

Vol. 60, Issue 3

Sept 2019

Inside this issue:

2019 Essay Contest Winners	1
Sept. Quarterly Luncheon	2
When San Jose Was Young; Daughter of the Don José, Part I	4
Martin Murphy Jr. Home—Sketch by Jim Campbell	6
Clampers Reinstall Sign	7
What's in Our Garden?	7
Littlest Pioneer Decorates Plot	8
Docents Visit Pioneers Library	8
Highlights of June Luncheon	9
Reliving Historic Wagon Drive	10
A Slick Observatory	12
Roberto Adobe & Suñol House Hours	13
Did You Guess the Photo?	14
New Members & Membership Report	15
Time Travel	15
Gone to the Golden Hills	15
2019 Board of Directors	16

2019 Historical Essay Contest Winners

Sponsored by the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County was pleased to bring back our Historical Essay Contest in 2019. The result were four excellent and captivating essays that will be filed in the California Room at MLK Jr. Library, at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House library, and eventually uploaded to our website so all can easily access them.

The winners are:

First Prize—Kathleen Pacyna

“A Weakness for Fine Dresses and Jewelry: The Tale of Alice T. Blair a.k.a. Annie Davis”

Second Prize—Tejas Prakash

“Norman Yoshio Mineta: Transcending Limits”

Third Prize—Harriett Arnold

“Telling our Story: Antioch Church, a Legacy of Service as a Beacon Light in San Jose, California”

Honorable Mention—Dr. Audry L. Lynch

“Steinbeck and His Women”

The monetary awards were: First Prize: \$500; Second Prize: \$300; and Third Prize: \$100.

The 2019 Selection Committee included Michael Shea, M.D.—Chair, and readers, Bill Foley and Paul Boehm. Thank you all for your work on this important project.

Each contestant spoke briefly to the luncheon guests on June 1st at the Three Flames restaurant and told us about themselves and a bit of background about their topic.

The First Prize essay by Kathleen Pacyna was a first try at submitting a historical essay. The judges voted unanimously to award her the first prize. Kathleen works in Strategic Marketing, Business Development, and Writing/Communications based in Mountain View. Her ancestors moved here in 1892. She joked that there are high-brow and low-brow essays and that her essay was more of the latter.

Tejas Prakash told us he was 13 years old. We were all very impressed with his mature speaking ability and amazed that *(Continued pg. 3)*



From left, Essay Contest Chair Dr. Mike Shea, Kathleen Pacyna, Dr. Audry Lynch (seated), Tejas Prakash, and Harriett Arnold.

(Photo: Gayle Frank)

Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Saturday, Sept. 7th, 2019

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT

Banquet Room—1547 Meridian Ave. in San Jose

Luncheon Presentation

Harry Wade and Family: Death Valley 49ers & Alviso Residents

presented by

Marv and Jan Jensen

Make Reservations by Wednesday, Sept. 4th

Email to sccpioneers@gmail.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

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

Grilled Salmon

[Above served with red potatoes & fresh vegetables]

Pasta Rosé

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

Marv and Jan Jensen will share, through family photos, the story of the Jayhawkers and their ill-fated trip through Death Valley. They will specifically talk about the Wade family who started its journey to California from Illinois and eventually settled in Alviso in the 1850's.

Harry Wade and his son Harry George Wade started a freighting and stage-coach business in Alviso. Harry also operated the American Hotel, which burned to the ground in the 1860's. Prior to retiring in 1865, he had been a Justice of the Peace, Public Administrator, Postmaster, warehouse owner, storekeeper, hotelkeeper and farmer.

Marv and Jan Jensen (father and daughter) are native Californians. Jan's mother, Mary, was a fourth generation California pioneer descendant of the Wades and became very passionate about her family genealogy. Together, Marv and Mary researched both the family history along with the history of the Death Valley 49er pioneers.

Mary passed away in 2005 after a five year battle with cancer but the entire family is dedicated to keeping the pioneer spirit alive by passing on our history to generations to come.

Also see page 10 for more of the story. Be sure to reserve your spot for this amazing presentation! ❖

Trailblazer

is published quarterly by the
**California Pioneers
of Santa Clara County**
Established 1875

Gayle Frank, Editor

Contact us at
SCCPioneers@gmail.com

or

**P.O. Box 8208
San Jose, CA 95155**

© 2019 California Pioneers
of Santa Clara County

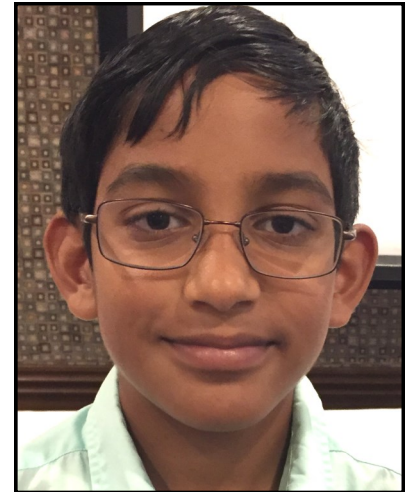
The California Pioneers of Santa
Clara County is a 501(c)3
non-profit organization

Essay Contest Winners (Continued)

he was able to write such a notable essay at his age. He attends Middle School in Pleasanton and is the youngest contestant we have had in any of our essay contests. Tejas said he was inspired by Norman Mineta's career as congressman, Secretary of Commerce, the longest serving Transportation Secretary, and recipient of the Medal of Freedom from President Obama. All that after partially growing up in an internment camp and suffering discrimination after WWII. Tejas reminded us that Mineta was instrumental in grounding all planes quickly after the 9/11 tragedy.



Kathleen Pacyna



Tejas Prakash

Harriett Arnold explained that Antioch Church documents have been saved since 1893. The Church was recognized as a City Historic Landmark, the first African-American Landmark by the City of San Jose. Harriett went on to describe her thoughts: "Wherever you are it's important to remember where you came from;" and "success comes from open-mindedness and a willingness to pursue what you believe in."



Harriett Arnold



Dr. Audry Lynch

Dr. Audry Lynch told us John Steinbeck, a Nobel Prize winner in literature, had a definite connection to San Jose. First, he married a San Jose girl, Carol Henning. Second, two of Steinbeck's most famous novels, *Grapes of Wrath* (Pulitzer Prize) and *Of Mice and Men* were written in San Jose. Dr. Lynch concluded that San Jose and Santa Clara County can claim, "he was our boy, too!" Steinbeck's mother, who taught in a one-room schoolhouse, encouraged Steinbeck's flair for writing. One of Steinbeck's stories told in an interview describes how an early teacher tore up his script, saying it was vulgar and decadent. ❖

**Congratulations to the
Essay Contest winners!**

**The Pioneers hope next year will bring
more essays for us to enjoy.
Start researching now!**

“When San Jose Was Young—Daughter of Don José Part I”

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

Part 1

Don José¹ was born in California. His daughter was born ten miles from San Jose, nearly a century ago. She seldom traveled out of the county but today she speaks little English—“Please take chair,” “Thank you, I not understand.” Her nephew acted as interpreter.

Had the Spanish reign continued in California both Don José's daughter and her nephew today would be enormously rich. Today she is cooped up in a neat little San Jose house, and her nephew is a carpenter. But they bear “Gringos” no ill-will. Without hatred or bitterness these gentle Spanish Californians accepted their losses. Their hospitality was born of kindness.

Don José's daughter is now a wasted, bent little woman with graying hair. Youth has left her withered frame. It lingers only in the glowing depths of her eyes.

“What was that old-time life like?” I asked.

“Very happy,” she said. “Nobody busy. Now everybody is busy.”

“What did you do in the morning?”

She bowed her head. “We prayed. My father woke us at four o'clock. “Viva José!, Viva Maria!” My father, my mother, the children, the servants, every Indian prayed. “Viva José!, Viva Maria!” she chanted.

One could see the row of thick walled adobe houses. The sound of a hundred voices coming from the



*José Maria Alviso Adobe
in Milpitas, c 1920*

distant Indian quarters. Don José was once more Lord of Milpitas, and Charles III was King of Spain. “Again at four o'clock everyone said the “Rosary.” When the evening came we said “Ave Maria.”

“Where did you go to church?”

“Mission Santa Clara, Mission San Jose.”

“There was a church in San Jose?”

“Oh yes,” she said indifferently. “But we liked Santa Clara best.”

“How did you go to church?” I asked.

“The ladies drove in the old, two-wheeled carts made by Indians. The gentlemen rode their horses.

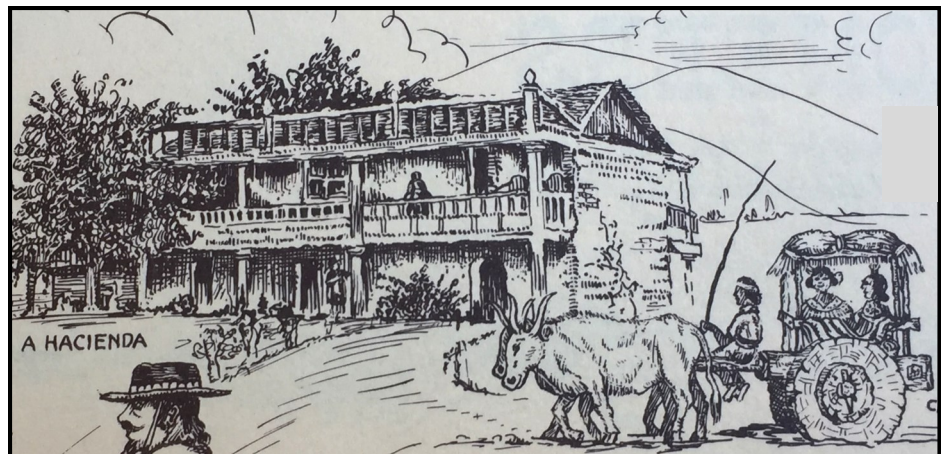
Ladies never drove with gentlemen. The carts were heavy. They went slowly, but they had hoods to protect us in sun and rain. The carts were large enough to hold six. The oxen were trained especially for the carts. An Indian ‘faced’ the oxen for the Mission. Then he walked on ahead as a guide. We used a long stick with a nail to prod the oxen with. The carts used to creak so that every half hour the Indian had to stop and soap the wheels with the horn of soap we always carried with us for that purpose. The gentlemen rode on each side of the cart to keep off wild cattle. Sometimes cattle tore at us in droves. Later we had a carriage from England, a huge thing, one of the first in California. It cost \$2,500.”

“How long did it take you to drive to Santa Clara?”

“Four hours and a half,” she answered. “And we never missed a Sunday, rain or shine.”

“What did you wear to church?” I asked.

Her hands clasped in ecstatic recollection of one (Continued pg. 5)



Ladies riding in a cart to church. The hacienda is to the rear.

(Sketch by Ralph Rambo)

Daughter of Don José (Cont'd)

who loves and cannot forget luxury. "Silk dresses, silk so thick that it stood alone. Shawls, rebozos.² And we had to sit on the floor of the church in our beautiful clothing. We used to take carpet along to sit on."

"Did you get your shawls from Spain?" I asked.

"No, all our silk shawls came from China. They were in wonderful colors, black and red, black and gold. Sometimes of every color like Chinese dishes. The embroidery was an inch thick. The shawls cost a great deal. There are no shawls like those now. One of my sisters had twelve, of all colors. They cost two hundred dollars each."

"What became of them?" I asked.

The same hopeless look always comes over the Spanish when you speak of their vanished possessions. "Lost, stolen. Four were taken one night by Indians who bound and gagged us, trying to force us to tell where my father kept his strong box. We had no banks, and all rich people buried their gold in the ground."

"You had gold," I asked in surprise.

"Oh yes, Spanish doubloons, but we had no use for money. We raised our food and we traded hides for clothing. My father used to throw Spanish doubloons worth twenty dollars to the children to scramble for, as people throw pennies now."

—Evening News, Oct. 9, 1916



Left,
Spanish Doubloons,
1798



*Silk shawls that the
senoritas might wear to
church and dances.*



¹ The author seems to be referring to José Maria Alviso who had a large adobe in Milpitas and owned the 4,458 acre Rancho Milpitas. Jose Maria Alviso was the son of Francisco Xavier Alviso and Maria Borjorquez, both of whom arrived in San Francisco as children with the de Anza Expedition. (A son of Ygnacio Alviso was also named Jose Maria Alviso. This has led to some confusion by researchers.) Due to José Maria Alviso's descendents' difficulty securing his claims to the Rancho Milpitas property, portions of his land were either swindled from the Alviso family or were sold to American settlers to pay for legal fees.

² A rebozo has two main functions, that of a garment for warmth and that as a carrying aid. It is a long flat rectangular garment used mostly by women.

Martin Murphy Jr. Home, Sunnyvale—A Sketch By Jim Campbell



Martin Murphy, Jr. Home

Campbell

In 1844, Martin Murphy Sr., Dr. John Townsend, and Captain Elisha Stephens, joined forces at Nishnabotna, Missouri to organize the first party to bring wagons through the Sierra Nevada. In blazing their trail through the Truckee River Pass, they found the most direct and practicable overland route to California.

Murphy was 60 years old when he ventured west with his family. His son, Martin Murphy Jr. (1807-1884), joined his father in Missouri after a long journey from Ireland by way of Canada.

The Martin Murphy Jr.'s California

home was fabricated in Maine to his specifications. Sections were brought around The Horn in 1850 to stand in Murphy's Station, now Sunnyvale, the town that the Murphys are credited with founding. (Martin Murphy Sr. founded San Martin; his sons John and Daniel founded the small town of Murphys in the gold country.)

Martin Murphy Jr. helped establish the convent of Notre Dame as well as Santa Clara College. He also enabled the railroad to pass through his property.

The majestic family home was occupied by the Murphy family until 1950,

and then became the property of the City of Sunnyvale. Damaged badly by fire, the structure was razed in 1961. A replica of the Murphy home was dedicated in 2008 and is used as the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum on East Remington Drive, Sunnyvale. ❖

From: "Down Memory Lane" by Jim Campbell

***See the replica Murphy House
Sunnyvale Heritage
Park Museum
Anniversary Celebration
Sept. 28, 2019 11 am-4 pm***

Clampers Reinstall Sign

The crew of E Clampus Vitus members headed up by Mike Eckley along with Frank Deats, Mike Vigone and Jon Weber, placed the very heavy Roberto Adobe & Suñol House sign up on its new structure. The much improved secure mounting will ensure the sign will last. Pedestrians and motorists along Lincoln Avenue can now more readily find our museum.

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County is extremely pleased with the help from the Clampers and we look forward to a continuing relationship between our two organizations.

One of the Pioneers Board of Directors, Russ Robinson, has deep roots to the Clampers. His distant grandfather, Joseph Zumwalt is reported to have brought the rituals for the organization to California when he and his extended family came across the plains from Will County, IL. They arrived in California in September of 1849. The idea of a fraternal organization with rituals that lightly spoofed the more traditional organizations like the Masons and Odd Fellows caught fire and almost all gold camps had a Clamper chapter. Even today they are somewhat irreverent but strive to preserve history. Thank you Clampers!

—Russ Robinson



Preserving California History in Santa Clara County Since 1974
**The Ancient and Honorable Order
of E Clampus Vitus ®**



**Mountain Charlie Chapter
No. 1850**

What's in our Garden?



In our Heritage Garden at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House, we have many heritage plants (with identifying signs), resembling gardens in the early Pueblo days.

One plant, Spanish Lavender [Lavanda] (*Lavandula stoechas*) was introduced by the Spanish. (They also brought English and French Lavender.)

As a tea it was used for treating restlessness, insomnia, and nervousness. It was also used for loss of appetite, vomiting, nausea, intestinal gas, and upset stomach. Lavender was applied to the skin for venereal disease and to repel mosquitos and other insects. ❖

Littlest Pioneer Decorates Historic Plot

Years ago, Memorial Day was known as “Decoration Day,” a day to visit and maintain the graves of loved ones. Since her death in 1888, Jennie Danielson’s grave at Hacienda Cemetery has been decorated with flowers each Decoration Day, first by her family, and since 1973 by the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. This year, Pioneers Vice President Bill Foley did the honors, and brought along Liam Foley (The Littlest Pioneer) as a happy helper. Bill and Liam planted native wildflowers and cleaned the graves at the small creek-side plot. We think little blue-eyed Jennie would have been very happy to see Liam—who is exactly the age she will always be. ❖



On Memorial Day. Liam Foley helps plant flowers on Jennie Danielson’s grave at the Hacienda Cemetery in New Almaden. (Photo/text : Bill Foley)

Docents Visit Pioneers Library



Last month, some of the Pioneers docents visited our library at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House. The Mary Lou Lyon Library on the second floor of the Suñol House has been in full operation for almost a year.

Tudy Johnson, our Librarian, oversees the organization and appointments for the library. Pioneers members are encouraged to make an appointment and can contact Tudy at johnson2dee@gmail.com if they would like to visit and peruse the many history books and ephemera. ❖

Pictured from left, Jonna Baker, Tudy Johnson, Barbara Peddy, Bernie Moore and Carol Arnoldy. (Photo: Tim Peddy)

Highlights of the Pioneers June Luncheon

Members and guests at the June Pioneers luncheon were treated to a film about our local San Jose Light Tower (1881) and whether it influenced the creation of the Paris Eiffel Tower (1889). The film, titled "The Light Between Two Towers," lays out connections between people involved in each of the two towers. Tom Wohlmuth, writer and director of the film, used many vintage photos in a creative way to illustrate this fascinating history.

The San Jose Light Tower was the brain-child of *San Jose Mercury* Publisher J.J. Owen, who planned to light up downtown San Jose after dark using electricity. The original estimate for the light tower came to \$500. The bids to build the tower came in around \$4000. Ultimately called Owen's Folly, and after sub-standard materials and design appeared to cause a safety hazard (the first tower leaned to one side), a well-qualified engineer was brought in to re-design the structure. Of course, more dollars were required for the more substantial structure.

The first illumination took place on Dec. 13, 1881, lighting up a one-mile radius with 24,000 candle power. Eleven days later it went into full service, standing at 237 feet high, including the flag pole. News spread of this new, innovative source of lighting and suddenly, "Los Angeles wants it and must have it."

By December 3, 1915, with heavy rainfall and strong winds up to 60 mph, the Tower supports snapped, buckled and caved into itself. The piping (before galvanized steel) was rusted and deteriorated. Approval for a replacement was voted on 37 days later but the project was never acted upon.

Wohlmuth concludes, after much research, that there is significant evidence that events of the period and the people involved in each of the two towers crossed paths. One might possibly conclude that the San Jose Light Tower inspired the creators of the 1,000-foot Eiffel Tower eight years later. The San Jose Light Tower was well publicized in newspapers, journals and even *Scientific American* that were read around the world. Engineers and businessmen associated with the eventual Eiffel Tower visited the U.S., including one individual to San Jose, Baron de Rothschild. In addition, Pedro de Saisset, a prominent French-born San Jose resident told friends and family members in France, who had influence over the Eiffel Tower's design, about our Light Tower.

Wohlmuth agrees that the evidence is circumstantial, but it is fun to speculate how our little Light Tower might have inspired the more elegant and sturdy Eiffel Tower.

—Gayle Frank



Thomas Wohlmuth and Tom Layton at the Pioneers quarterly Luncheon on June 1st.

(Photo: Gayle Frank)

Thomas Wohlmuth, of WMSmedia, wrote and directed the film, "The Light Between Two Towers." Linda Lester produced the film. Other fans of local history donated to the project.

The trailer can be watched for free at <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/sanjoselighttower> and the film viewed for \$2.99.

Reliving Family History on Annual Wagon Drive

By Janette “Jan” Jensen

As a Wade Family descendent, I grew up learning about how my Great-Great-Grandfather Harry Wade and family settled into California. I would picture what it was like traveling in a covered wagon being pulled by oxen from Illinois to California by way of the southern route—the first wagon train to attempt it in 1849.

One year at the annual Death Valley Encampment reenactment, I recall sitting along the parade route as the covered wagons arrived. I could only imagine the trip they had experienced and was intrigued by the devotion of the Corral #14 Equestrian Trails Organization members to continue recreating this 1849 Death Valley crossing. As I watched, I remember saying to my parents, “One day, I am going to do that!”

Well, it took a lot longer than planned to travel with the wagons but in 2005, in honor of my mom Mary Jensen, our family set out to join the wagons with our own horses. It took months of planning, packing and preparing our

horses for the five days, 50-mile adventure. We were fortunate to be included in the wagon of Chet and Pat St. Clair for the journey.

The wagon drive starts out at Ashford Junction where the Harry Wade Exit Route begins towards Baker, California. We had been to this location many times before—however, this time was different. I was riding my horse in the same area that my relatives had traveled in 1849.

The entire trip, riding along the trail, I envisioned what it would have been like for my ancestors not knowing where they were traveling while struggling with limited water and supplies. Unlike them, our modern necessities are included on the wagons and a support vehicle brings more than needed supplies. Not quite the comforts of home but pretty darn close.

Since my first travels on the trail, I have continued to go with the wagons as often as I can. Last year was my fifth journey through Death Valley. I have also joined them on trips in the Mojave Desert and one year we

traveled on the Spanish Trail out of Shoshone. That trip was a detour from Death Valley as the flooding prevented the wagons from taking the annual route. I have participated in various ways: riding my horse, driving the support vehicle and becoming “Queen of the Porta-Potties,” organizing pioneer games, and being a swamper (assistant) for a wagon.

Each year there is a lunch stop at the Bennett-Arcane Long Camp Historical Landmark. Near this spot, the Bennett-Arcane contingent of Death Valley Forty-Niners, who were also emigrants from the Middle West seeking a short cut to California gold fields, were stranded for a month and almost perished from starvation. Two young companions, William Lewis Manley and John Rogers, made the heroic journey on foot to San Fernando, returning with supplies, and led the party to the safety of San Francisquito Rancho near Newhall. We all are amazed that our wagons now sit at the same location.

Each night we circle the wagons and gather around a campfire. Talk about campfire stories, this is the place!

(Continued pg. 11)



Desolation Canyon during one of the Death Valley 49ers reenactments. (Photo: Jan Jensen)

Wagon Drive (Continued)



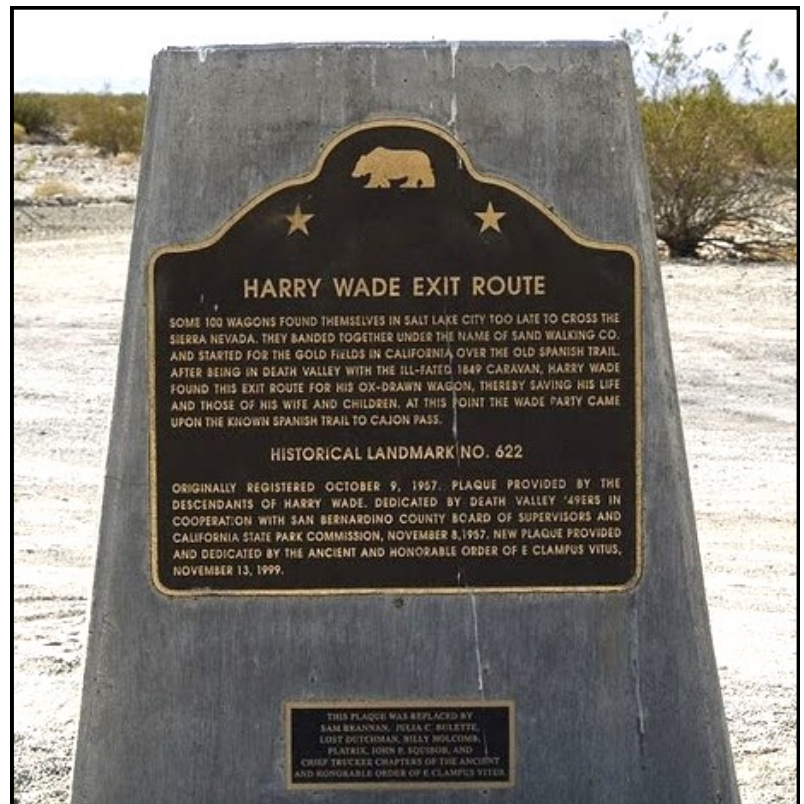
A Death Valley 49ers campsite at one of the reenactments. (Photo: Jan Jensen)

We share stories of the pioneers; others discuss the trip and their own family history and adventures; a few jokes and lots of life reflections are told as we sit under the stars. On the Wednesday night of the drive, more members of the 49ers came out to Tule Springs for a pot-luck dinner with entertainers showing up for an impromptu concert. Truly, this is always the best campfire of the trip.

Riding my horse was my favorite journey. My second favorite was serving the support crew during the 100-mile wagon drive that starts at the Wade Monument off of Hwy 127. The wagons were on the Harry Wade exit route for the first 50 miles. There were stops along the trail where my ancestors had traveled that I had only read or heard about. Now I was seeing the sites and could put the stories to the locations. Of special interest was Saratoga Springs because Harry Wade's daughter saw a bird flying over the area and thought maybe there might be water. Upon investigating, sure enough, they found the spring.

The best part of these wagon drives is making life-long friendships with other participants from all over the country as we share the spirit and relive the history and adventures of the pioneers. ❖

Don't miss our September Luncheon when the Jensens will discuss the harrowing journey of the Death Valley 49ers and the Wade family life in Alviso.



“Some 100 wagons found themselves in Salt Lake City too late to cross the Sierra Nevada. They banded together under the name of Sand Walking Co. and started for the gold fields in California over the old Spanish Trail. After being in Death Valley with the ill-fated 1849 caravan, Harry Wade found this exit route for his ox-drawn wagon, thereby saving his life and those of his wife and children. At this point the Wade party came upon the known Spanish Trail to Cajon Pass.” (Historical Landmark No. 622)

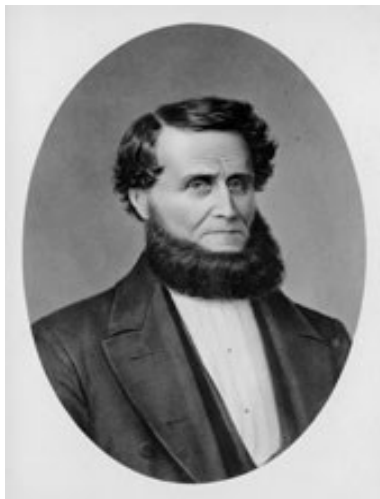
A Pretty SLICK Observatory

By Paul Boehm

What sells out quicker than a ticket to a Journey rock concert? Would you believe a tour of the Lick Observatory? I bought tickets to tour the Lick Observatory in July of last year; soon thereafter, tickets sold out for 2018. My wife, Rosa, and I felt fortunate indeed to get a chance to see up-close a destination that I had only viewed from afar for over 50 years.

On a late September day, as afternoon faded to evening, we drove the hour-long winding road to the top of one of the highest peaks in Santa Clara County to tour our famous and historic Lick Observatory. Bob Havner, our official guide, was accompanied by Dr. Elinor Gates, the Lick Observatory senior resident astronomer and director of the tours. Both Bob and Dr. Gates had 20-plus years of experience and lent their astronomical knowledge (yes, phenomenal facts of the skies), sprinkled with grace and humor.

Sky scopes illuminate the cosmos, inspiring us with awe and wonder, as they further the science of astronomy. In the course of the evening, we toured the



James Lick (1796-1876)

exterior of several telescopes and entered the sanctum of two of them. We saw the Shane 120 inch reflecting telescope that was a brontosaurus, the biggest of the telescopes at Lick Observatory. But if the 145 ton Shane were a dancer, it would be capable of doing a pirouette, for it is agile enough to be moved just one precise millimeter. Such minor movements of a telescope's angle on the sky can result in viewing either an exoplanet or viewing empty space. The 131-year old Clark 36 inch 14 ton refracting¹ telescope helped identify several moons of Jupiter. Another telescope, the 140-year old Crossley Reflecting Telescope², showed that nebulae were in fact quite common, that nebulae have a variety of different types, and that some were areas of interstellar dust while others were actually spiral galaxies filled with billions of stars. These discoveries in the 19th century were quite extraordinary. The Automated Planet Finder (APF) telescope, the newest

addition to the ten telescopes on Mount Hamilton is dedicated to discovering exoplanets, which are planets that had been previously unknown and potentially could sustain life.

This astronomical tour was also a historical journey. The telescopes of Lick Observatory are lenses to our past as well as our future. Our guide Bob Havner showed slides that riveted us to the story of the 19th century man from Pennsylvania, James Lick, who traveled throughout South and North America searching for wealth. Greed was not Lick's primary motivation, but rather it was love. Lick was told by the father of the love of his life that he was too modest in income to qualify for his daughter's hand. So Lick went on to become wealthy, and then returned to his Pennsylvania home to pursue the love of his life. This romantic story is one that will enchant you just as the stars of the sky delight us.

We peeked into history as we looked through the Clark Telescope. We saw double stars and globular clusters. Because light takes years to travel to earth, the light we saw as we peered through the telescope was produced over hundreds or thousands of years ago.

James Lick's dream of building an observatory remained a fantasy in his lifetime because he died ten years before the observatory was completed. The Lick Observatory was destined to play a large role in the development of Santa Clara Valley. Not only were scientists around the world attracted to the valley to study and do research, but tourists of the late 1880s and 1890s would take a stage coach up the mountain to see the stars as a form of entertainment before Hollywood stars were yet conceived of. From all accounts, these tours were as successful as the tours are today. Before leaving the observatory, we descended into a space that is under the Clark telescope. There is buried James Lick, the man who was destined never to marry the woman of his dreams, (Continued pg. 13)



Main entrance to Lick Observatory and exhibits.

(Color photos: Gayle Frank)

Slick Observatory (Continued)

but whose vision has enabled us to pursue our passion for the stars, planets, and other heavenly bodies for over one hundred and thirty years.

If you have never been to Lick Observatory, take the tour that will leave you reflecting on our past and inspired by what the future may bring. ❖

About the Author: Paul Boehm (paulboehm25@gmail.com) teaches "Santa Clara Valley History" for Campbell Adult and Community Education. Call (408) 626-3402 ext. 2632 for registration information.



¹ Earlier refractory telescopes use only lenses but have limitations to the diameter of those lenses. Later and more useful for advanced astronomy work, the reflecting telescopes employ added mirrors. Mirrors are easier to manufacture in larger diameters.

² The Crossley Reflector Telescope, one of the earliest reflectors made, was constructed in 1879 in Great Britain. It was donated to Lick Observatory in 1895 and put into operation by 1896.



*Above, dome containing the Refractor telescope.
Left, the 1888 Clark "Great Lick Refractor" with a
36" lens and one of the last large refractors made.
The dome opens and the floor rises.*

Tickets for Public Evening Tours of the Lick Observatory for 2019 have sold out. However the Visitor Center is open to the public year-round Thursday through Sunday, from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

**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

Did You Guess What and Where This Is?



Joshua Hendy Iron Works, circa 1910.

*(Photo Courtesy of Sourisseau Academy for State & Local History,
San Jose State University)*

Did you guess what and where this photo is from the last Trailblazer issue? It is the Joshua Hendy Iron Works, an American engineering company that existed from the 1850s to the late 1940s. It was at one time a world leader in mining technology and its equipment was used to build the Panama Canal, among other major projects. The company went on to serve many different markets

during the course of its existence, but is perhaps best remembered today for its contribution to the American shipbuilding industry during World War II.

The company was then contracted to build 118 triple expansion steam engines for the Liberty ships. By the end of the war, the Joshua Hendy Iron Works had supplied the engines for 754 of America's 2,751 Liberty ships, or about 28% of the total - more than that of any other plant in the country.

In 1947, the Joshua Hendy Iron Works was sold to the Westinghouse Corporation. In the postwar period, the plant continued to produce military equipment including missile launching and control systems for nuclear-powered submarines, and anti-aircraft guns. It also produced pressure hulls for undersea vehicles, nuclear power plant equipment, 216,000 horsepower (161,000 kW) wind tunnel compressors, large diameter radio telescopes, diesel engines and electrical equipment. In 1996, Westinghouse sold the plant to Northrop Grumman, which renamed it Northrop Grumman. ❖

History San Jose Events

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Aug 9 | 1940s Swing Dance Party-Fundraiser for Spirit of '45 |
| Aug 10 | Spirit of '45 Day. Celebrate end of WWII and the beginning of peace |
| Aug 24 & 25 | The 39 th Annual Italian family Festa |
| Sept 22 | Antique Autos |

Ongoing Exhibits

A Collector's Passion: 100 Years of Paintings Inspired by the McKay Collection. Through Dec. 15 at the Pasetta House, McKay Gallery.

Contact our Sunshine Chair if you know of a Pioneers member who is ill or needs cheering up!

Madeline Streight: 408-259-4422
or madeline.streight@att.net

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

Docent or Greeter Opportunity for Roberto Adobe & Suñol House

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

New Members—Welcome!

Colleen Cassin lives in San Jose and was a kindergarten teacher. Her grandfather Herbert C. Jones belonged to the Pioneers years ago. Her parents are David and Barbara Jones Cassin. Pioneer ancestors include Angus and Amelia MacSwain who arrived in Santa Clara in the 1880s and Stephen A. and Louise Coffin Jones who arrived in San Jose in 1894.

Mike French presently lives in Koloa, Hawaii, and was an engineer. His family, natives of Spain and Mexico, arrived in California in 1769 and included Jose Francisco Ortega and Juan Francisco Bernal.

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 2019 please do so. Dues for 2019 will be accepted at the September 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-19, your Pioneers membership is up-to-date until the end of 2019.

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 to lessen your taxes. ❖

For Questions
contact
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)*

March, 1913: Floyd McFarland, San Jose athlete and former world's champion bicyclist, was making a fortune introducing six-day bicycle races in Germany and France.

San Jose, Feb. 1915: Six carloads of redwood posts and planks to build guard rails on the treacherous San Juan Grade were purchased by the Division of Highways from a local firm.

Campbell, March 21, 1921: Prune Week continued with a flourish here

as the Orchard City Grange endeavored to meet the demands for prunes in all their tempting forms such as prune cake, prune bread, prune doughnuts, prune candy and prune nog. At the Saratoga Blossom Festival an unexpected demand for such delights determined that the fruit was no longer looked upon as "the poor prune."

Santa Clara, 1932: A traffic judge here fined and admonished a Kansas traveler, not so much for speeding, but for telling the officer who issued

his citation that he was "full of prunes." This remark alone went on to cost him five dollars more.

Santa Cruz County: Recognition of Judge Craven P. Hester (1796-1873) goes beyond a San Jose district, school and street. Santa Cruz County also honored this quiet, admired man who served as a district judge in the Soquel region from 1851 to 1859. Hester Creek School, Hester Creek Church, and Hester Creek on the old San Jose-Soquel Road are early tributes. ❖

Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills

SHIRLEY ALLEGRETTI



P.O. Box 8208
San Jose, CA 95155

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
CUPERTINO, CA 95014
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 543

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

We're on the Web!
www.CaliforniaPioneers.com



facebook.com/sccpioneers



twitter.com/sccpioneers



youtube.com/sccpioneers



pinterest.com/sccpioneers



pioneerfilms.tumblr.com
ingravedanger.tumblr.com



vimeo.com/sccpioneers

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County 2019 Board of Directors

Jim Zetterquist, President; thewoodencrown@att.net

Bill Foley, Vice President, SCCPioneers@gmail.com

Tom Kearney, Treasurer; tpkearney35@att.net

Walt Gil, Membership & Secretary; wgil@cpi-re.com

Mary Berger, Parliamentarian; marsieberger@yahoo.com

Ken Machado, Immediate Past President;
7m.kenmachado@gmail.com

Paul Bernal, Member-at-Large; PBernal411@gmail.com

Jonna Baker, Member-at-Large; J234belle@yahoo.com

Gayle Frank, Member-at-Large; gaylefrankCA@gmail.com

Sylvia Hew, Member-at-Large; bewmum@gmail.com

Tudy Johnson, Librarian, johnson2dee@gmail.com

Veronica Jordan, Member-at-Large; veronicaj20@gmail.com

Tim Peddy, Member-at-Large; miltpeddy@aol.com

Russ Robinson, Member-at-Large;
russ1011@ix.netcom.com

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.