue of the Trailblazer. It was operated first by Ed Coldron a Spanish-American War Veteran and then by Charlie Whitman who later drove a meat wagon for H. G. Shirley in Los Gatos and then bought the business from Shirley. He was one of the most wonderful men I ever met. He was a member of the Los Gatos Masonic Lodge No. 292.

My Dad had a new tank house, two stories, with a 6,000 gallon tank full of water on top when the earthquake hit. The 'quake tipped the tank house over and the water rushed through our tool shed, leveling it to the ground, then through our wagon shed and the barn.

I remember in 1918 when I had the best crop of fruit I ever had and prunes were selling for 16¢ per pound to the packer. On September 18th we had a heavy rain storm (nine inches) and I lost everything.

My wife, Bernice, and I were on the ranch from 1909 to 1926 when Prunes dropped to 1½¢ per pound and we had to quit. That's when I went to work for the Shell Oil Company.

Yours very truly, William A. Taylor.

* * *

Dear Arthur: Looking through my diary for 1916 I found the following train schedule notes I thought might interest you. "We left San Jose on the morning train at 10:35 Tuesday April 15, 1916 and arrived in Capitola at 1:25 p.m." Another note, "Train left Capitola at 5:24 p.m., Wednesday August 30, 1916 and arrived in San Jose at 8:00 p.m." (As I recall it we were due in San Jose at 7:50p.m. Train must have been about 10 minutes late). I have no record of how long the train stopped in Santa Cruz. (It took some time to unload and load the mail and express and perhaps to add more cars or switch some off.)

Many years ago a donkey was used to pull the tan oak bark out of the Wrights area to the station to be transported to the tannery in Santa Clara by train. Tan-bark is rich in tannin, bruised or cut into small pieces and

used in tanning. The circus ring in the early days was covered with spent bark.

The Austrian Dam began construction in 1945 by Earl Heple. William Gandrup an Austrian lived in a cabin situated in the gulch and supervised clearing of the trees in that area for construction of Austrian Dam and the reservoir. The gulch and dam were named for the Austrian. After the ravine was cleared of trees and brush, the cabin was moved below the location of the future dam. After the dam was completed, William Gandrup had a hernia operation and convalesced in the Heple home on Delmas Avenue. Earl Heple flew his plane over the construction area and the reservoir many times. He was well liked by all of his men. While clearing a valve in the dam of debris the pressure of the water from the reservoir washed Earl through a pipe into a small lake below the dam and he was drowned. Sincerely, "Bob." ***

(Through the kindness of the San Jose Water Works Bob and I were given a pass to visit Wrights Station and the Austrian Dam area and it brought back many fond memories. The mouth of the tunnel has caved in and considerable water is draining from it. I uncovered several redwood ties near where the old station had been and the old railroad roadbed was clearly discernible -- however the mouth of the tunnel is completely hidden by growth of maple, laurel and other trees and brush; below where the station had been we went through the brush and found the old concrete piers that carried the rails over Los Gatos Creek. No doubt this trip prompted Bob to relate several other happenings in this area as told in the above letter.) ***

Dear Arthur: That was a very good picture of the Normal School in the Spring issue.

I graduated from the Normal Training School in 1915, but I am not sure if the picture is of the one I attended. The front steps are different, but of course they could have been changed. The 1906 earthquake wrecked the belfry, and I don't remember one being rebuilt. The cupola on the building at the right was also demolished.

On the left in the picture is a building that was used for the primary grades. The main building was for the upper grades -- 5th and 6th grades occupied the first floor and the 7th and 8th the second story. Classes were also held in the basement: sewing, cooking, typesetting, electricity and steam. The boys were taught how to generate electricity and make steam, vapor, that is, not steam beer. The boys and girls together learned cooking.

I remember the last day of that course; we had ice cream.

The flexibility of the system of teaching really prepared the pupils for high school. The student teachers acquired their training in the various small glassed-in rooms that were located at the ends of the assembly halls. Student teachers and pupils could be seen by the supervisor sitting at her desk in the assembly hall. The pupils had their own desk in the main hall and went to the small class rooms every hour having a different teacher for each subject. This method paved the way for entering high school which was a big event before the days of junior high.

The Normal Training School faced Seventh Street near San Antonio. The camera man was on the spot where a cafeteria was later built, and close by was the San Jose High School gymnasium and swimming pool.

It would be interesting to know how many readers of the Trailblazer went to Normal Training School or attended the Normal School to become teachers. Bob.

* * *

BY-LINES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Leland M. Boruck

Twice in recent months members of your Board of Directors have been signally honored. On June 17th Austen Warburton was given a luncheon by the Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce as the first "Mr. Santa Clara" in appreciation of his many civic activities. He was the recipient of congratulatory telegrams from many State and Local governmental agencies as well as being given tokens of esteem that will undoubtedly decorate his office.

Mr. Laurence Bulmore was appointed Vice-President for this area during the California Historical Conference held in Monterey June 18, 19 and 20. An unexpected honor to both him and our organization.

At the June meeting we expressed our appreciation for the opportunity of serving as your President and thought we had bowed out gracefully. Evidently your Board thought otherwise, so for another twelve months I shall continue to face you and hope that another successful year will result therefrom.

* * *

LOOK FOR IT HERE

The Social Club of our society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday afternoon of each month. For further information call Mrs. Lovene Luhrman, 292-0070.

Our program chairman has arranged for a very interesting program to be presented at our next quarterly

meeting at Lou's Village on September 5th. ***

Ralph Rambo is featured in the June issue of "Harvest Years" for his eight soft-bound books on the history of Santa Clara County; authored by Frances L. Fox. Ralph is now writing a book on the biography of the "Pioneers of Santa Clara Valley." It will be illustrated with pen and ink drawings and should be in various book stores in this area before Christmas. ***

Welcome to the newly organized Historical Society in Santa Clara. Their first officers are: John C. Knowles, president; Earl E. Bowe, vice-president and Angeline Sudyka, secretary-treasurer. ***

Austen D. Warburton received the first "EMMY" award from the Santa Clara County Motion Picture and TV Council on April 28, 1970 for his outstanding service to youth. Warburton established and still serves on the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission and also served on the first County Delinquency Prevention Commission. In this regard he perennially serves on the Governor's Conference on Youth. He established and still serves as permanent chairman of the Santa Clara Juvenile Advisory Committee. On June 17th The Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce honored Mr. Warburton as "Mr. Santa Clara" with a Good Citizen Award at a luncheon held in Ramada Inn on "Austen D. Warburton Day," with representatives and telegrams from the city, county, state and the nation. ***

The question has been raised; "if San Jose Normal School was burned to the ground in 1880 was it rebuilt the same year?" The answer is, yes! Quoting from "Pen Pictures of Santa Clara County," printed in 1888; "The building, with all its contents, was burned to the ground February 11, 1880. The Legislature was then in session and a bill was immediately passed to rebuild; the school in the meantime was resumed in the High School building."

Following a joint session of the Planning Commission, Redevelopment Agency, Park and Recreation and the Landmarks Commission, it was recommended that the site of the original Statehouse should be preserved. San Jose was the first State Capitol of California after statehood. The original Statehouse was constructed in 1849 and burned down in 1853. It was located on what is now city parking lot No.7 surrounded by the San Antonio Plaza project.

We like to get letters! It makes us feel bad when we are not able to print them all. Our space is limited, but they will be filed and used later. ***

Pioneer trip to Jumping Frog Jubilee in next issue.***

WELCOME

Congratulations to our new members: Dorothy I. Allen, Martha Anderson, Walter A. Billeter, Frances Briggs, Paul L. Carver, Alice M. Edminster, Olive Street Engwicht, Mildred M. Foreman, Anne K. Gay, Aimee A. Gerlach, Emma Giussi, Ruth W. Gross, Amanda Ecklund Honeywell, Hazel M. Hoover, Mae Marr Hughes, Margaret Leddy, Mary Littig, Walter Littig, Julia Machado, Alice McSwiggin, Jessie C. Miller, Lillian J. Murphey, Ann Raich, Mary E. Schwarz, Ollie F. Sturges, Lillie Walsh and Mary L. Wolfinbarger.

* * *

UNDER THE WEATHER

There are no members reported seriously ill at this time. Kindly keep your officers informed as to the condition of any ill member, and report any sickness or death. Phone 264-2104.

* * *

BEYOND THE SUNSET

Eleanor A. Joachim
June 30, 1891 - April 22, 1970

Hazel A. Kerins
January 19, 1889 - April 26, 1970

Alpha B. Martin
February 8, 1902 - May 21, 1970

Rose B. Swetters
April 8, 1890 - June 27, 1970

Lucille Hardy Haag
December 1, 1891 - June 28, 1970

John F. Thompson
July 8, 1896 - June 30, 1970

Muriel M. Wright
December 18, 1891 - July 9, 1970

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

THE TRAILBLAZER

Issued in February, May, August and November

Editor: Arthur M. Fisk, 390 N. Winchester Bv. Santa Clara

Associate Editor: Marjorie B. Fisk

Assistant Editor: Henry J. Calloway

Staff Artist: Ralph Rambo

Subscription rates to non-members \$1.00 per year. Single copies 25 cents each.

Officers for 1970-71

President Leland M. Boruck

1st Vice President. John Blackmar

2nd Vice President. Lynn L. Vermillion

Recording Secretary Marjorie Rusht

Corresponding Secretary Esther Adams

Financial Secretary Madeline Smalley

Treasurer Curtis Bailey

Directors: Clyde Arbuckle, Laurence E. Bulmore, Martha

L. Bulmore, Ramona W. Moxley, Henry C. Stout, A. Bernice

Van Gundy, Austen D. Warburton and Howard L. Worcester.

* * *

SEND APPLICATIONS for membership to Bernice Van Gundy, 561 Fuller Ave., San Jose, Ca. 95125.

SICKNESS and DEATHS please notify Martha Bulmore, 2221 Coastline Ave., San Jose, Ca. 95125. Phone - 264-2104.

BUS TOUR information for members of the Pioneer Society may be obtained from Mrs. Effie M. Hawkins, phone 295-2868, 9 a.m. until 12 noon.

* * *

2221 COASTLAND AVENUE
SAN JOSE, CALIF. 95125

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Return Postage Guaranteed

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID

San Jose, California
Permit No. 1234