

Volume 23

May 1983

Number 2



(HISTORIC CRADLE)

San Jose's most historic spot, the site of California's first state capitol building, was marked with impressive ceremonies at the northern end of the Market Street Plaza on May 19, 1923.

Mrs. Martha J. Lewis, who was the gallant eight year old Patty Reed and one of the few survivors of the harrowing Donner Party episode of 1846 unveiled this granite and bronze tablet at the historic gathering.

The tablet bares the following inscription: "Directly opposite this tablet was located the first capitol building in which California's first legislature assembled in December 1849. San Jose was the seat of government from 1849-1951. Tablet placed by Historical Landmarks Committee, Native Sons of the Golden West - 1923."

The marker is Registered California Landmark No. 461.

▼▼▼WHALE BLAZERS▼▼▼

July 1, 1862: - A bill prohibiting marriage without a license had just been signed by Governor Leland Stanford.

SAN JOSE, May 1878: - The Fredericksburg Brewery delivery wagons were being painted and readied for the summer trade. A number of new wagons were being supplied by Hatman and Normandin, local wagon makers.

SAN JOSE, 1879: - Newspaper ad: "Order your fresh German milk bread from Dellwig's California Bakery. His delivery wagon will take it home for you."

Hotel Room Notice, 1885: "This room is equipped with Edison Electric light; do not attempt to light with match. Simply turn key on wall by the door. The use of electricity for lighting is in no way harmful to health nor does it effect the soundness of sleep."

SAN JOSE, 1899: - Pranksters were invading the belfry of the Trinity Church and scandalizing the area by playing such tunes as "Johnnie Get Your Gun" and "A Hot Time in the Old Town" on the chimes.

SAN JOSE, June 1899: - An urgent Franklin School flag benefit social was held to raise funds "in order that Old Glory may wave over our school building."

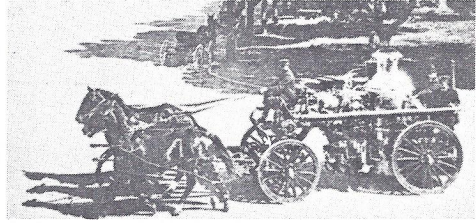
SAN JOSE, 1902: - For the first time ever people on the East Santa Clara Street car line could get an unobstructive view of the famous Henry Naglee estate. The high fence around the property was removed.

SAN JOSE, 1905: - Newspaper ad: "Have fun at Alviso. Fishing, boating, clam digging, saltwater bathing, yachting, watching the tide come in at Alviso, the salt water resort of Santa Clara Valley. Southern Pacific round trip only 40¢ on Saturday and Sunday.

SAN JOSE, 1908: - A well known San Josean reported a thief entered his downtown hotel room and made off with his artificial arm and his bible.

EAST SAN JOSE, California, 1909: - The Common Council of this new community protested the closing of their pool room on Sunday declaring it was in conflict with the first and fourth sections of the Constitution of California.

FIRE HOUSE REBELLION



Sell our fire horses! Unbelievable! This was the reaction from baffled veterans attached to the San Jose Fire Department in 1915.

Action had been taken by the City Council authorizing the Fire Commission to strike off the rolls all remaining fire horses in the department. After fifty years of steadfast devotion in helping save life and property, these trusty chargers finally fell victim to motorized equipment. A dozen reliable fire trained horses had munched hay and oats at the old Central Fire Station on North Market Street, while as many more were responding to alarms at smaller stations. By December 1915 the final trio of staunch fire horses to depart from the Central Station was Blucher, 8 years old; Frank, 11; and Tony, 13 — all 1300 pounds.

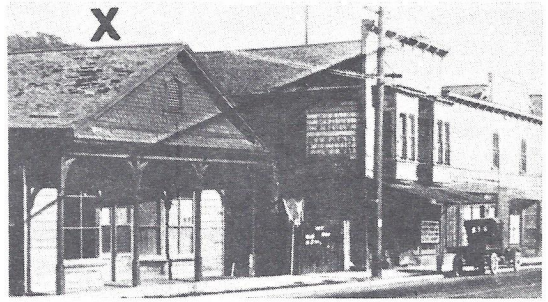
The late Tim Sullivan who teamed the city's last horsed fire rig echoed his sentiments when the horses departed. "They couldn't be driven into a ditch; they never let the rig hit a pole or tree, and if they had their own way, they rarely fell. Let an alarm sound and in a flash they were in front of the fire rig waiting for the 'trip hanger' to drop the harness. In seconds, they were tearing away."

Tim often related amusingly about when fire underwriters slipped into town one night and sounded an alarm at Market and San Antonio Streets. The horse drawn apparatus responded to the site in one minute flat. The underwriters repeated the same surprise test when the department was motorized. The motor rigs reached the same corner in a minute and twenty seconds.

On days lacking in action the steeds earned their oats with several dashes around the City Plaza. When asphalt paved streets created slippery problems to the high geared animals, rubber pads recapped the metal shoes.

Tim Sullivan firmly believed a fire horse had at least one-third more intelligence than other horses. Tim expounded his feelings to the transition. "These new shined red fire machines are all right, but you can't love 'em, and they can't love you. It's going to be mighty lonesome without the likes of Blucher, Frank and Tony," he uttered without shielding his misty Irish eyes.

KEELEY CURE INSTITUTE



Can you imagine a drug and alcohol detoxification center in downtown Los Gatos. I am sure the people of Los Gatos wouldn't want one there today, but ninety years ago there was just such a place, and it was very much welcomed in Los Gatos.

In December 1891 the Keeley Institute for the cure of the opium and whiskey habit opened their doors in a new building on East Main Street, Los Gatos, about where the Masonic Lodge building is today (1983).

The organization here was the outgrowth of Dr. Keeley's eleven years of experience in Dwight, Illinois in the treatment and cure of opium, liquor and tobacco habits by the exclusive use of his preparation of "double chloride of gold" remedies. Dr. Gesussdorf was the physician in charge of the Los Gatos Institute. He called the patients students and the treatment and board cost about \$50 a week per student. The students were given bichloride of gold shots four times a day at a cost of one dollar a shot. The men got their shots in the left arm and the ladies could get their shots in private where it didn't show.

Los Gatos enthusiastically accepted the Keeley Institute. At their February 5, 1892 Town Board meeting Ordinance No. 44 was passed stating the following: "No opium or morphia or extract or product of same can be sold in Los Gatos without a prescription from a physician and a record kept of the sale."

This same month the *Los Gatos Weekly News* announced that the Pacific Bichloride of Gold Club had opened in the club room of the Keeley Institute with entertainment. The walls were decorated with ferns and Chinese lanterns cast their cheerful beams indoors and out; the national colors in elegant profusion greeted the eyes in graceful draperies. Besides an orator who spoke on "Happiness" and an eloquent eulogy on "Women," they had solos, ballads, selections by the orchestra, character perorations and concluded with that good old song, Auld Lang Syne, in which everybody joined in to sing. Weekly meetings and entertainment were open to the public to raise funds to pay for the treatment of some of the people at Keeley Institute. In the Memorial Day Parade of 1892, besides the bands

and the Civil War Vets, proudly marched a group of Keeley Institute graduates.

In August 1892 it was announced that the Institute had sixty patients, but only four of whom were addicted to the morphine habit. The Town Board again reacted and passed an ordinance limiting the saloons in Los Gatos to the amount that were licensed at this time. Also Ordinance No. 49 was passed prohibiting the sale of liquor to persons taking treatment for drunkenness.

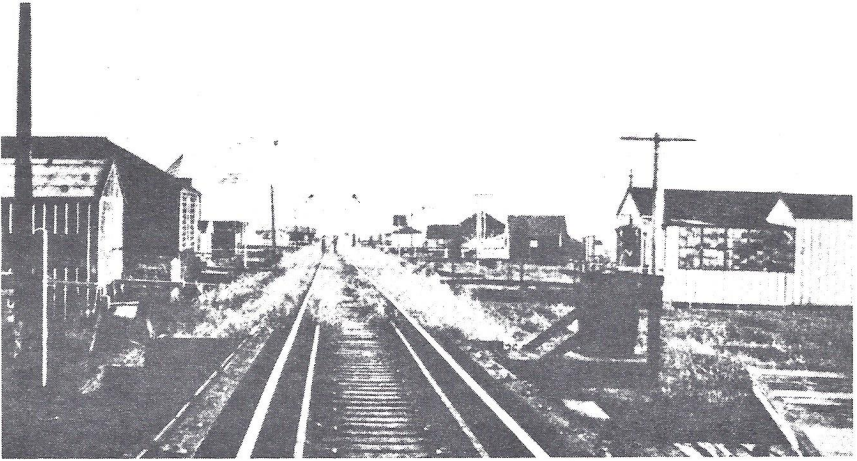
By the first anniversary one thousand patients had been treated, of these fifty lived in the Los Gatos area.

The Keeley Institute had advertised heavily in out-of-town newspapers, but had not spent any money advertising in the *Los Gatos Weekly News*. It was evident the *News* didn't like it when an article appeared stating that the weekly expense for board and treatment was estimated at \$50 each, and with the average of fifty students at a time, the income was about \$10,000 a month. The *News* stated that from local observation it was evident that a larger percentage of the graduates return to the "flowing bowl" than the Institute generally conceded. The *Los Gatos Weekly News* gave very little space to the Institute's news for the next year. One news article did appear in March 1894 as follows: "Charles Engelbert of Sonoma came to town to take Keeley treatment and dropped dead in front of the Los Gatos Hotel."

By the first part of 1895 the Keeley Institute decided to move to San Francisco. The resident physician said that because of the hard times there were only about twenty to twenty-five patients in class; so on February 12, 1895 they closed their doors in Los Gatos.

It was only a month later that the Town Clerk was authorized by the Town Board to make a contract with H. Sund for a lease of the Keeley Institute building as a Town Hall for one year at \$12.50 a month. Ordinance No. 65 establishing the meeting place in the new quarters was passed. This building was used as the Los Gatos Town Hall until 1913 when a new Town Hall was completed.

Author's Note: Gold has been used for many years as a therapeutic agent for curing human ills such as cancer, arthritis, etc., but the results have mostly proven disappointing, and is rarely used anymore.



DRAWBRIDGE -- 1915

BY BILL CHIVERS

Drawbridge has been called a “ghost town” although it never was a town. It would be better to call it a “ghost place” for what is left of Drawbridge today is a few dozen old decaying shacks accessible only by railroad tracks three miles north of Alviso and south of Newark on what railroad men call Station Island.

In 1875 when the South Pacific Coast Railroad was building the railroads from San Jose to Alameda, they put their narrow gauge line straight across Station Island and had to build a bridge to span “Coyote Creek” on the south side of the island and another bridge on the north side to span “Mud Slough.” Because both waterways at that time were navigable channels, both of the bridges had to be able to open to allow water traffic through. Although they were called drawbridges, actually they were iron truss spans that rotated around a central pier to allow boat traffic through to Warm Springs Landing about four miles inland.

When the two bridges were finished in 1876, there was a bridge tender’s building built in the center of the marshy island. It was set on pilings above the floor of the marsh. The tender’s job was to listen for blasts from boat horns that would set him walking the tracks a quarter mile to either the north or south bridge, rain or shine, to crank open the bridges by hand.

It wasn't long before the railroad operations department realized the potential of weekend duck hunting trains into this marsh with the true blue hunters living out of haversacks. The Alameda newspapers make reference to special trains running to San Jose to handle the hunters in 1883. By 1894 there were overnight accommodations on the island, and in 1897 for the first time the island was put on the official South Pacific Coast public time table. As for years the hunters had been calling it "drawbridge" or "draw-bridges", the railroad adopted the name officially.

There was a hotel called "Sprungs" that opened about 1900. At this time, there were six or seven hunting clubs with buildings on this marshy island with the only access by rail or small boat.

When prohibition came in 1919, "Drawbridge" was an ideal location for bootlegging and lawlessness. The Santa Clara-Alameda County line was right in the middle of the Coyote Creek bridge. Legend has it that the Alameda sheriff would never cross the bridge and the Santa Clara County sheriff was not likely to walk the three miles from Alviso. So Drawbridge acquired a dark side, with gambling, prostitution and drinking winning out over duck hunting. There are many stories, all undocumented, of boarding house proprietors at Drawbridge being blind to the differences between wives and mistresses, and stories of smuggling whiskey during prohibition and hard drugs after World War II.

There were many people living there permanently in 1926 which was near the height of Drawbridge's popularity. When Allen G. Norris was running for Justice of the Peace in Centerville and campaigned in Drawbridge, the votes of the twenty or so people here, it is said, gave Norris the election. After the repeal of the 18th Amendment in 1933, Drawbridge fell into disuse. Without constant maintenance, the buildings slowly sank into the marsh and the salt water tides and winds have slowly waterlogged the cabins and buildings. Today, it is a ghost place of sinking and decaying buildings.

Today, this area is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Drawbridge came to life for a few hours on Halloween, October 31, 1982 when the naturalists of the Fish and Wildlife Service wore period costumes and presented living history demonstrations of the town's colorful past. Shuttle buses were used to bring the public to Drawbridge over a dirt road that brought them to easy walking distance of this decaying remnant of our past.

In only a few more years these buildings will have disappeared, having deteriorated and sunk into the South San Francisco Bay, and another unique part of our local history will be gone.

(Many thanks to Bruce MacGregor and his wonder book, "South Pacific Coast Railroad." . . . Author)

JAPANESE LEGACY 1860-1983

JAPANESE LEGACY 1860-1983, an exhibit of depth, variety and richness of the Japanese Californians, is now on display at the California History Center, Trianon Building, De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd. from April 8 through June 30. Viewing hours are Monday through Friday 8-12 and 1-5.

The exhibit includes rare photographs, documents, brocaded costumes, art treasures and other memorabilia telling this people's history from the arrival of Japan's first Ambassadors to the San Francisco Bay Area (1860) to Executive Order 9066 establishing World War II internment camps, to reversal of the Alien Land Laws in 1952. In addition it contains a personal look at the Japanese experience in Santa Clara Valley as well as in the state.

Of special interest to the Pioneer Society both native-born, prominent San Joseans, retired Honorable Judge Wayne Kanemoto and orchardist Eiichi Sakaue, actively participated in the exhibit. Judge Kanemoto loaned rare photographs of the oldest continuously operating Japanese town in America located in San Jose.

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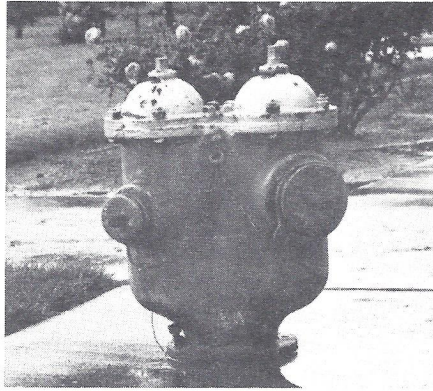
The O'Connor 89ers in their annual tribute to our valley pioneers will honor the Japanese with a parade, historic displays and banquet which is scheduled for October 2, 1983 at the St. Claire Hilton.

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ALUM ROCK LOG CABIN DEDICATION

On Sunday, May 22 at 2:00 pm, Vendome Parlor #100, Native Daughters of the Golden West, has the privilege of dedicating the Alum Rock Log Cabin as a Historic Landmark. This log cabin was originally built in 1916 by Vendome Parlor and has since been used by various associations for meetings and special occasions. It was built to honor the Pioneers of California and has provided an example of the physical surroundings in which past generations lived and worked. It has now been approved by the San Jose City Council and the San Jose Parks and Recreation Dept. to mark this great cabin as a Historic Landmark for many future generations to learn from and enjoy. Vendome Parlor #100, Native Daughters of the Golden West would like to extend an invitation to all to join us on this historic occasion.

HYDRANT



The San Jose Foundry has been "ironing" our town since 1852. This dual fire hydrant was patented by Frank Cavallero who joined the firm in 1876 and remained as superintendent for forty-nine years. His improved 1917 product, shown here, was used by the City of San Jose for many years.

Look for it on a captivating visit to the San Jose Historical Museum. Tuesday through Friday - 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sunday & Holidays - 12 noon to 4:30 p.m.

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The Trailblazer salutes the 50th Anniversary of the Moffett Field Naval Air Station celebrated at the base on April 12, 1983. The eventful affair recalled earlier rejoicing when on December 11, 1930 the Naval Affairs Committee recommended some one thousand acres of Sunnyvale ranchland for a huge dirigible base. School sessions ceased as spontaneous parades erupted wending through almost every valley town. Again on Feb. 2, 1931 when the House and later the Senate approved the establishment of the air base, jubilation was called for again.

Mid the beat of "Anchors Away" it was placed in commission on April 12, 1933. Sadly, in 1947, without fanfare, the lighter-than-air program was discontinued and the last blimp deflated. The jet age, however, arrived in hot pursuit at Moffett on the wings of a F3D Skynight in December 1950.

On March 14, 1976 dirigible Hanger I was claimed a California Historical Civil Engineering Landmark, indeed a towering reminder to the golden age of the dirigible.

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PIONEER MEMBERS: We are seeking back issues of the TRAILBLAZER. If you can share, please call the editor at 408/294-1786.

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DUES - \$3. Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of your membership card. Make checks payable to California Pioneers, and mail to Meta Huber, Fin. Sc., P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155.



President's Message

John W. Clark

I urge each of you to set aside the first Saturday in June and to attend the quarterly luncheon meeting of the California Pioneers. It is at this meeting that the winner essay contest will be announced. This year we have a special treat in store for us as the recently elected mayor of San Jose has agreed to attend our quarterly meeting.

It is at this June Quarterly meeting that the nominating committee presents a slate of nominees for the next year's Board of Directors of the Pioneer Society. It hardly seems possible that another year is almost over and that my term as president will end with this quarterly meeting. I want to thank each and every member for the great support that has been given to me during my two years of service as president. I have enjoyed my terms as president, but it is time to step aside and let someone else take over the leadership of the Society.

* * * * *

Welcome New Members

Nancy C. Bean
Ruth Boyarsky
Dorothy Burton
Alice G. Brown
Ann Brown
Jay K. Brown
Charlotte Craver
Linda J. Dali
Lorraine Gerin
Gertrude M. Gullo
Nancy Hill
Richard M. Hill
Elsie L. Kinsey
Ralph E. Kinsey
Shirley Marshall

Jean McKee
Ralph McKee
Bryan Millar
Sara M. Millar
Lorraine Minardi
Nadine V. Moore
Edmund C. Morgan
Jean Morss
Harold J. Packard
June Packard
Catherine M. Ranger
Leah S. Rhodes
Jeanette Roberts
John L. Roberts
Gladys V. Ross
Rose Santanocito

Gertrude A. Spencer
David E. Spink
Margaret Spink
Betty Tockham
Anthony P. Sunseri
Antoinette Sunseri
Clarence H. Unger
Viola Unger
Kenneth W. Van Gundy
Alyce Walker
Joseph A. Walker
Eva T. Weymouth
Meridith Wigglesworth
Walter F. Wigglesworth
Veva Zamzow

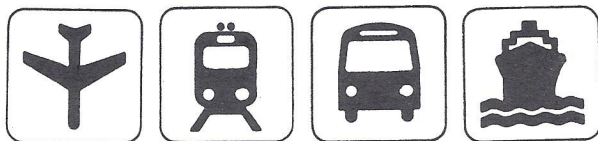


Beyond the sunset

Beulah Berry
Hazel M. Bohlin
Pauline Buchanan
Albert L. Christopher
Iryl E. Cozzens

Gertrude LeFevre
Ortenzia H. Little
Ella Mathewson
Josiah D. Morgan

Arthur E. Navlet
Neva Cameron O'Donnell
Edward W. Roberts
Antone D. Simas
Hazel Withers



Touring With The Californians

RESERVATIONS for trips can be made by calling Ruth Gross at 294-9830 between 9 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday. Members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are given preference over guests with reservations taken on first-come, first-served basis. Reservations for MEMBERS ONLY will be accepted for the first week after each quarterly luncheon meeting; thereafter, non-members will be welcome. Subject this rule, anyone may sign on a waiting list. The right is reserved to decline or accept any person as a member of any tour.

THE CALIFORNIANS, P.O. BOX 32121, SAN JOSE, CA 95152

July 30-August 1 **LASSEN PARK** California's Cascade area is a featured three day event with Austen Warburton. A motor coach getaway with overnights in Redding and Red Bluff. Swim suits recommended. Admissions to Lassen Park, Burney Falls and Bidwell Mansion in Chico. **CALL NOW!**

September 4-12 **CANADIAN ROCKIES** Star attractions that never end on this gusto for our Californians include: welcome dinner party, Waterton Lakes National Park, scenic lake rides, Glacier National Park, snowmobile rides on Columbia Ice Fields, Banff and Jasper National Parks, most meals. A few spaces left! Please ask for special brochure. Reservations being taken now.

October 24-28 **POTPOURRI OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ATTRACTIONS** - a leisurely tour of Howard Hughes Spruce Goose, Lawry's Spice Center, Cambria Pines, Hearst Castle Tours and Universal Studios. Explore behind the scenes where they are busy making exciting pictures and TV shows. A day of magic that can only happen in the movies. Reservations being June 4.

Superb - "Little bit of all right" - Early April 1984 **THE NORTH AND SOUTH ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND** Wonders enough that have something of everything. Brochures available in June.

FOR BROCHURES, please send a long self addressed and stamped envelope to The Californians, P.O. Box 32121, San Jose, CA 95152.

You are encouraged to sign the waiting list on a "filled trip." Cancellations at the last minute can mean your "take-off."

P. O. BOX 8208
SAN JOSE, CA 95155

ADDRESS CORRECTION
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Luncheon

Bring a friend or prospective member

Please Call 247-6606

*Anytime, 24-hour Answering Service
If you must cancel call this same number.*

MENU

*Roast Chicken
Salad - vegetable
Dessert - Coffee*

*DOORS OPEN
10:30
Luncheon
12:15
\$6.50*

H.C.

THE TRAILBLAZER issued February, May, August and November. Editor-Henry Calloway, 1899 McDaniel Ave., San Jose, CA 95126; Associate Editor-Laura Calloway; Assistant Editor-Bill Chivers; Staff Artist-Ralph Rambo. Subscription rate to non-members \$2. per year.

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICERS 1982-83:
President-John Clark; First Vice President- Victoria Malatesta; Second Vice President-Tony Sapena; Recording Secretary-George Kobayashi; Corresponding Secretary-Al Gauger; Treasurer-Del Bradley; Financial Secretary-Meta Huber; Membership Chairman-James O'Connor; Archivist-Helen Kuesel; Historian-Clyde Arbuckle; Marshal-Mary Simas; Parliamentarian-Austen Warburton; Audit Committee-Bill Chivers, Don Tustin, Helen Walsh.

SUNSHINE Please notify of SICKNESS and DEATHS: Mary Simas, 1722 Husted, San Jose, CA 95124 Phone 448-6102.

DUES: \$3 per year (tax exempt) to Meta Huber, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155.