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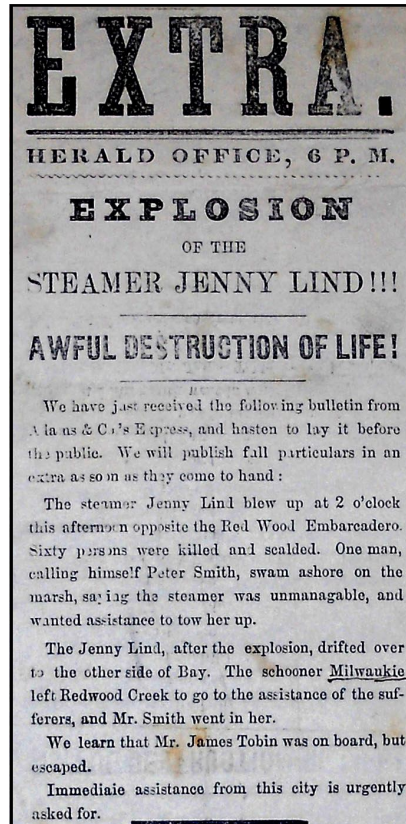
The Jenny Lind Disaster-A Fresh Look at an Early California Tragedy

By Claire Britton-Warren

When disaster strikes, chaos follows. To survive a tragic event is a traumatizing experience. Adrenaline pumps into the body like a drug, enabling a hasty escape. Meanwhile, the brain functions under the influence of fear, recording some images that will endure for a lifetime and blocking others from memory. Survivor accounts can vary widely under the stress of a disaster. Separating fact from folklore, the following is an account of the steamboat *Jenny Lind* explosion.

The *Jenny Lind* was a sixty-one foot side-wheeler steamboat built in San Francisco in 1850. She was on a regular route ferrying passengers and freight between the Port of Alviso and San Francisco. On April 11, 1853, over one hundred passengers crowded aboard the *Jenny Lind* in Alviso under the command of Captain Charles Thorn and headed northward.

The *Jenny Lind* voyage began routinely and her engineer



Copy of rare "Extra" from 1853

Courtesy of The Bancroft Library
University of California, Berkeley

William Travis would later testify that everything seemed to be running smoothly. A little past noon, men began assembling outside the dining compartment, while ladies, children and their male es-

corts were invited in ahead of the rest of the passengers. A thin wooden bulkhead separated the dining compartment from the ship's boiler. As the diners tucked in for their meals, the high-pressure steam pipe exiting the ship's boiler tore open. The flap created by this tear precisely filled its chimney, forcing the steam downward and into the furnace enclosure surrounding the boiler. A shudder was felt throughout the ship, and then the doors blew off the enclosure, tearing through the bulkhead and unleashing a full head of deadly steam upon the passengers.

The *Jenny Lind* was midway between the shores of the bay when the explosion occurred, probably just north of the present-day Dumbarton Bridge, offshore from East Palo Alto. Several hours later, as the steamer *Union* was entering the San Francisco Bay from Alameda Creek, her crew

(Continued p. 2)

Annual Holiday Luncheon

Join the Pioneers at the *Three Flames* Saturday, Dec. 8th at 11:00 AM, and celebrate the holiday season. Make reservations by Wednesday, Dec. 5th. For more details, see page 4.

Jenny Lind (Continued)

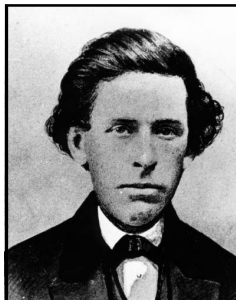
spotted the *Jenny Lind* in distress and went to her assistance. The survivors and the dead were transferred onto the *Union* and carried into San Francisco. Word of the disaster arrived ahead of them and they were met at the docks by a throng of reporters and grieving friends and family.



Diagram illustrating how the Jenny Lind boiler blew , spewing steam, and killing or injuring many passengers.

There were more than 100 on board the *Jenny Lind* but the precise number of survivors and the exact number of dead were unknown, even back in 1853. As a ferry boat, there was no formal passenger list. Also, following the explosion, fearful passengers jumped overboard so we will never be certain of the total loss. It is known that there were a number of very prominent businessmen on this trip.

Jacob D. Hoppe was a founder of the town of Alviso. He had arrived in 1846 and become a major landholder. He was the first American postmaster in San Jose and founded the newspaper that would become the *Daily Alta California*. After



Jacob Hoppe

the disaster, Jacob Hoppe struggled against death for four days and then was buried at Oak Hill Cemetery. Presently, his broken grave marker has been brought into the cemetery offices for safekeeping while his descendants consider their repair options.

Charles White was the owner of Rancho Pala. One of San Jose's wealthiest citizens, he served as Alcalde of Pueblo de San Jose (similar to a mayor) in 1848. White Road in San Jose is named for Charles White. Today the Alcalde of Pueblo de San Jose is at rest within a sturdy mausoleum in Santa Clara Mission Cemetery."

Bernard Murphy was the son of Martin Murphy. His family came to California from Iowa with the Murphy-Townsend-Stevens party in 1844. Bernard owned Rancho La Polka and Rancho Uvas near present-day Morgan Hill and his father was a major landholder. Martin Murphy would erect a chapel dedicated to San Martin in memory of his son Bernard. A settlement would grow up around the chapel and become the town of San Martin.

Noah Ripley was traveling to San Francisco with his wife and three children. He was a businessman and an upper-level member of San Francisco's Committee of Vigilance. None of the Ripley family survived. Newspapers commented on the extraordinary bravery of Noah's young son Charles Ripley, who took the dictation of his dying father's last will on the deck of the *Union*.

Thomas Godden was a lawyer and Spanish translator. Godden first represented and then quickly married Maria de la Encarnacion Ortega-Sanchez, the wealthy widowed heiress of Rancho Lomerias Muertas. In those days a woman needed the strong arm of a husband to keep squatters from settling on her land. The marriage vaulted God-

den into a position of influence and a life as a wealthy landowner. Thomas Godden would linger for the next six days before succumbing to his injuries. He was the second husband to be lost by Encarnacion Ortega who would suffer the loss of all five of her husbands before her own death in 1894.

Also on board was naturalist Christopher A. Shelton. He was not a well-known man in 1853, but just one month before stepping aboard the *Jenny Lind*, Shelton had managed to bring the first commercial hive of bees to San Jose. A plaque at the San Jose Airport honors Christopher Shelton for bringing the first bees to San Jose, and the species of violet "*Viola Sheltonni*" is named for him.

Three men from Guilford New York were on-board, working for liquor merchant James Dows of San Francisco. Dows had served as the secretary for the Committee of Vigilance in San Francisco.



John S. Bradbury

Of the public hangings performed by the Committee, at least two of them were conducted from the cargo hoists of Dows' warehouse on Battery Street. It appears that these three men, Benjamin Twitchell, Caleb Winsor and my own great-great-grandfather John S. Bradbury, were acting as escorts on behalf of James Dows. Each of the businessmen had a connection to Dows through one or more organizations. Of the three men from Guilford, Benjamin Twitchell alone would survive, only to be gunned down in a land dispute eleven months later while working for James Dows.

(Continued p. 6)

Message from our President

Major improvements have just been completed within the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, and many fantastic changes are coming. Now that we have updated the bylaws, created a foundation for committee accomplishments, completed a financial audit, set major and minor goals, restored and stabilized some very rare documents in our collection, restored the Hacienda Cemetery over four weekends, and partnered with the Argonauts and the South Bay Yacht Club on two historical projects, we are trimming our sails to efficiently take on some focused goals. We will both be returning to basics and expanding our reach to take the Pioneers to a higher tier. We have already risen to a more professionally run organization. Here are some improvements:

Our Secretary Tom Kearney has developed an expense tracking system with audit controls that will allow for member access, understandability, analysis, and easy audits. Also, we now use QuickBooks to manage our accounting. From here forward, our Treasurer Ken Machado will be able to monitor (with the click of a button) spending patterns on each project and the administration of our Society. This will provide accountability to our membership.

We will be keeping track of our collections by using the best professional software available: PastPerfect. This is a huge undertaking, spearheaded by our Assets Chair Mary Berger. Team leader Jim Zetterquist will identify priorities for stabilizing certain items within our collection.

Annual planning and budgeting will be implemented by the Board for each program. This will provide consistency throughout the year, proper stewardship of the Pioneers' money, and milestones by which we can gauge successes and shortcomings.

We are creating a new Grants Program whereby the Pioneers will donate funds to our sister organizations' projects. By providing seed money for outstanding ideas, or by partnering with them in bearing the costs of their wonderful programs, we believe cross-fertilization benefits us all. In the past, the donation of funds to outside programs has been on an *ad hoc* basis. The new criteria will be well known to applicants, provide a fair approach, and keep us within our grants budget.

April Halberstadt will focus on improvements to our annual Essay Contest and completing the President's Wall of past presidents' portraits stretching back to our founding in 1875.

Webmaster Tim Peddy just posted a new feature on our website: "History of the Pioneers." Go to CaliforniaPioneers.com and select this option from the left menu. Rick Helin will be updating this history until we have a compendium of our organization's past.

We are getting very positive feedback about our email and web based History Calendar Santa Clara County. By designing and sponsoring this monthly all-in-one "go to" resource for history events in our valley, we have created a wave of grateful fellow historians. Users of this service – museums, libraries, archives, history groups, and individuals – continue to grow. It is updated every day, so you can keep abreast by going to CaliforniaPioneers.com and selecting it from our left menu.

Membership has grown in the area of diversity – diversity of lineage, culture, skills, professions, age ranges, race, geographic location, and ethnicity. We are striving hard to continue this trajectory. The Pioneers is an inclusive group.

For the furniture we have loaned to



Photo: Hans Halberstadt

Paul Bernal, President
California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

various museums in our valley, we will be tagging them with permanent plaques that identify the items as property of the Pioneers. We continue to be "good neighbors" to all history groups who request our help.

In the near future, we will be replacing the kitchen cabinets of the Paulson House with period-appropriate cabinets. These vintage cabinets will have glass windows that will afford us the opportunity to display more of our collections.

I believe all can agree the Pioneers board and committee members have been diligently transforming the Pioneers into the best history organization in California.

-Paul Bernal

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not for profit organization

Pioneers Holiday Luncheon

Saturday, Dec. 8th, 2012

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Three Flames Restaurant

1547 Meridian Ave., San Jose

Must make Reservations by

Wednesday, Dec. 5th

E-Mail "sccpioneers@aol.com" or call
408-554-7587 with your menu selection

Cost \$25 (make checks payable to
California Pioneers and bring to luncheon)

Presentation

A Special Liberty Ship Story

Menu Selections

Three Flames Special Steak

tri-tip steak topped with sautéed mushrooms.

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Stuffed with ham, Swiss cheese and Mushrooms and topped with Béchamel Sauce

[Above served with Herb Roasted Red Potatoes]

Vegetarian Pasta

All 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 Luncheon Speakers

Dennis Koller

In April of 2009 Dennis Koller was hired as Executive Director of the SS *Jeremiah O'Brien* / National Liberty Ship Memorial, Inc. During his tenure, Dennis started a youth overnight program, raised over \$600,000 in donations, improved visitor attendance and event rental of the ship, and began joint marketing efforts with the USS Pampanito (a WWII submarine berthed in front of the *O'Brien*.) He also established the Admiralty Board, a special advisory board made up of people of stature in the military, the maritime industry, and the Port of San Francisco. Koller takes pride in his efforts to promote the importance and history of the S.S. *Jeremiah O'Brien* and all the Liberty Ships that, unequivocally, won the war. He is honored to have the opportunity to share the story of Liberty Ships, and the *O'Brien* in particular, with the distinguished members of the California Pioneers.

Koller spent most of his adult life in the area of university fund raising. Among

the number of colleges he served was the California Maritime Academy, where he spent three years as Special Assistant to the President.

Koller's other board affiliations include Bethlehem Shipyard Museum, Fisherman's Wharf Merchant Association, Pacific Merchant Marine Council of the Navy League and the Fisherman's Wharf Community Benefits District.

Paul Vezinaw

Paul Vezinaw has been a Lifetime Member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County since 1994. He served as an elementary school educator for seven years, where he met a Pioneers member who regularly gave historical presentations to the students. This Pioneers member (who for the life of him, Vezinaw can't remember her name!) got Vezinaw hooked on the books of Ralph Rambo. It was just a matter of time before he got the "bug," joined the Pioneers as a Lifetime

Member, and has been a proud member ever since.

His affiliation with the S.S. *Jeremiah O'Brien* Liberty Ship began in 2008, when he was a passenger on an *O'Brien* cruise to view the "Ghost Fleet" moored at Suisun Bay in Benicia. While aboard, he was recruited by (now) fellow shipmate, Richard Vannucci, to become a Volunteer Messman in the Steward Department of the ship. Working in the galley came easy for Vezinaw, as he was inspired by his father, Richard Vezinaw, who served as a Chief Petty Officer 1st Class, Cook during WWII. After the war, his father also served as a cook aboard the *Morgantown Victory*, a cargo/supply ship similar to the Liberty Ships such as the *O'Brien*.

Vezinaw is very honored to be presenting the history and importance of the Liberty Ships, and the S.S. *Jeremiah O'Brien* in particular, to his fellow California Pioneers. He promises a very interesting and enjoyable presentation.

M.G. Vallejo's Account of Donner Tragedy

By Rose Marie Beebe

Much has been written over the years about the tragic fate of the Donner party, snowbound in the High Sierras, facing starvation and extreme suffering. In his memoirs ***Historical and Personal Remembrances Relating to Alta California: The Political History of the Country, 1769-1849; Customs of the Californios; Biographical Sketches of Notable People*** 5 vols., 1875, Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo offered his account of how the inhabitants of California—indigenous people, Californios, and Americans—rallied together in the spirit of collaboration to try and save the stranded emigrants. As some members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County already know, I have received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to translate Vallejo's memoirs. This will be the first comprehensive, annotated published translation of this valuable resource. It will be published by the University of Oklahoma Press. The following excerpt is taken from Volume 5 of Vallejo's memoirs:

In spite of the fact that everyone in California was trying to make their fortune as quickly as possible, with little concern as to the means by which they could achieve their goal, there were many miners and businessmen who did not turn a deaf ear to the cries of those members of the human race who were suffering. For each time they had the opportunity to come to the aid of some poor soul, they would make every effort to help. I could recount many instances that would serve to illustrate the kind-heartedness of the miners in 1848 and 1849. But in order to be brief, I will limit myself to relating what happened in San Francisco on February 3, 1847.

This was the day when it was learned for certain that many emigrants were stranded in the Sierra Nevada and that

these poor people would die from hunger and cold unless help was sent.

A meeting was called to order by Mr. Thomas O. Larkin, who with persuasive arguments tried to rally those present to take steps to organize an expedition that would have to leave as soon as possible to assist the families in need, especially the Bonner (sic) [Donner] family and their unfortunate companions who, confined within walls of snow, were bound to perish unless their painful cry for help touched the hearts of the inhabitants of California. When Mr. Larkin finished speaking, Mr. C. L. Ross and Mr. W. H. Davis addressed the meeting. Then a hat was passed around to all who were present. In less than three hours 1,500 pesos in hard currency were collected along with a large quantity of preserves, woolen clothing, shoes, and medicine.

If we stop to consider that in the month of February 1847 there were only a few hundred people in San Francisco, the majority of them fortune-seekers with no familial connection to speak of, we can do no less than feel admiration for them and unanimously pay tribute to them for they are philanthropic and humanitarian people whose efforts are worthy of praise. Brought together by the desire to alleviate the suffering of others, they voluntarily and spontaneously deprived themselves, as well as their own families and friends, of many things that they greatly needed.

After the meeting ended, an expedition was organized. It soon left to carry out its mission under the command of an experienced guide. Even though thirty-six emigrants had already died from hunger and cold by the time the expedition arrived at the Donner encampment, luckily they



**Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo,
author of the Donner account**

*Courtesy of The Bancroft Library,
University of California, Berkeley.*

were able to save the forty-four people who were still clinging to life. The relief party came face-to-face with a truly bloodcurdling sight.

Even though twenty-seven years have gone by since that tragedy occurred, every time I stop and think about what happened and the many hardships these poor people had to suffer, it makes my blood run cold. Solano and Zampay, the two Indian chiefs whom Captain Salvador Vallejo sent to accompany the expedition that left from Sonoma, carrying supplies similar to those of the expedition that left from San Francisco, told me that near the Donner encampment one could see large mounds of human bones that had been stripped of their flesh. In the same way that dogs gnaw on the bones they are given as food, the poor emigrants had gnawed on the leg bones and muscles of their poor companions, whose life had been cut short by Death's scythe.

(Continued p.6)

Vallejo's Account (Continued)



**Captain Salvador Vallejo,
involved with the
Donner rescue expedition.**

*Courtesy of the California Historical Society,
FN-36283.*

Of the forty-four people who were found alive, six were insane, having lost their minds due to the horrendous suffering they had to endure. They lost the powers of reason that God grants all mortals when He sends them on their journey through this vale of tears and disappointments. Fortunately, the six insane people died a few days after they arrived in California. I say that it was fortunate that they died because in 1847 there was no asylum in California where insane people could be placed. The emigrants and miners who lost their minds during those first four years of North American domination in California were treated more like wild beasts from the desert than like human beings. Raging lunatics would be chained to trees and to hitching posts. The insane who were more manageable would be put on board pontoons and locked away.

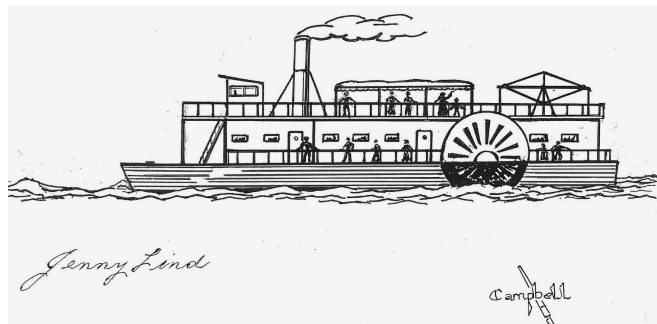
Upon reflection, it is truly sad to think that from 1847 until 1852 the sick and

insane were treated by us in a manner that is not at all in accordance with the civilized norms of this century so worthy of praise or in accordance with our humanitarian sentiments.

However, the conduct we observed that was exhibited toward the unfortunate emigrants whom we rescued in time from the jaws of death, serves to prove to the world that in spite of our unclear situation, which was certainly not very pleasant, we did not turn a deaf ear to the cries of despair. And it should be pointed out that in San Francisco in 1847 there was a huge shortage of buildings and that our cities, towns, and ranchos were frequently destroyed by all-consuming fires. Those people who are not dominated by narrow-minded thinking will agree that the inhabitants of California during the years 1847, 1848, and 1849 were humanitarians, and as such, they deserve respect from the entire world, including philanthropists.

Jenny Lind (Continued)

The loss of so many prominent leaders in a single catastrophe changed the course of history in the Santa Clara Valley. For the families involved, the disaster was devastating. One hundred and sixty years later, the story of the *Jenny Lind* will finally be set into a monument of stone and bronze at Alviso; in the preservation of her history, there is a sense of healing.



Above, a sketch of the Jenny Lind, drawn by Jim Campbell from data gathered in recent research. This rendering will be placed on the Jenny Lind plaque at Alviso.

Editor's note: In the course of researching the Jenny Lind steamboat disaster in preparation for a historic marker to be installed at Alviso in April of 2013, Claire Britton-Warren, Russ Robinson, and Chris McKay joined forces to glean verifiable facts from all known available documentation. The above article is a synopsis of their research. A detailed whitepaper of their research will be published. The researchers will present all of their fascinating findings at the California Pioneers luncheon on March 9, 2013.

Visit Pioneers' Calendar



The "History Calendar - Santa Clara County" is on our website at www.CaliforniaPioneers.com and then click on "Calendar."

A New Bell for El Camino Real

By John E. Stolp



The new bell stands in the surprising location of Campbell, in front of the Herz home

The stately home of Joanna and Rudi Herz, situated along White Oaks Road in Campbell was the location of a recent installation and dedication of an El Camino Real bell. Its affixed plaque reads, "In 1906 guidepost bells were placed along the El Camino Real to guide early travelers and to preserve this historic route which linked California's missions beginning in 1769." The Herz home may seem an unlikely setting for such an historic icon dating to our Spanish roots, but nonetheless the location is accurate. While some of us may consider the routes taken by the Spanish Padres on occasion, and recognize the iconic bells to be found along the main sections of the El Camino Real, few realize that additional sections of this royal road have all but fallen into obscurity.

Historian William "Bill" Wulf was approached by the Herz family concerning this historic route. In Wulf, they found just the man for the job.

His collection of original maps, dating back to the 19th century, proved invaluable in establishing, without a doubt, the validity of their speculation; their home sat near the original path of El Camino Real. In addition, it was Wulf's keen eye that spotted the vintage El Camino Real bell at a Monterey area antique shop. Now, the Herz estate proudly displays its bell as a vital link to an all but forgotten portion of the great royal road.

At the dedication Wulf extolled the travels and early exploration of the Spanish clergy seeking to connect the Mission at Santa Cruz with its sister site in Santa Clara. The original route took travelers from Mission Santa Clara to the Presidio of San Francisco and then back along the coast to reach the mission of the Holy Cross, just outside Branciforte (the civil settlement now known as Santa Cruz).

This cumbersome route was over a hundred mile march and represented a tedious journey to those on foot or on horseback. Native American guides soon led the Spanish over the Sierra (the Santa Cruz mountains that we know today), and although somewhat steeper, the time saved made up for this difficulty. The road was improved by royal decree and another link of the El Camino Real was formed. It was this section of the road that was located near the Herz home.

Wulf's audience, a gathering of more than 60 history minded people, represented both those connected through lineage to the Spanish era, and those that respect the early history of what became our State of California. The California

Bell Company's owner, John Kolstad, was also in attendance. This company, originally founded by Mrs. A. C. S. Forbes, initiated the installation of the El Camino bells in 1906 and has been brought back from the brink of closure by Kolstad's dedicated efforts in keeping the foundry alive. His insight as to the manufacturing and placement of the iconic bells added a fitting touch to meld the many different eras of California history. His work with Caltrans continues the vision begun by Mrs. Forbes as additional bells are still being placed to this day.

Congenial weather, a receptive crowd and a fascinating subject were the elements that combined into a wonderful day most generously hosted by Rudi and Joanna Herz. Joanna is a member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County.

Originally written for the **Campbell Express**, Vol. 61, No.34, August 22, 2012.
(www.campbellexpress.com/online/20120822.pdf)



Photos: Tim Peddy

Pioneers Hosts Admission Day Barbeque

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County again celebrated California Admission Day with their annual barbeque on September 8th at History San Jose. President Paul Bernal welcomed everyone to the festivities. Members and guests enjoyed beautiful weather, outstanding music played by the San Jose Municipal Band, scrumptious barbequed chicken, brisket, ribs and sausages with all the sides, and great camaraderie with friends. The Band played marches, nostalgic tunes, modern and patriotic songs and some jazzy numbers. The attendees were treated to ice cream for dessert and all enjoyed a great time.

The Pioneers continues a tradition of a barbeque to celebrate the Admission of California as the 31st state in the Union on September 9th, 1850. Further, San Jose has the distinction of being the first capital of the new California state.

Be sure not to miss next year's event, always held on the second Saturday in September at History San Jose.

(Photos continued p.9)



Pioneers President Paul Bernal, HSJ's Barbara Johnson, and Jim Zetterquist



Above, Don and Gail Bell

Right, Dennis Mena, Robb Moore, Gertie Klem, and Ethel Reinegger



San Jose Municipal Band playing for the Pioneers



Barbeque (Continued)



Above, Patty and Ken Machado

Top right, Mary Mueller and Bev Blockie

Right, Rosalie Thimann and Carolyn Downey

Below, Carla Helin, Bill Foley and Rick Helin



Left and above, Pioneers members and guests enjoy the great day.



San Jose High School–150 Years

When San Jose High School's current students entered its halls in mid-August, most probably did not realize that they were walking into a chapter of history.

They had become the 60th student body to inhabit what the facility's first occupants called "the new building." This new building was erected in 1952 at the corner of 24th and East Julian Streets in San Jose.

However, of more historical significance, they are about to experience the uniqueness of being members of the sesquicentennial student body of California's third oldest public high school and fifth oldest west of the Mississippi River.

Boston Latin, founded in 1635 in Massachusetts, is generally recognized as the oldest public high school in what is now the United States.

Lahinaluna High School on the Hawaiian island of Maui was founded in 1831 as Lahinaluna Seminary, but shortly changed its name and goal from seminary to high school. Because Boston Latin was educating youngsters prior to the founding of the United States, Lahinaluna justifies recognition as the oldest American public high school west of the Mississippi River.

The second oldest is New Braunfels High School that was founded in 1845 in Texas, nine years after the Battle of the Alamo.

The question of which is California's oldest public high school is somewhat murkier. Spring Valley High School opened in San Francisco sometime during 1856, and a few years later was re-named Lowell High School. Sometime during that same year, Sacramento High School opened its doors; however, Lowell and the San Fran-



cisco Unified School District have steadfastly insisted that it is California's first high school.

According to San Jose Unified School District sources, San Jose High ranks second only to Lowell, completely ignoring Sacramento High.

Be it second or third, San Jose High began in the winter of 1863-1864 in a room above Orbon's Flour Store at 210 South First Street. Joseph Bowen was its founder and first teacher.

Within approximately five years, when SJHS was located on Santa Clara Street above Horace Mann School, the first diplomas were awarded.

Mr. Orbon had sold his flour store during the fall of 1864, and its scholastic tenant bounced several times until 1898 when it finally settled in a one-room structure on Washington Square, originally built to house San Jose Normal School, now San Jose State University.

The high school out-lived several structures but remained at the corner of San Fernando and South Seventh Streets until it was moved to its current location to begin the 1952-53 school year. This building was selected by New York City's Museum of Modern Art as one of 43 outstanding buildings of the post-World War II period.

By Sal Orlando

The year-long celebration honoring the school's 150th anniversary officially will begin Sunday, Jan. 13th, with a luncheon at the San Jose Country Club, no newcomer itself, having been founded in 1899.

Other highlights will be a parade, *Celebrating 150 Years of Bulldog Pride*, a BBQ, and school tours on Saturday, Sept. 21st. The parade's grand marshal will be Mark Briggs, an art teacher when the current facility opened its doors.

Other events throughout 2013 will include a joint alumni-faculty performance, a spring student musical concert, and a July golf tournament. The Big Bone Bash will be held on Nov. 27th, the night prior to the annual football game with cross-town rival Lincoln, the 70th meeting between the arch-enemies. The game is the third oldest public high school rivalry in the state.

Among the school's most illustrious alumni are Opera San Jose founder Irene Dalis, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, U.S. Congressman Don Edwards, and U.S. Congressman Mike Honda.

Former athletes include Chuck Taylor, Stanford football player, head coach, and athletic director; Vern Wilson, 1956 Olympic high jumper, tied for fifth; DeWitt Portal, San Jose State boxing coach; Bob Fontaine, major league pitcher; and Jack Pierce, major league infielder and holder of virtually every Mexican League home run record.

For more details or tickets to the 2013 events, please visit: sjhs.bulldogfoundation@gmail.com.

San Jose City Hall by Jim Campbell



The 1887 San Jose City Hall

This early city hall building was erected in 1887 at a cost of \$139,482 and was designed after a building in Germany. The ground floor, a jail with barred windows, was bisected by an east-west tunnel big enough to drive a paddy wagon through. The south side held the jail cells and on the north side was the drunk tank.

On the first floor, directly over the cell blocks, was the room that served as police court by day and city council chamber by night. The decorum of council sessions was often disrupted by boisterous prisoners banging on the bars below.

At one time the building had an elevator, but it was damaged by the 1906

earthquake. In 1945, a structural survey of the City Hall showed the unreinforced brickwork of the southwest wall had leaned about 3 inches off perpendicular. In the attic, directly over the office of the city planning engineer, were the city archives. Tons of heavy books and files were resting on joists that were precariously anchored because of the spread between bearing walls.

After the 1906 quake, a Rube Goldberg arrangement of 1 ½-inch iron reinforcing straps had been installed to tie the building back together. In 1952, the city building inspector said that a chain of secretaries holding hands would probably do more good.

The building had been built to serve a population of 25,000, a figure San

Jose had passed not long after the turn of the century. From the mid-1940s, one proposal for replacing the decrepit old building followed another. Ground was broken June 28th, 1955, and the (then) new City Hall was occupied three years later. It ended up costing about \$2.5 million.

-From "Down Memory Lane"

J. Howard (Jim) Campbell, a Pioneers member, formed his own company reproducing his original art into prints that can be found in prestigious galleries, maritime museums, and shops around the country. Many of his drawings have won awards in competitive art shows. Jim also wrote and illustrated "From Cinabar to Quicksilver."

Miriam Edith Murphey Freeman Clark

March 1, 1929 – September 30, 2012

Miriam Clark served as 58th President of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County from 1993 to 1995.

Miriam was born in Los Angeles. She and the rest of the Murphey family moved around California including Modesto and Berkeley but she spent her last 60 years in Los Altos where she raised her six children. She is preceded in death by her first husband, Donald Freeman, and one of her children, Ron Freeman.

She graduated from Whitworth University and San Jose State University with a degree in Library Science. After raising her children, she taught Adult Education for Mountain View School District and served as church librarian for the Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church. She spent many years raising Golden Retrievers for *Guide Dogs for the Blind*. Those who did not pass the stringent criteria for guide dogs became part of her family, including Irma, Roma, Petrina and Pelly. She trained Pelly, her final dog, as a therapy



Miriam Clark

dog and made many hospital visits with her.

Miriam also set up events for the children attending the motor home rallies that she and her husband of 42 years,

Ken Clark, attended. She and Ken were also active for many years in square dancing.

Later, they took to the roads in their motor home, visiting every state except Hawaii. She stopped at all historical signs in each state and schooled her children in our great history.

Miriam was always very active, enjoying both snow skiing and water skiing. She and her children built a house in the Sierra near the summit so they were close to the slopes. She enjoyed teaching people how to ski, but failed with me.

Her Memorial Service was well attended including all of her living children, their spouses and her grandchildren, Richard, Dean, John, Wayne, and Cathy. Many friends from the area came to pay their final respects. I attended as a good friend and as a representative of the Pioneers.

-Mary Lou Lyon

Dare to be a Docent

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County offers a unique opportunity to become a docent. Our Paulson House at History San Jose holds a multitude of historical furniture, art and artifacts that makes it easy to talk about with visitors; a version of show and tell. The Paulson House is open on most Sunday afternoons.

We are holding an open house on Sunday, November 18th for those who might want to learn a bit more about becoming a docent. There is no commitment, just information and a tour through the house.

Here are a few reasons to become a docent::

- Learn about Santa Clara County and California history
- Be involved in an important community
- Make new friends with similar interests
- Meet visitors from other parts of our world
- Enjoy the surroundings of History San Jose and the beautiful Paulson House

Please let us know if you plan to visit us or if you have questions by calling Bev at 408-274-1625 or email her at bev@blockie.com.

See you on Sunday, November 18, 2012, between 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.



Notice of Proposed Change to Bylaws of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

At the December general membership meeting, the general membership will be asked to consider a proposal to change the bylaws of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. In summary, the change would allow associate members to vote on issues presented to the general membership and associate members would be allowed to serve on the Board of Directors. Presently, associate members do not have those rights.

The proposed change was unanimously recommended by the Pioneers Bylaws Committee to the Pioneers Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors is unanimously recommending to the general membership that the members of our organization adopt the change.

The proposed change would affect Article 3, Sections 1 and 2. To remind our members of the difference between Regular Members and Associate Members: Regular Members are those who resided in California for 35 years or more, or are descendant of a person who lived in California 35 years or more. Associate members are spouses or domestic partners of Regular Members who do not qualify as Regular Members, or are persons with a strong interest in the history of Santa Clara County. If the proposed change is approved by the general membership, there will remain a category distinction

between Regular Members (who meet the 35 year qualification) and Associate Members (who do not meet the 35 year qualification) but their rights will be essentially the same. Lifetime Members will be allowed to vote and serve on the board, just as the Regular and Associate Members will. If the proposed change is approved, Regular Members will continue to have the privilege of special recognition such as wearing California Pioneers medallions and ribbons that designate the years of residency.

To see the current bylaws, go to:
http://californiapioneers.com/bylaws/RESTATEDARTICLESOFINCORPORATION_2005.pdf

Here is the recommended change to our bylaws:

Article 3. Membership

Section 1. Regular Membership.

Every person who has resided in the State of California thirty-five (35) years or more, and every person who is a descendant of someone who lived in California thirty-five (35) years or more, and who has the written recommendation of two members in good standing of this Corporation, is eligible to be a Regular Member in this Corporation. A Regular Member shall be admitted only upon a favorable

majority vote of the Board of Directors. Every Regular Member in good standing may vote on general membership meeting issues, and is eligible for membership on the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Section 2. Associate Membership.

The spouse or domestic partner of any Regular Member of this Corporation, if such spouse or domestic partner of a Regular Member is not eligible by reason of period of residency in California to become a Regular Member, is eligible as an Associate Member. In addition, other persons with a strong interest in the history of Santa Clara County are eligible as Associate Members. Applicants must have the written recommendation of two members in good standing of this Corporation. An Associate Member shall be admitted only upon a favorable simple majority vote of the Board of Directors. Every Associate Member in good standing may vote on general membership meeting issues, and is eligible for membership on the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Paul Bernal
President, California Pioneers
of Santa Clara County
President@Californiapioneers.com

News from a Member

We received a card from a Pioneers life member, Florence Mason, who now lives in Westlake Village. She said she enjoys reading the Trailblazer.

She lived in San Jose from 1965 to 1999 and was a school teacher, teaching first in Los Angeles, and then nineteen years here for the Moreland School District. Florence fondly remembers the local

and overseas trips with the Californians and misses her friends in the Pioneers. She has a lovely home in the hills of Westlake Village, part of Thousand Oaks, where she and her cat, Sir Lance-lot, live a busy life.

On Florence's 90th birthday she went sky-diving. What an inspiration for the rest of us!



Florence Mason

What's In the Paulson House?



The 1915 wool bathing suit

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County maintains historical displays at our Paulson House Museum in San Jose's History Park. We have a multitude of interesting artifacts from the past. In future issues of the *Trailblazer* we will publish photographs and descriptions of items from our exhibits.

In this issue we are highlighting a vintage bathing suit from 1915. Located on a mannequin in the President's Hallway, the swimwear comes with bloomers, trim and all. The suit was hand-made by Laura Ochsner Hall, the mother of Pioneers long-time member and current Board member Melita Hall Kelly. Laura Ochsner Hall made this wool bathing suit as part of her trousseau. She was married to Melvel Hall in August 1915, and the suit was taken on their honeymoon. It was worn by Hall in the waters of Monterey while teaching her new husband how to swim. Certainly you would never see such a suit on the beach today!

We hope all our members and guests will visit the Paulson House located at 1650 Senter Road, San Jose.

Start Now! Pioneers Essay Contest



Now is a good time to start your essay for the Historical Essay Contest sponsored by the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. The deadline for submittals is April 15, 2013.

There are four categories: fourth graders, high school, college, and adult. Cash prizes up to \$2100 will be available for winners.

To view the rules for our Essay Contest go to our website, www.CaliforniaPioneers.com.

Time Travel

In San Jose, Sept. 1896: Alum Rock Park, owing to the absence of liquor selling, was reported on becoming a popular resort for the better class of San Joseans.



In San Jose, 1898: Horse stops at a watering trough at Santa Clara-Los Gatos and Steven Creek Roads caused an orchardist problems. Parties stopping there repeatedly picked away at his fruit crops causing heavy losses. He pleaded with the county to remove the trough.



In San Jose, 1898: Bicycle riders were permitted by the city council to ride their wheels on the sidewalk about the city. However, on approaching a pedestrian on the sidewalk, the rider was required to dismount.

In San Jose, 1900: Stiffly contracted throats necessary in singing the faddish "ragtime" were ruining the modern generation's vocal powers said a local throat specialist.



In San Jose, 1900: A young lady driving a horse and buggy on First Street ran down a street sweeper, seriously injuring him. This was the second incident of a hit and run in a week's time. The city was also concerned about the automobile, there already being five of the contraptions in town.



In San Jose, 1901: Young men were parting their hair in the middle in what the local barbers termed a fad which was passing over the country.

News

From

the

Past

New Pioneers Members - Welcome!



Lu Anne Behringer is a native Californian, lives in San Jose and was an elementary school teacher. Her parents were also born in California. Her pioneer ancestor was her great grandmother Eugenia Wilson Switzer, who came by wagon train to Napa, California, in 1856.

Eva Milovina lives in Cupertino and is a former Pioneers member who has re-joined.

Joanne D'Ambrosia is a native Californian and lives in San Jose. She was a secretary. Her father came to San Jose from Montana in 1920. Her mother was born in San Jose in 1921.

Gail Mitchell is an attorney in Berkeley and lives in Novato. She is a native Californian. Her pioneer ancestors' names include Gubser and Heilmann.

They arrived in California around 1875. Gail's mother was Loraine Gubser Mitchell.



Membership dues are owed on January 1st, 2013

Membership Report

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County have 472 members as of November, 2012. Annual dues for 2013 may be paid at the December luncheon or you can mail them to CA Pioneers, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA. 95155.

Please go to CaliforniaPioneers.com and select "Membership Information"

from the menu on the left. There you will see the various benefits and categories of membership. Additional donations are appreciated. Please remember the Pioneers in your estate planning.

If you have questions, please call Gayle Frank, at 408-275-6889.

Membership Categories

Individual	\$25
Family Level	\$45
Loomis Level	\$75
Lifetime Level	\$250
Arbuckle Level	\$500
Younger Level	\$1000
Murgotten Level	\$5000

Sunshine



Do you know of a Pioneers member who is ill, needs cheering up, or lost a loved one?

If so, please call Madeline Streight at 408-259-4422. An appropriate card will be sent.

Pioneers Gone on to the Golden Hills



**Rose Baglione
Miriam Edith Clark
Chiquita Lockhart**



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

*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.*

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County 2012 Board of Directors

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Ken Machado, 1st VP, Treasurer & Legal Counsel;
7m.kenmachado@gmail.com

Rosemarie Beebe, 2nd Vice President; Rbeebe@scu.edu

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Gayle Frank, Membership Secretary, Trailblazer Editor;
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miltpeddy@aol.com

Bill Foley, Film Archive Chair; iamspartacus@gmail.com

Madeline Streight, Sunshine Chair, 408-259-4422