

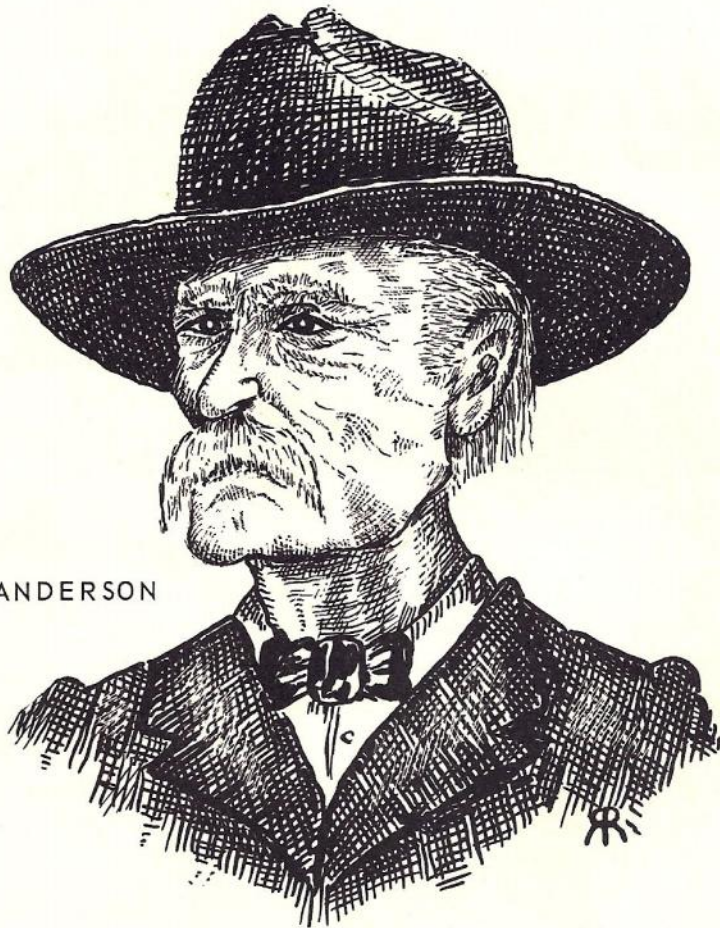
THE  
**TRAILBLAZER**

QUARTERLY BULLETIN  
OF THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS  
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
INCORPORATED 1875

Vol. 16

May 1976

Number 2



BOB ANDERSON

**LAW & ORDER**  
**FRONTIER STYLE**

# WHALE BLAZERS

Salvio Higuera's birth was just a year away when his father, Fulgencio Higuera, was granted the 9,563 acre Agua Caliente Rancho (Warm Springs) on April 4, 1839. In time the generous two league Mexican expanse passed on to Salvio. His large cattle herds made him one of the wealthiest ranchers in California.

During the hey-day of their prosperity Salvio and his devout wife, Paula, planned to be buried in the hallowed grounds of the Mission San Jose Cemetery. An expensive double vault was built with an imposing twelve foot marble spire erected which is still visible today.

When Salvio died, the following inscription in Spanish was carved: "Salvio Higuera legitimate son of Fulgencio Higuera and Clara Pacheco Higuera, Died July 24, 1883 Age 43 years and five months." At the base of the olive shaded gravestone in small dainty script is etched this benediction: "His wife Paula Higuera dedicates this monument to him as a remembrance and everlasting gratitude towards him."

Paula died long ago yet a bare tablet on the monument still awaits her epitaph. It has been said, Paula lies in a nameless grave; no one knows where. In her old age reverses left her penniless and she became a public ward. Perhaps somewhere a potters field claimed her. Her costly vault waits in vain.

OCTOBER 1878 --- The Pioneer News says: "The dues of the Santa Clara County Pioneers are now payable at the Secretary's office, Commercial Bank Bldg. The 'old boys' are expected to walk up and settle."

OCTOBER 1878 - "Chicken thieves are creating a great deal of annoyance by their frequent raids upon the coops belonging to the residents on The Alameda. C. W. Wilcox was a victim to a complete depopulation of his coops on Wed. night."

APRIL 1902 --- "Hugh Center, manager of the San Jose Electric Railway, announces Alum Rock Park will be illuminated with electricity. Evening excursions are slated for an opportunity to view the park by electric light.

H.C.

# WEATHER TEAM



Here is Sing Kee, Santa Clara's renowned weather prophet, whose predictions were given sweeping and serious acceptance by old valley and bay county ranchers.

In January 1920, Kee promised if his likeness was published, rain was sure to follow. Up to January the valley had the least amount of rainfall and the highest

temperatures of the same month of any year on record.

The likable Chinese was known to exchange pleasantries with his pet toad by jostling it with a chop stick for assistance in coming up with the right forecast.

On January 21 Kee's published prediction was: "Tomorrow morning soo wind, pretty fair, but noontime cloudy with light lain in appernoon. Rainbow in ebening. Not quite one half inch lain, but pretty good, Wed., Thur. clear. Friday, Sat. mo lain again."

By January 22 the heavens opened up in Kee's favor. Sing's hunch and his toad's friendly attitude continued to bring rain to a parched valley.

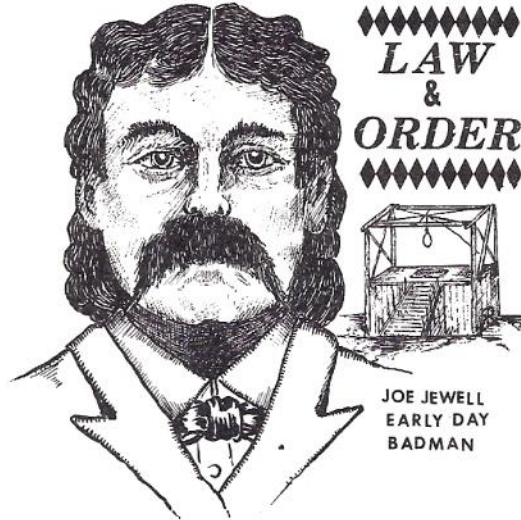
Amusing but true was the harmonious competition between Sing Kee and Father Jerome Ricard S. J. of the Santa Clara Mission School's Meteorological Observatory, who based his theory on weather from variations and intensities of sunspots.

From 1907 until 1930 the Chinese launderman and Father Ricard developed their own views on climate.

However, looking back on the illustrious careers of our valley's outstanding weather team, we must admit the U. S. Weather Bureau in this area was running a humiliating third. H.C.



Robert "Bob" Anderson witnessed the execution of every criminal sentenced to hang in Santa Clara County from the notorious Tiburcio Vasquez in 1875 until the grim task was abolished as a county function in 1891. Anderson's introduction to law enforcement began when he was appointed to San Jose's first organized police force of six men under the city's first police chief, James Tisdale, in 1874.



The placid white haired, mustached Missourian was rounding out his 80th year in 1923 when he was reflecting on his brisk encounter with lawlessness of the 1870's, 80's and 90's. Bob Anderson had arrived in California in 1866 "with my bride and drawl," he mused. He tried his luck at gold mining but hurried back to ranching in the Gilroy and San Jose area with a stint as a teamster for the Dougherty Lumber Co. out of Bear Creek to San Jose.

On the police force he served both as police and detective, eventually making captain. "I was assigned the Alvarado St. beat (now Post St.) the roughest, toughest spot in a rather lawless town. Pistol shots ever'day and night here were pretty regular," he said. Anderson by now was giving thought to a more peaceful pursuit and was soon back to ranching in Gilroy. However, late in 1876 Sheriff Nick Harris asked if Bob would consider running for constable for Burnett Township. Bob jokingly answered, "Sure, I'll take a go at it." It wasn't long until he indeed had been "run and elected."

Political changes made little difference to Anderson who retained his deputyship under half a dozen sheriffs. Among those who sought his service and experience because of his creed of loyalty, justice and duty were: Sheriffs Nick Harris 1876-1880, Ben Branham 1883-1887, Jonathan Swiegert 1887-1891, Giles McDougal 1891-1893, and George Bollinger 1893-1895. At this point Deputy Anderson left to serve with the city police under Chief J. A. Kidward. Administrative duties soon bored Anderson

and he was welcomed back as a deputy under Sheriff R. J. Langford in 1899.

Anderson went after some of most cunning killers of his time. "I wanted my chance to catch up with those scalawags," he said. Furthermore, Anderson claimed he helped build the scaffold at the county jail yard which sent the "rascals" to their doom.

Bob was with Sheriff Ben Branham in March 1884 searching out one Jan Wasielewski who stabbed his former wife thirteen times in her Los Gatos home. The convicted cattle rustler fumed when he left prison to find his wife had not only divorced him, she had married again. "After his capture, he pulled a lot of funny stunts," Anderson recalled. "He failed to speak. Went without grub for weeks, just nibbling enough to stay alive. He scribbled notes about legions of angels coming to his rescue. Of course, his defense was insanity," Anderson continued, "but experts ruled against the tough guy and I assisted at his hanging in May 1884."

"Another vicious foray," Bob related, "Concerned the cunning criminal, 'Beau Brummel' Joe Jewell." Handsome Joe was meticulous about his appearance but failed miserably in his behavior. Jewell, a recent arrival from the East in 1883, heard via saloon gossip of an aged rancher living in the Santa Cruz Mountains who reportedly had \$20,000 buried on his ranch. Jewell immediately with the aid of two ne'er-do well cohorts, Lloyd Majors and John Showers, descended on the canyon rancher who was entertaining a visitor from Glenwood. Under torturous pressure the two mountain men still refused to divulge such a treasure and both were murdered. The ranch house was burned to conceal all traces of the crime. "We caught up with Showers the next few days in Gilroy," said Anderson, "where he made a full confession of the double crime implicating his pals. Showers turned a state witness and was given a life term. Majors was tried and convicted of first degree murder. He was hanged in May 1884. Of course, Jewell was tried and convicted and sentenced to hangin," said Anderson. "His final request was he be garbed in a white suit with a proper shirt and tie. He was somewhat upset when I placed the noose about his neck disarranging his necktie. Jewell thanked Sheriff Ben Branham for being 'so nice,'" said Anderson. "He was hanged in May 1884."

Santa Clara County justice was swift and final for murderous outlaws. It was the heyday when crime was

against the law and severely dealt with. At times the peaceful-living citizens of Los Gatos were somewhat aroused with the constant killings there. When two men became involved in a quarrel, one was killed on the town's main street. A mob of frenzied citizens seized the killer and without ceremony hung him from the bridge over the Los Gatos Creek.

The Charles Goslaw affair was another which again outraged the town of Los Gatos in 1887. Goslaw was arrested on a battery charge after turning himself in to the town constable. Goslaw was released on his own recognizance never believing his opponent, H. C. Grant, was to later die from the fracas. This caused the immediate arrest of Goslaw, this time for murder. A jury found him guilty and the hanging sentence imposed. "It was quite an upsetting thing," Anderson sadly reminisced. "Goslaw's friends stayed with him all night before the hanging loading him with drink. It was the only human thing his friends thought they could do. When we helped him up to the scaffold, he was too far gone with liquor to understand his plight and paid what most thought as an unjust penalty."

Hangings continued at a rapid pace. This was too much for Sheriff Giles McDougal. He revolted at this constant hanging in which he had to participate. His pleas to the legislature were so convincing he succeeded in having a law created relieving the counties of hangings, transferring the unpleasant duty to the state penitentiary. However, Sheriff McDougal had to sustain one last official act in 1891 with the hanging of a Eubanks for a family homicide. "I was happy to see it come to an end," Bob had repeated many times.

Bob Anderson by 1905 was phasing out a stouthearted career as a lawman. "Oh yes," he remembered, "I was told by many I handcuffed that they would be back to get me." Anderson lived out his days contentedly at his Fisk Ave. home near Willow Glen, hanging only his roses and hollyhocks while releasing a bountiful and intrepid account of frontier justice. H.C.

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Our SOCIAL CLUB meets at the TOWN PARK TOWERS, at 60 North 3rd St., on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. For further information call Lovene Luhrman, 292-0070.

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## LOOK FOR IT HERE

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The February Trailblazer commented on Mrs. Sierra Nevada Smith an 1853 covered wagon baby. Pioneer Eleanor Disher maintains her grandmother's father and Mrs. Sierra Nevada Smith's father were cousins. To further knot a relationship, Eleanor is the granddaughter of Nick Harris an early day Santa Clara County sheriff who deputized Bob Anderson, highlighted in this issue.

Mrs. Mabelle Taylor has mulberry trees on her Bird Ave. property, among the last of the thousands which nourished Louis Prevost's silk culture here in the 1860's.

Our adoring reporter, Inez Getchell reminds us that Pioneer Helen Belmont and her auxiliary group at the El Camino Hospital in Mt. View have turned out 25,000 hand puppets or "Pinkies" for child patients there. Inez further reports that 25 years ago the Pioneers, then a much smaller group, met at Lucca's in Santa Clara. Our own Annie Peters was a member of this early group. "We were 250 members old then, and growing," beams Inez.

HEY THERE, PIONEERS! O'Connor Hospital is on the lookout for pre-1908 San Jose settlers. If you qualify, The San Jose Hyatt House is where the festive occasion will take place on June 6th. Call 298-3900 Ext. 379.

The stampede of urbanizing has cost us another "name." Campbell is no longer the "Orchard City." Canneries are now malls and her once sprawling dryyards and orchards have given way to the headaches of a \$3.8 million operating budget.

The Palo Alto Veterans Building has been approved as a State Registered Landmark. The building once a visitors center at Camp Fremont in Menlo Park in World War I was later moved to Palo Alto.

Our thanks to the Sonoma Valley Historical Society for their generous comments to Trailblazer items. A toast is in order on the next visit to the toothsome ninety-year old Swiss Hotel there, (Calif. Historical Landmark 496, you know).

A gala two day festive event is scheduled in downtown San Jose, July 3-4. A 16 block area will punctuate the cultural and historical heritage of our city, state and nation through arts, crafts, music, displays and demonstrations. Yes, even, tobacco chewing sharp shooters are promised.

San Jose Elk's Lodge No. 522 is spearheading the "Bicentennial Flag Day Parade" on Sunday June 13. Look for our own Pioneer Society in her most captivating and colorful regalia.

Early day bad man Tiburcio Vasquez is buried in the Santa Clara Mission Cemetery. Frances Curin informs us her family's plot adjoins the desperado's resting place. "We never leave from our visits there," she says, "without stepping over to Tiburcio's stone and leaving a flower or two."

HELP WANTED: Again this year honor students in American Studies at Leland High School will be doing research projects on specialized topics. They have already spent three semesters learning the process, and now they do the actual job. Some of the topics relate to the local scene, particularly local history. You may have some special information on topics that may be useful to the scholars. Here is a list of these local topics: Casa Grande (New Almaden), John Brown's Family in Santa Clara County, San Jose Golf Courses, The Southern Lumber Co., Mormons in Early Santa Clara History, Pioneer Aviation in Santa Clara County, The Graystone Quarry, San Jose Flu Epidemic (1917-1919), Mountain Charley, Santa Clara County's Water Systems, National Reaction to the San Jose Lynching (1933), "Open Space" in San Jose, The Italian Legacy in Saratoga, Alum Rock Plunge, The California Room of the San Jose Library, Holy City, San Jose in the Gold Rush Era, Early Entertainment in San Jose, Who is Buried in Oak Hill and Where, Villa Montalvo, The Almaden Country Club, Treatment of Local Indians in the 1850's, The Dunham Murders, St. Anthony's Church in Almaden, Agriculture in the Almaden Valley, Santa Clara Valley During the Civil War, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, and The Vineyards of Almaden. If you can supply information, or know anyone who can, please contact Charles L. Sullivan, 998-6290 Ext. 33. The best will be bound and placed in the school library for others to use.

TOUR RESERVATIONS are made at the Quarterly meetings or by phone calls to Ruth Gross at 294-9830 between the hours of 9 and 12 Monday through Friday. After confirmation by Ruth that space is available, THEN send checks, payable to "The Californians" to 100 Serena Way, Santa Clara, CA 95051. Trip brochures are available through Ruth Gross.

Bouquets to Myrtle Hawkins, our untiring author-artist for her devotion to severely handicapped youngsters and adults. Myrtle recently donated one of her prized \$1,500 works to help raise \$20,000 for the Life Experience Foundation. -- To Esther Talbot for impressing editors with her captivating account of early day motor car touring in a San Jose-manufactured automobile called the "Sunset."

Naomi Pinard comes up with a picture of her father, John Purcell who was San Jose Street Commissioner in 1885. John and his crew are shown posing proudly aboard an anti-streamlined early bird ponderous steamroller known as "Billy, the Masher." The San Jose-built Enright pulverizer was the wonder of its day, smoothing things out for a horse-drawn population.

We tender our compliments to the Santa Clara County Water Color Society for snaring with brush and paint sites of historical significance. A floor-wide display at the main library in San Jose, Feb. 2-28 was devoted to this history-minded, active art group.

The modern version of the recent Anza Trek is now history. Treacherous, thundering highways were hazards to the gallant horsemen. This brings to mind the words of Col. Anza's incomparable diarist, Father Pedro Font, "They were like the children of Israel facing the Red Sea." Nevertheless, our Society is appreciative to all county participants for this wonderful and memorable re-enactment.

Businessmen and Municipal Reforms: A Study of Ideas and Practice in San Jose and Santa Cruz, 1896-1916, is crammed with pungent accounts of big boss rule. Qualified authors team up to relate on how reformers blew the whistle on corrupt city government. Contact Sourisseau Academy, History Dept., San Jose State University, San Jose, CA 95192. (\$2.00 tax and postage included)

## RESERVATIONS FOR OUR QUARTERLY LUNCHEON MEETINGS

For the June 5th meeting and all future quarterly Luncheon Meetings you are to telephone your reservations, to 247-6606. This phone number is a Professional Telephone Answering Service. There are 10 telephone lines answering this one phone number so you should rarely get a "busy signal." This is a 24 hour per day, 7 day a week service.

The phone number will be available from the day the Trailblazer is mailed until the day of the meeting.

It is still important for us to know the exact number of reservations so Lou's Village can properly provide for you, both as to seating and as to food.

Please make your reservations at least 5 days before the Meeting.

If you find that you must cancel your reservation, please phone this information to the same number:  
247-6606.

With your cooperation this should work entirely satisfactorily.

Clyde Arbuckle, our program chairman, has scheduled an interesting June 5th Quarterly Membership Meeting. Highlighted will be awards to our Annual Historical Essay Contest winners in addition to the election of new directors for the coming year.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS are now available. New active members upon payment of \$1.00 initiation fee will have the option of paying the \$3.00 yearly dues or purchasing a \$45.00 Life Membership, (\$75.00 for husband and wife subscribing at the same time).

The same Life Membership privileges are extended to present members, with the unused '76 dues being deducted.

OUR BOOK:- Santa Clara County Pioneer Papers is an entertaining and instructive history of our organization with well chosen photos of historical valley happenings. Hard cover-- REDUCED now to \$5.00, available at our June Luncheon or \$5.50 postpaid to Trailblazer Editor, 1899 McDaniel Ave., San Jose, CA 95126.

## Welcome New Members

Dorothy J. Aarup	Helen Johnson
Caroline Allen	Oswald Johnson
W. Hugh Allen	Viola E. Kaphingst
Margaret Alvernaz	Clarahelen Knoch
Andrew Amerian	Erma Larson
Stella Amerian	Gertrude LeFevre
Elizabeth Bambury	Lester LeFevre
Frances Bambury	Grace Lourenco
Frances Byrns	Myrtle Marshall
Frank L. Byrns	Mildred E. McCrea
Genevieve Catania	Alice R. B. Niles
Jane M. Chappette	Wilma J. Pacelli
Helen E. Cheek	Marian B. Reinhardt
Maurice B. Cheek	William J. Reinhardt
Ada Ruth Clark	Irma G. Rouch
John W. Clark	Edna Sargent
George S. Craig	Alma Schiavenza
Madge Craig	Mario Schiavenza
Phyllis L. Croall	Dominica N. Sheehan
Irene Devin	Robert R. Sheehan
Philip L. Devin	Betty Jeanne Smith
Dorothy M. Ellis	Marjorie I. Smurr
F. Albert Ellis	Joseph Soderstrom
Mabel A. Emery	George W. Strickler
Ellis H. Frederick	Patricia L. Taylor
Martha Frederick	Dorothy Theisner
Virginia M. Garcia	Rose M. Thompson
Henrietta Gibson	Doris M. Topham
Eleanor A. Haas	Dolores Turek
Frances Hardcastle	Frank F. Turek
Myron Hardcastle	Lorraine Vick
Ellis A. Howard	Orville C. Vick, Jr.
Lena E. Howard	Gladys Ward
Ella Rose Iantosca	Norman Woollett
Gordon Ivancovich	Genevieve Zingheim



*Beyond the sunset*

Mrs. Gertrude D. Amstein	Mr. Francis G. Milner
Mrs. Katherine De Benedictus	Mr. Freeman M. Rogers
Miss Geraldine Benoit	Mr. Robert S. Seeman
Mr. Charles J. Cali	Mr. Hubert H. Wagner

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DUES: \$3 per year (tax exempt) To Donald Tustin, Finan-  
cial Secretary, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155

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