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Brayevich Brothers: the Croatian Community in Willow Glen

By Paul Bernal

Two stalwart horse-drawn plows adorn the gardens of the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House museum at 770 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose, California. These farm implements are part of the interpretive garden maintained by the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. The plows represent Willow Glen history and the significant contributions of the Croatian farming community in Willow Glen.

In May 2018, the two plows were carefully transported to the museum gardens by Paul Bernal and Ilko Vuica. Since the plows needed repair, blacksmith and California Pioneers super-volunteer, John Grafton, forged a period replacement hitch and connector. Grafton and Bernal wood-worked a replacement plow beam using period tools, including the adze, a long-handled axe that the craftsman swings between his legs while standing on or above the wood to be worked. The chopping motion is toward the craftsman’s feet. All existing metal parts were restored and reused.

Brayevich Family History

The donors of the plows are Carol Brayevich



Ilko Vuica, donor of the Willow Glen plows.

Vuica and Ilko Vuica. Carol’s grandparents, John and Mary Brayevich, emigrated from Croatia to Washington State in the late 1800s. Traveling by ship, John and Mary arrived in Seattle. After John secured a place for Mary to live with friends in Seattle, he headed to the Alaska Klondike Gold Rush (1896-1898). John’s and Mary’s first child, Annie, was born in Seattle in 1898.

After the Alaskan gold rush, John and Mary found their way to Willow Glen *(Continued pg. 3)*



The repaired plow from 1900 that was used on the Brayevich Farms. Now it sits with another plow in the gardens of the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House. *(Photos: Paul Bernal)*

Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Saturday, Dec. 1st, 2018

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT

Banquet Room—1547 Meridian Ave. in San Jose

Luncheon Presentation

Aerial Treason

**Sunset Magazine & Bob Fowler's
Dance with the U.S. Attorney General**

presented by

Roy Mize

Make Reservations by Wednesday, Nov. 28th

Email to sccpioneers@aol.com

or call 408-554-7587 with your menu selection

**If, after reserving, you cannot attend the Luncheon
PLEASE call or e-mail to cancel your reservations.**

WE HAVE TO PAY FOR NO-SHOWS !

LUNCHEON COST IS \$35

Lunch costs have risen.

Pioneers do not make any profit from these charges.

**Please make checks payable in advance to
California Pioneers and bring to Luncheon.**

Menu Selections

Three Flames Special Steak
tri-tip steak topped with sautéed mushrooms

Breast of Chicken Sauté
Boneless breast with white wine & mushroom sauce

[Both above served with red potatoes & fresh vegetables]

Pasta Rose
Penne Pasta, tomato-Alfredo sauce, mushrooms,
green onions and fresh basil

**All of the above served with Salad, Coffee and Dessert
No-Host Bar for soft drinks, beer and wine**

***Parking is limited in front of the restaurant; however,
ample parking is available in the rear and close
to the separate banquet room entrance.***

About the Lunch Presentation

Roy Mize will present “*Aerial Treason*,” the story of four men arrested as spies and charged with treason by order of the Attorney General of the United States in 1914. The four men were a Sunset Magazine editor, a famous airman, a West Point graduate, and a San Francisco moviemaker. The story is currently being reviewed by Smithsonian Air & Space Magazine for 2019 publication. (Under contract)

Roy's interest in improbable technology began during his Army days when he spent three years working with computer systems for ground to air missiles. After the Army he moved to what later became Silicon Valley and over the next 40 years he worked at five advanced telecommunications research companies, retiring from two.

Although he holds three university degrees, none is in technology. His entire experience has been in the care and feeding of research and development scientists and engineers for aerospace, satellite communications, high energy lasers, and advanced software development projects.

Roy has taught continuing education classes for several universities including UC Santa Cruz, UCLA, and Sonoma State University near Santa Rosa. Other teaching included adult education for a local school district. He also developed and taught one of the first online Web search classes for UC Santa Cruz in 1996/97 and has guest lectured on planning and scheduling concepts and on his avocation, early aviation history.

Roy and his wife Katherine live in Mountain View, California.

Be sure to reserve your spot for this unique presentation!

Trailblazer

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Gayle Frank, Editor

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The California Pioneers of Santa
Clara County is a 501(c)3
non-profit organization

Plows (Continued)

in San José and purchased a 15 acre ranch along (what is now) Hamilton Avenue.

The western boundary of the Brayevich farm was (what is now) Gaton Drive, with the neighboring farmers being an Italian family named Danna who owned the property where the Meridian post office and Safeway is today. The eastern boundary of the Brayevich lands was Hicks Avenue. The northern boundary of the property stretched to (what is now) Cherrydale Drive (adjacent to the farm of the Italian family Caporale). The southern boundary was about where Pergrino Way is today, which was adjacent to the Mayer ranch.

Around 1900 the Brayevich family managed a cherry orchard on their homestead at (what is now) the northwest corner of Hamilton and Hicks Avenues. The donated plows resided at this location between 1900 and May 2018. John Brayevich used the plows to dig rows for planting vegetables and new cherry trees since the motor tractor had not yet been developed for farming.

John and Mary's family soon increased with the arrival of Louise, George, Mary, John, Nellie, Stella, Nick and Pete. Seasonal hands were hired to work the ranch, but as John and Mary Brayevich's children got older, the children replaced the farmhands.

As was common for small ranch owners, most of the family also worked in the local canneries, such as Contadina and Del Monte, to augment their income. Cherries were in demand on the East Coast, so fruit was packed in dry ice and shipped by train to New York. There were good years, but bad ones as well, especially during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Many Americans forwent fruit during the Depression.

Brayevich Brothers

After John passed away in 1939, and Mary in 1941, the farm became Brayevich Brothers, Inc. The Brayevich brothers, sons of Mary and John—



George, John, Nick and Pete—worked the entire land as equal partners.

As neighborhoods of houses sprung up to replace orchards, San José wanted to connect Hamilton Avenue to Pine Avenue. The road extension ran right through the Brayevich orchard, splitting the farm in half. The southern half became approximately the neighborhood of the Dry Creek Village condominiums, east of the Safeway store, while the northern half later became the neighborhood near Cherrydale Drive.

The youngest son, Pete Brayevich, married Elva Santos from the Mission San José (Fremont) area. They had an only child, Carol Brayevich, (our donor) who grew up on the farm until she was 6 years old.

Pete, Elva and Carol lived next to the old homestead of John and Mary. Later, he and his family relocated to Mission San José for about a decade, while managing

his own 3-acre orchard in Fremont. Yet Pete would still drive down to San Jose every day to help take care of the family farm. Carol Brayevich lived with her family in the Mission San Jose neighborhood

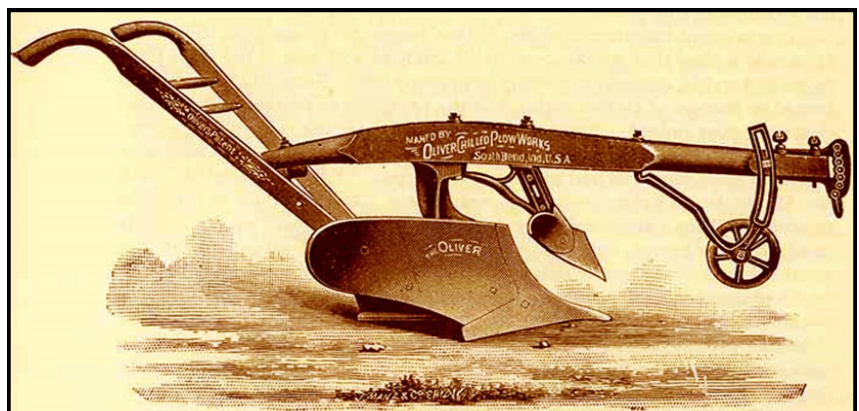
from ages 6 to 18.

Return to the Farm

Pete tired of making the daily commute between Mission San José and Willow Glen, so the family moved back to the Brayevich Brothers farm in Willow Glen. Because Pete's oldest brother George and his wife Katherine passed away, Pete and family took up residence in George's house, since there were no heirs.

George's home, built in 1934 at the northwest corner of Hamilton and Hicks Avenues, still exists at 1697 Hicks Avenue. Carol lived here on the farm again, from ages 18 to 25. Carol recalls her father doing whatever had to be done on the cherry orchards—running irrigation pipes, plowing, planting vegetables, working the tractor, performing repairs, pruning and harvesting. He used a John Bean Sprayer wood wagon that was horse-drawn. Fertilizer and pesticide would spray out in all directions as the horses pulled the wagon between rows of trees.

(Continued pg. 4)



One of our plows is the Oliver Walking Plow. Here is an image from the Oliver Chilled Plow Works catalog. The "chilled plow" by James Oliver, South Bend, Indiana, was designed to replace wooden plows with a metal mouldboard that would scour in any soil and last a lifetime. Oliver spent years in experimenting with chilled metal (drenched in cold water after casting to increase strength).

(Continued)

Over time, it became increasingly more difficult to maintain a farm in San Jose with tax increases and wells running dry. Considerable money was spent by the Brayevich family to dig their wells deeper and deeper. When the price of cherries dropped, the farm could not sustain itself and was sold to developers in the early 1970s.

Ilko Vuica

In 1971, Ilko Vuica immigrated to the United States from Croatia and married Carol Brayevich when she was 25 years old. After living in an apartment, eventually Ilko and Carol moved into a house on Briarwood Drive near Saint Christopher Church. Ilko was a skilled butcher who had no trouble landing work in many local grocery stores.

The George Brayevich house became empty when first, Carol's mother Elva passed away and then Carol's father, Pete, passed away in 1993. That same year Carol and Ilko moved into the George Brayevich house, still living there today. The newer home next door to the north at 1675 Hicks Avenue was built by Carol's uncle Nick Brayevich in 1972 and is now occupied by other family members of Carol and Ilko Vuica. The original farmhouse was located much further back behind this house.

The Greater Croatian Community

There was a sizable group of Croatians in



The John Brayevich Family. Girls from left, Nellie, Louise, Annie, Mary, and Stella. Bottom row from left, George, John, father John, Pete, mother Mary and Nick.

Willow Glen and many remain today. It was a tight community, often connected to the Portuguese of the area. Early on (1853), Suñol House owner Stefano Splivalo was Croatian. The Croatian Pavlicevics operated an apricot farm on the west side of Lincoln Avenue. The Croatian church that is across the street from our museum was/is a Mission to serve the Croatian community in Willow

Glen. The church building was originally the Maryann Gardens banquet hall, alongside the Pavlicevic's apricot orchards. Father Topic asked the hall owner, Ann Pavlicevic, to donate the land and building to the Croatian Church, and so she did. The Maryann Gardens banquet hall was then converted into a church that still serves the community today.



The Tony Kraljevich family ran a farm near what is now the southeast intersection of Meridian Avenue and Moorpark Street. Later this land was partly occupied by the Denver Meat Company. Developer Barry Swenson wanted to buy the land, but Tony Kraljevich said no. Instead, Swenson agreed to a long-term lease of the land, razed the Denver Meat Company and erected an office building. Many other Croatian families, such as the Gluhans, owned orchards in this area. ❖

The John Brayevich farm house, which was located behind 1675 Hicks Avenue.

(Photos this page courtesy of Carol Vuica)

“When San Jose Was Young—Making a Living in the Pueblo”

This is a reprint of a 1916 series about local history written for San Jose's *Evening News* and attributed to Cora Older.

Part I

“If you had come to San Jose from Spain in 1777, how would you have made a living? There was only a little group of houses with tule roofs back of where the Hotel Vendome¹ now stands. There was no irrigation system, no roads. It was a hard struggle for the colonists, but this was how they managed.

Each colonist was given by the government a lot for building a house, as well as free wood. Rather ironically was added “free water.” Certainly the colonists had plenty of water. For five years a colonist paid no taxes. The Spanish government provided him with seed, implements and livestock, all of which had to be paid for within five years from the produce of the land. The first two years each colonist received payment from the government of \$116.50 annually. The next three years this was reduced to \$60.00. Payment of the subsidy was made in clothing and other necessities.

Everyone worked, but wages were not high. When the colonists needed workmen they went out and threw a riata [lariat] over an Indian's head and dragged him into the Pueblo. Of course, catching an Indian, and making an Indian work were two entirely different matters. After an Indian was

flogged into industrial efficiency he was given 25 cents for a day's work to be divided between extra food and clothing or blankets. The most energetic Indians sometimes were paid one-third of the produce for their labor.

Some of the public buildings in Monterey were built by a hundred San Jose Indians who were escorted to Monterey by a “boss.” The Indians worked very obediently in Monterey. They did not revolt because they “liked the sea bathing.” The Indians were the first Californians to appreciate Monterey as a summer resort.

Often the white people felt that the Indians received more than their share. The governor at Monterey, for example, earned but \$4000 a year but the officers received so little that their wives had to take in washing to keep up appearances. A common soldier was paid little more than a hundred dollars a year.

The Governor had great difficulty in making the Pueblo colonists industrious. The colonist, too, had his trials. He was obliged to sell his produce

exclusively to the Presidio at a price fixed by the government. Even his time was not his own. He was compelled to keep himself and his horses to readiness for military services. Besides, he was obliged to work on roads, ditches and public buildings for nothing.

A colonist who failed to cultivate his land lost the improvements as well as the land.

In 1796 sheep-raising was introduced in San Jose. Each colonist was compelled to keep three sheep for every one of the larger cattle. However, they were allowed to have only fifty large cattle.

Strong governments in those days did not permit their power to be threatened by tyrannical private monopolies.”

(To be continued in next issue)

1 Hotel Vendome (1889-1930) was on N. First Street, just north of downtown San Jose

—October 3, 1916
San Jose Evening News



Recognition Barbeque Celebrated Admission Day

For the second year, on September 8th, the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County held a Recognition Barbeque for our docents and volunteers at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House. The theme was Admission Day, celebrating California being admitted into the Union in 1850. The patio is a perfect gathering spot for tables and chairs under the shade of our over-100 year old fig tree. And we were fortunate to again have the Clampers (E Clampus Vitus, Mt. Charlie Chapter 1850) barbeque the chicken, ribs and sausage—all with delicious sides and dessert. Thank you Clampers, for a wonderful food fest!



*Singers Jack Hale and Jill Ross—the Jack and Jill Team from Boulder Creek
Below Bill Foley, Linda Avignon-Wikke.*

Music provided by *The Jack & Jill Team* added to the festive mood. Their specialty is nostalgic songs of yesteryear. It had been a long time since some of us heard those old favorites such as *Oh Susanna* and *Home on the Range*.

Many of the Board Members, docents, volunteers and their guests were in attendance.

Thank you to Russ Robinson for chairing the Barbeque Committee and for all those who helped make this event such a success. ❖

(More photos on page 7)



*Right, our littlest Pioneer,
Liam Foley.*

*Left, Dr. Mike Shea and
Tim Peddy.*

(Photos: Gayle Frank)



Barbeque (Continued)



*Left, Bernie Moore;
Above, Alan and
Mary Berger.*



*Above, Jim & Lynn Zetterquist.
Left, Joe Coughlin and Carol Arnoldy. (More photos next page)*

Docents Visit “Rosie the Riveter” Museum

Pioneers docents, top row from left, Mary Hanel, Jonna Baker Sylvia Hew and Linda Avignon-Wikke, visited the Rosie the Riveter Museum last month and enjoyed hearing historic tales about WWII days from three docents pictured left on the bottom row. From left to right, docents are: Marian Sousa, who served as a draughtsman on revisions of troop transports; Kay Morrison, who worked the graveyard shift with her husband as a welder and became a certified Journeyman Welder; Marian Wynn, who was a Pipe Welder, working in an open building exposed to the elements. All three ladies are now in their 90s and enjoy retelling their history. They are at the museum on most Fridays.

The Richmond shipyards built 740 ships in the years from 1941 to 1945, building one of them in just 4 and a half days! These three ladies contributed to that effort.



Our Docents—Thank You!!

Paulson House, History San Jose
 Docent Coordinator: Jonna Baker

Diane Alves	Berni Moore
Carol Arnoldy	Milt Peddy
Linda Avignon- Wikke	Barbara Peddy
Jonna Baker	Joanne Souza
Joe Coughlin	Madeline Streight
Sylvia Hew	Melissa Winter
Judie Mabie	Rosaleen Zisch

Roberto Adobe/Suñol House
 Docent Coordinator: Sylvia Hew

Jonna Baker (backup)	Mary Hanel
Lu Ane Behringer	Sylvia Hew
Mary Berger	Phil Johnson
Paul Bernal	LaVerne Aguirre- Parnley
Paul (Pablo) Boehm	Tim Peddy (backup)
Joe Coughlin	Jenny Walicek (backup)
Rachel Fischer	Rosaleen Zisch
Gayle Frank	

Barbeque (Continued)



From top left clockwise, Jonna Baker, Joanne Souza & Madeline Streight; Paul Boehm; Paul Bernal & Rachel Fischer; Russell & Tudy Johnson. (Photos: Gayle Frank)

Coyote Depot News

The preservation of the Coyote Depot on Monterey Road in the County of Santa Clara has been a strong concern for many local historians for the last few years. Four structures were listed on the County's Historic Inventory but now only two remain, the tank tower and the depot structure. The pump house was lost to arson and the warehouse had to be demolished, a victim of years of neglect.

A Coyote Depot Task Force has been organized and the interested groups include the Morgan Hill Historical Society, E Clampus Vitus, the California Trolley & Railroad Corporation, the Preservation Action Council of San Jose and the Santa Clara County Historic Heritage Commission among others.

In September, members of the E Clampus Vitus (the Clampers) spent a whole day cleaning up the site and removing dried weeds and other debris that had accumulated. They also made minor repairs and secured the site against homeless people who had apparently been living in the building. This is an ongoing problem and the site has been fenced, but trespassers once again found access to the interior. This time they brought two bags of charcoal briquettes.

Union Pacific has been very good about maintaining the remaining property by removing weeds and providing security fencing.

Union Pacific is happy to partner with the Coyote Depot Task Force to secure the site and begin stabilization and renovation. Real estate manager Peter Kenny agreed to draft a \$1/year lease to allow E Clampus Vitus members ongoing access to the structure and will allow us to begin building repairs.

We all agreed that the future of the building and the site is in question as long as the California High-Speed Rail project is still planned. But no matter what the outcome of the High-Speed Rail project outcome, the structure should be stabilized and repaired now. We may need to relocate the depot structure at some future date, if that option proves necessary.

The Task Force is very pleased with the described actions above and Union Pacific's willingness to work with us.

—April Halberstadt, Commissioner
Santa Clara County
Historic Heritage Commission



Coyote Depot on Monterey Rd. (Photo: www.facebook.com/CoyoteDepot)

About Coyote Depot

The Coyote Depot sits at 8215 Monterey Road between Metcalf and Bailey. Built in 1868-69 for the Santa Clara & Pajaro Valley Railroad, the Coyote Depot is one of the oldest railroad structures in California. Early after its construction, a four-room structure was attached to the original depot and served as a residence for the assigned station agent.

Steam locomotives require large quantities of water, but natural water sources are scarce in California. Railroad civil engineers found the best rail route was close to Coyote Creek, which provided a source of water for running the trains' engines.

By the end of 1869, the railroad was merged into the Central Pacific, which was then acquired by Southern Pacific.

The depot served as a flag station for the Coyote community until its closing in 1959. After its closing, the structure was leased as a private residence but now is boarded up with recently installed fencing to help protect against vandalism.

Sources: —www.facebook.com/CoyoteDepot
—medium.com/protect-coyote-valley/coyote-valleys-railroad-history-3e20ad05a433

Preserving California History in Santa Clara County Since 1974

The Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus ®

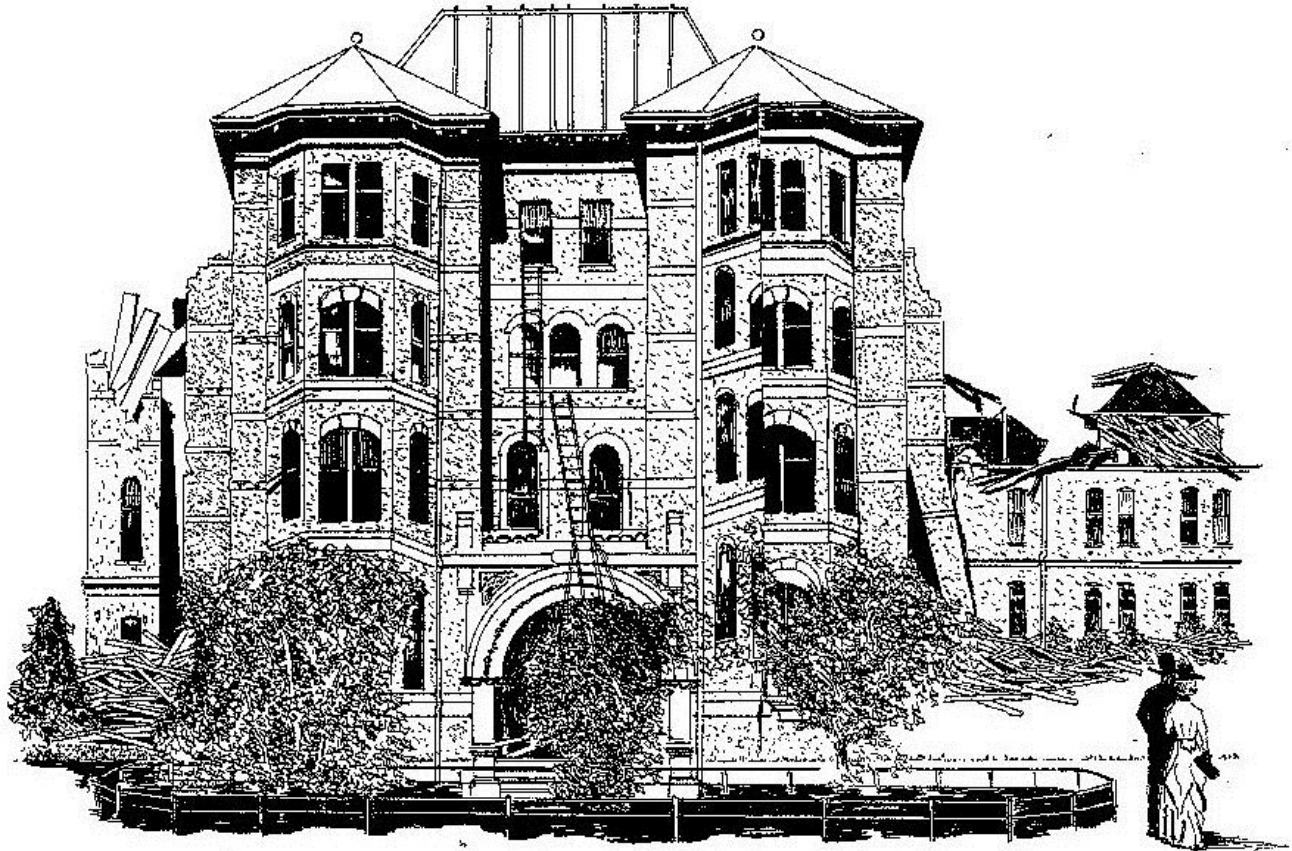


**Mountain Charlie Chapter
No. 185**

www.mountaincharlie1850.org/

"Right wrongs nobody"

Agnews State Insane Asylum—A Sketch By Jim Campbell



*Agnews State Insane Asylum
1906 Earthquake*

Campbell

This multi-storied building with unreinforced masonry, known as Agnews Asylum among other names, was one of the vulnerable structures in ruins when the 1906 earthquake hit, lasting 47 seconds. Over 100 patients and 11 staff members were killed from the catastrophe, the highest number of earthquake casualties in the South Bay.

A Brief History of Agnews

Abram Agnew (1820-1900), a farmer from Ohio, purchased 120 acres of rich farm land between San Jose and Alviso in 1873. He donated four of his acres to the South Pacific Coast Railroad in 1876 that resulted in his little town, Agnew's, with its own train depot, post office, a few general stores, saloons, a blacksmith, two hotels and a public road, (Agnew Road). Agnew recorded his town as Agnew's on June 15, 1889 according to

“Signposts Revisited” by Pat Loomis. (The apostrophe in Agnew's was dropped when naming the hospital.)

By 1888, the original buildings at Agnews (officially called the California Hospital for the Chronic Insane and the next year, the State Asylum at Agnews), were completed on a large picturesque 323-acre parcel of land. Theodore Lenz designed the original brick and stone facility with a central four-story building framed with a three-story wing on each side. The builders were the brothers of Theodore Lenz. The design emphasized lots of windows for fresh air and natural light, but apparently there were bars on the windows. The site was open for receiving patients by November of 1888 and was unofficially referred to as the “Insane Asylum” or just Agnews.

The Trustees of the Agnews Asylum

met monthly to pay bills, manage financial operations, and periodically ask for appropriations from the State to construct additional buildings. In 1889, the California Governor approved \$225,000 for additional buildings to be constructed. That year the State also issued rules of employee conduct for all California asylums for the insane. (*Evening News, Mar. 18, 1889*). Other state institutions for the insane were previously established in Stockton (1853) and Napa (1880s). Later, two additional facilities were established at Ukiah and Patton.

Most patients were committed to Agnews by order of a judge, sometimes with a doctor's recommendation, sometimes straight from a jail cell. A smaller number of patients voluntarily committed themselves. Some reports say that Agnews' patients also included banished spouses,

(Continued pg. 11)

Agnews (Continued)

those who were a burden to families, overly active children, elderly parents, and even those who practiced unorthodox religious beliefs or Spiritualism. Records also revealed that: patient's meals were meager; outdated medical procedures were used; patients were drugged with morphine and opium; and there was physical abuse.¹ The newspapers sometimes reported who had been sent to Agnews, who escaped, and who was recaptured. Deaths at Agnews were also reported in the newspaper, such as a patient jumping out of a window or another burned from scalding water turned on in a tub.

A more complementary news article reported that in 1890, semi-monthly Friday dances were held for patients, guests and attendants. The orderly event, with informal dress, accommodated about 100 patients with milder symptoms and 50 guests (*Evening News, Nov. 4, 1890*). Such dances as the Virginia Reel and the Quadrille were popular with the patients while the staff also danced to waltzes. Some patients enjoyed just sitting and watching. This social interaction and experiencing music was all part of the progressive treatment plans.

By 1896 there were a total of 915 patients, 560 male and 355 female. At that time, employees at Agnews were now required to wear uniforms. The census by 1900 was 1004 patients, 585 male and 419 female. Periodic census reports were published in the newspaper.

By 1901, both the new male patients' cottage and another larger building for 100 patients were completed, enabling the site to accommodate up to 1100 patients (*San Jose Mercury News, Dec. 2, 1901*). Another cottage was soon built for female patients in addition to the main hospital building. Each cottage housed 50 patients. The cottages had abundant windows, were modern in style, and had "good sanitary plumbing." The grounds were always neat with ornamental trees, palms, shrubs, flower gardens and lots of well-mowed grass. There was a tennis court, croquet

grounds and a baseball field. This news article from December 1901 was very complimentary to all facets of the Agnews facility, arousing suspicions that it might have been slanted to serve as a public relations piece to reassure citizens that all was well at the insane asylum. Or, perhaps over the years conditions did improve.

By 1903 there were 1035 patients at Agnews and a new building was needed. The total mental patients in the State of California in 1903 was 5,500, placed throughout the five state hospitals (*Evening News, Jan. 15, 1903*). Also in January of that year, Dr. L. E. Stocking was elected Medical Superintendent of the Agnews facility, taking over from Dr. J. A. Crane who had resigned a month earlier. Dr. Stocking had been on the Agnews medical staff for 9 years prior to his promotion and was a progressive proponent for treating patients with a goal of their returning back into society.

The Agnews farm and gardens produced fruit and vegetables for the residents, and the dairy, with 60 Jersey cattle, provided milk products. Cultivated hay and grain on site fed the dairy cows and stable animals. Receipts from the farm, garden and dairy totaled \$1,162.61 in July of 1907 (*Evening News, Aug. 9, 1907*). Agnews administrators hired employees as farmers, attendants, food preparers, and waitresses, plus the necessary medical doctors and nurses. Many patients also assisted in running these facilities since it was thought that keeping busy with plenty of fresh air would be beneficial to their health. The hospital laundry was operated

by many of the women patients as well as their assisting with sewing and embroidery.

The debilitating 1906 earthquake on April 18th at 5:12 am caused the loss of at least 101 patients and 11 staff members. The central tower building completely fell to the basement, other buildings were badly damaged and then fires destroyed additional property. Many patients were also seriously injured from the disaster. A news report on April 19th stated that 160 bodies were uncovered; however that does not coincide with official death numbers later. After the earthquake, it was also reported that 25 patients escaped and 20 were recaptured, but none of these patients were considered dangerous (*Evening News, April 25, 1906*).

By May, 1906 it was reported that "complete order was restored" at Agnews and nearly 1000 patients were cared for and housed, some "in tents on the spacious grounds," and regular routines had been established (*Evening News, May 2, 1906*). Again, the newspaper report sounds overly optimistic.

By June of 1906, a temporary building was constructed to accommodate the patients "until fire and earthquake proof buildings were built" (*Evening News, June 9, 1906*). Reports in the newspaper a month earlier suggested that the Agnews facility should be merged with the Stockton facility where earthquakes were less common. But local county representatives "strenuously opposed" (Continued pg. 12)



Back By Popular Demand

2019 History Essay Contest

Prizes Awarded for Best Essays

Essay Subject: Any person, place or event concerning Santa Clara County from its beginning to the recent past.

For Details and Rules go to: www.CaliforniaPioneers.com

Submittal Deadline: April 15, 2019

For more information contact:

Essay Committee Chair Dr. Michael Shea at md6996@sbcglobal.net or CaliforniaPioneers@gmail.com

Agnews (Continued)

the proposals.” (*Evening News*, May 25, 1906)

By December, 1906 there were 758 patients in the Agnews facility after several hundred patients were sent to other nearby institutions. (*Evening News*, Dec. 13, 1906.)

Reconstruction took place rapidly. The Board of Managers asked for an appropriation of \$800,000 from the state legislature to rebuild in February, 1908. Soon the State Architect, Leonard Willeke, and the institution’s superintendent, Dr. Leonard Stocking, designed a new revolutionary cottage plan with the popular California Mission style. The facility was back in full operation in 1909. At the hospital’s peak, there were 2,000 patients and 41 buildings on the site.²

When the Lanterman Act passed in 1971 and Governor Reagan closed Agnews State Hospital to the mentally ill in 1972, hundreds of patients were sent to private nursing homes.² Many of the former patients were destined to wander the streets during the day around the San Jose State University campus neighborhoods. Agnews still housed developmentally disabled patients for the next two decades.³

The original Agnews site completely closed in 1996. When Sun Microsystems purchased a portion of the property in 1997, the significant buildings, the Clock Tower, Administration Building, Auditorium and Superintendent’s home, were nicely restored at a cost of \$10 million dollars. Most of the other buildings were demolished.

The Santa Clara site at 4000 Lafayette Avenue was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. By 2010, Oracle bought out Sun Microsystems and still owns the site.

—Gayle Frank

¹ www.mercurynews.com/2016/10/05/spdn0916matters/ “Matters Historical: Santa Clara’s hospital of horror, Agnews” by M. Svanevik and S. Burgett.

² www.svvoice.com/historian-reveals-story-behind-agnews-developmental-center/. “Historian [Lorie Garcia] Reveals Story Behind Agnews Developmental Center” by Cynthia Cheng, 2015.

³ An additional facility for the developmentally disabled, 2 miles east of the original site, closed in 2009.

Roberto Adobe & Suñol House Update

The Fountain

Our fountain (below) next to the patio at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House has been in tip-top shape since Joe Coughlin has assumed the role of managing its maintenance and operation. What an improvement over the greenish, murky waters of the past. Thank you Joe!!

(Photo: Gayle Frank)



Repairing the Plow

John Grafton, blacksmith extraordinaire, spent some time at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House repairing one of our recently acquired plows. The photo below shows him working with an adze (cutting tool similar to an ax). The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County appreciates John's awesome skills and his willingness to share his talents with us. The museum is first class with the help of John Grafton.

(Photos: Paul Bernal)



Debugging the Adobe/Suñol House

In September the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House was tented to rid the site of termites and other pesty bugs. (See below) After a week, our museum was back in commission with tours on Saturdays from 12 noon until 2 pm.



Above, John Grafton repairing the original connecting pieces on the plow donated by Carol Brayevich Viuca and Ilko Viuka.

(Photos: Paul Bernal)

Welcome New Pioneers Members

Lisa Pappanastos, San Jose ~ Theresa Giovanzano, San Jose

Lynda Martinez, San Jose ~ Ilko A. Vuica & Carol Brayevich Vuica, San Jose

New Table for Library

For many months, the Pioneers have been searching for a large table for our second-floor library at the Suñol House. Then, Tudy Johnson, our librarian, found an ad for an expandable table and chairs for sale. Jim Zetterquist and helpers checked out the table the next day and found it to be just what we needed. When the seller, Scott Congleton from Sunnyvale, learned about our non-profit status and what the table was for, he offered to give us the table for free!

The table was transported to the Suñol House but by then, Jim Zetterquist's back went out. Fortunately Salomon from the Ranch Town Recycling Center across the street sent over two of his men to help take the table and chairs upstairs. Now the library is filled since it contains both the old table and new table/chairs. However, a lot of working



surface will enable Tudy and Mary Berger to continue their organization and indexing of the books and documents. ❖

Above, our new table & chairs for the Suñol House Library, which will be ready for members to use soon.

(Photo: Tudy Johnson)

Roberto Adobe & Suñol House

770 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose

FREE TOURS
Saturdays 12 to 2

Not open on major holiday weekends

Gratis tours en Español con cita previa

CaliforniaPioneers.com

Docent or Greeter Opportunity for Roberto Adobe & Suñol House Museum

For more information or to volunteer, contact
Sylvia Hew at 408-265-5371 or
hewmum@gmail.com

Join Us As a Greeter or Docent for the Paulson House at History San Jose

For more information or to volunteer, contact
Jonna Baker at
(408) 533-3256 or J234belle@yahoo.com

Membership Report

The membership dues for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are **due on January 1st every year**. Basic dues are only \$35.

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2018 please do so; otherwise you will be dropped from the membership roster in January. Dues for 2019 will be accepted at the December luncheon or you can mail your check to CA Pioneers of SCC, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA, 95155.

Check your mailing label on your Trailblazer and it will indicate when your dues have expired. For example, if after your name it says, Dec-18, your Pioneers membership is up-to-date until the end of 2018.

Additional donations or higher membership levels are always appreciated. Visit www.CaliforniaPioneers.com for more details. And please, don't forget the Pioneers in your estate planning and consider donating from your IRA's required minimum distribution. ❖

**For More Info-
Membership Chair
Walt Gil**

**If you have questions
about your membership
status, contact
Walt at
wgil@cpi-re.com
or 408-978-1090.**

Time Travel *(Past News from Newspaper Archives)*

San Jose, April 1911: The city school department announced May Day would no longer be observed as a holiday.

Los Gatos, 1913: An ordinance prohibiting noises within the city limits was aimed at the railroad with their blowing steam in the railroad yard. It was also a violation for them to blow their whistles within 1000 feet on the north and 500 feet south of the depot. The Lyndon Hotel here helped "engineer the action."

Sacramento, 1915: Annual state auto license fees were to be paid at the rate of 40 cents a horsepower. Also, vehicles, whether motor or horse-drawn, "shall utilize a light after dark."

San Jose, 1915: Possums were being collected by members of the Market Street Fire Company in preparation for a



"Southern Dinner." Word was sent all over the city that such game was quite numerous in creeks near town and were being trapped for the occasion.

Santa Clara, January 1927: "Official recognition was given Santa Clara as a city when the state legislature ratified the new city charter, adopted by a

vote of 627 to 150 by the local citizens on April 5, 1926."

Santa Clara, March 1939: "Glass milk bottles are soon to be displaced by paper containers according to the State Department of Dairy Service." ❖

2018 Santa Clara Historic Home Tour

The always-delightful Holiday Historic Home Tour is scheduled for Friday, December 7th and Saturday, December 8th. Four private homes plus two of the oldest historic buildings in Santa Clara—the Santa Clara Woman's Club Adobe and the late 1850s-era Larder House will be on this year's tour.

A Queen Anne Victorian, Craftsman Bungalow and other historical architectural styles will be featured. To order tickets visit sc-hometour.com, or mail ticket requests to: Historic Home Tour 2018, c/o Harris Lass House Museum, P.O. Box 3311, Santa Clara, CA 95055-3311. Early bird tickets are \$20 by Oct. 31.

After Oct. 31 tickets are \$25-\$30. Proceeds benefit the Harris Lass Museum, historic preservation projects in the City, and nonprofit groups in Santa Clara. ❖

—Mary Hanel

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California Pioneers of Santa Clara County 2018 Board of Directors

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Jim Campbell, Resident Artist for Calif. Pioneers of
SCC

Madeline Streight; Sunshine Chair; 408-259-4422 or
madeline.streight@att.net

Our Mission is to promote, preserve, and celebrate
the history of Santa Clara County and the heritage
of its past generations. We collect, archive, educate
and encourage research and scholarship.