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DECEMBER, 2000

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

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, established June 22, 1875 Mission Statement

Our mission is to uphold and cherish the memory of California's pioneers 1) by preserving their history through the collection of historical materials; 2) by preserving historic places within Santa Clara County; 3) by encouraging research and scholarship related to our county and state; 4) and by creating fellowship for our members and friends.

Adopted May, 2000

CHRISTMAS IN CALIFORNIA MINING CAMPS

by Harriet Duzet (from *Argonaut Newsletter*, December, 1992)

Connie Perham introduced me to Mary Hallock Foote's "A California Mining Camp" as published in *Scribner's Magazine*, February, 1878. This scene took place at the New Almaden Mines.

"On Christmas-eve there was a midnight mass at the 'Campo del Mexicano.' I did not know of it till too late, or I would have gone. On Christmas evening, I was left alone for a while. It was a little dreary, especially after the wind rose and began making noises round the house. As I sat thus over the fire, there were steps and voices outside, then a stillness, -and then a chorus of children's voices burst out with a Christmas hymn!

According to custom, the singers were invited in. They made a very striking group. The children crowded round a small table in the center of the room, where two candles threw a strong light up into the circle of rosy young faces and bright eyes,--the young men, with their stalwart

figures and voices, making a contrast to the sweet youthful choir. Two of the elder girls helped me pass among the guests an elaborately frosted cake had been given us (the workmanship of Chinese Sam's subtle fingers), and then, after another song, they went away, leaving me in a sort of bewilderment as to whether it were not all imagination."

Louisa Amelia Knapp Smith Clapp, known as "Dame Shirley" came to California with her husband, Doctor Fayette Clapp to Rich Bar on the Feather River. She wrote a series of letters to her sister in Massachusetts that were published as *The Shirley Letters*.

"The Saturnalia commenced on Christmas evening, at the Humboldt, which on that very day, had passed into the hands of new proprietors. The most gorgeous preparations were made for celebrating the two events. The bar was re-trimmed with red calico, the bowling alley had a new lining of the coarsest and whitest cotton cloth, and the broken lamp-shades were replaced by whole ones. All day long, patient mules could be seen descending the hill, bending beneath casks of brandy and baskets of champagne, and for the first time in the history of that celebrated building, the floor (wonderful to relate, it has a floor,) was washed, at a lavish expenditure of some fifty pails of water, the using up of one entire broom, and the melting away of sundry bars of the best yellow soap; after which I am told that the enterprising and benevolent individuals, who had undertaken the Herculean task, succeeded in washing the boards through the hopeless load of dirt, which had accumulated upon them during the summer and autumn . . .

At nine o'clock in the evening, they had an oyster and champagne supper in the Humboldt, which was very gay with toasts, songs, speeches, etc. I believe that the company danced all night; at any rate, they were dancing when I went to sleep, and they were dancing when I woke the next morning."

Adolphus Windeler was a German sailor who wrote a diary during the California Gold Rush. It was edited by W.

Turrentine Jackson and published in 1969 as *The California Gold Rush Diary of a German Sailor*. (original spelling)

Christmas, 1850 "... went to Chris's store, got playing eucre & won 9 times, the 10th I got struck for a dollar. Drank Apple toddy & eat herrings & cakes.

Christmass did not work, had Stewed venison, dumplings with raisins. Apples & potatoes, pretty good. Worked & made little. Prospected found nothing."

By Christmas of 1852, they had moved to Whiterock on the Feather River, just above Long's Bar.

"Friday, 24, Fair but cold weather. Fixing rockers in the afternoon. Some of the girls of Sandy's ranch passed by here on horseback. After that two indians with their squaws came by here & warmed them-selves making a fire & sitting by it. Towards sun down, had a regular built hail shower. Tom was out hunting & shot 13 pigeons and 2 quails. After he came home & set by the fire he told us about a scrape in the hailshower, that he had to go up a tree & fetch a pigeon down.

Christmas night had some whiskey toddy & that is all the jollification we had. Bought some flour, meal & sugar to day the first that came up. Christmas went out & shot 7 pigeon, Tom afterwards shot 16 more. After noon & night rain. Harry & Charley got happy & such talking as they had is not often to be heard. Had roast pigeons for dinner, go great, they do. At night, beautiful, clear sky full moon bright & glorious."

Ralph Rambo wrote in *Sierra Santa*:

"Once upon a time there lived an old man on a hilltop in the lower Sierra. Strange to say his name was CLAUS. Strange because he was short, fat, had a long white beard and dressed in a red flannel shirt with Levi pants stuffed in heavy boots. Above his red nose, bushy white eyebrows almost covered his friendly, twinkling eyes. He always wore a broad smile and was beloved by every child that met him. Now with that description wouldn't you expect to see a herd of reindeer in his corral? And maybe a sleigh parked in the

shed? But he owned nary a reindeer, only one sleepy little burro. Of course the children named the burro Rudolph or Roody for short. Every Christmas, Roody patiently wore a pair of deerhorns strapped between his ears--so that he looked like a reindeer. Anyhow, the children thought that he did which is all that matters.

For a few hours of utterly safe relief, a generation of tired mothers had sent a generation of restless youngsters up the well worn path leading to this old man's cabin. 'Why don't you visit Grampa Santa today?' and so they did, joyously. they would expect a warm welcome, a candy bar, maybe a thrilling story, a ride on Roody or a short 'prospectin' trip' down in the canyon below.

For tiny, first-time visitors who expected to see a 'real' Santa Claus there was a stock explanation. 'No, honey, I ain't 'zactly the real Santa Claus. Actual, my name is Hiram Claus.' Then if they looked disappointed he would brightly continue, 'But I could be Santa Claus's brother! 'Count of my rheumatics and arthuritis, I had to move down from the North Pole to a warmer climate. Reckon I do look like my brother somewhat. So jist go ahead and call me Grampa Santa.'

And so to the children of the pioneer mining town of Mariposa and surrounding hills, Hiram Claus became 'Grampa Santa.' Among the grownups he was fondly known as 'our old prospector.' the dignified Mariposa Chamber of Commerce proudly referred to him as 'Our Sierra Santa.' "

ALASKA GOLD

de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University

January 27-June 24, 2001, Admission Free

11 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday

If you missed The Californians trip to San Francisco in September, 1997 to see *Alaska Gold*, an exhibit about Irene Johnson's father and uncle who mined in Nome, 1900-1908, or would like to see it again, here is another opportunity. As part of Santa Clara University's 150 year celebration, three exhibits will be opening simultaneously in January.

In addition will be an exhibit entitled, *Father Hubbard, Glacier Priest*, about the well known lecturer and explorer, especially of the volcanic Aniakchak region of Southwest Alaska. Don't miss seeing his favorite sled dog who is getting a "face lift" for the occasion. Also on exhibit will be *Vestments and Religious Objects from Mission Santa Clara de Assisi, 1777-1851*.

IT'S DUES TIME FOR THE YEAR 2001!!

December is dues time again for our members. Please check your address to see if you are current. An "L" following your name signifies Life membership; "H" is Honorary; "00" signifies that your membership expires with this issue. If you find a "99", that means your name will be removed from the roster on January 1, 2001. Don't let this happen to you! Get your dues in on time so you will not miss issues of the *Trailblazer*.

If you do not wish to stand in line to pay your dues, remit your payment of \$10 per member to Melita Kelly, 460 North 15th Street, San Jose, CA, 95112-1725. Please make your check payable to the CALIFORNIA PIONEERS and enclose a self addressed stamped envelope (SASE) for returning your new membership card. As you know, Life Memberships are available for \$100 for a single or \$175 for a married couple. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to give me a call at 408-292-2385. Melita Kelly, Membership

NEW MEMBERS

Josephine Barbano

Pauline Carlino

Gary Cheney

Julie Eckroat

Trish Foley

Allen & Nancy Friebe

Gabriel Garcia

Carroll Greathead

Gail Hugger

Jean Klohe

Betty June Kreuger

Mary Evelyn Long

Doris Luci

Lorene Milligan

Evelyn Osborne

Betty Pena

Mildred Ryan

Florence Spandretto

Claudia Temmermand

Nancy White



Touring With The Californians

Rose Crimi Muench -- Tour Director

Marie Rider -- Phone Reservations: 251-7887 M-F a.m.

**Pauline Hawkins -- Treasurer: 390 No. Winchester Blvd. #7B
Santa Clara, CA 95050,**

Beverly Fisher -- Luncheon Registrations

REGISTRATION FOR WINTER TRIPS begins at the December 2d luncheon. Checks are preferred, or exact cash. Non-members and guests may sign up starting December 9th. If you do not get a trip flyer at the luncheon meeting, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Pauline's address above. Our pick-up point (unless otherwise indicated) is at Valley Village, 390 N. Winchester Blvd., Santa Clara, at the Dolores Street side.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2000 FESTIVAL of LIGHTS

Dazzling lights and displays in San Francisco usher in the festive holiday season. We arrive in mid-afternoon to enjoy the beautiful decorations in Union Square at the St. Francis Hotel and in the store windows around the square. At 4:00 p.m. we will have an included early dinner on the 36th floor of the Grand Hyatt Hotel overlooking Union Square. With luck, we may be treated to a gorgeous sunset and views of the City and the Bay. After dinner, we board our motor coach with our guide for a relaxing ride around San Francisco and points south to view a wonderland of lights and holiday decorations. Please indicate your dinner menu choice of prime rib, salmon, or chicken on the sign-up sheet. This trip is filled, but you may place yourself on the waiting list.

Leave: 2:00 P.M. Return: 10:00 P.M. Price: \$ 56

NEW YEAR'S IN PARIS DECEMBER 27-JANUARY 2, 2001

We can report with confidence that Paris is un bjiou, a jewel! This is a real bargain, and your berth is still available. A group in Salinas is offering the trip, and we can join them. The tour includes: round-trip air from San Francisco to Paris, seven night"s accommodation and cruising on the *MS Arlene*, a Swiss-managed river boat with all outside cabins, and bath, restaurant, lounge, and many amenities. The itinerary includes: a tour of Paris, special New Year's Eve dinner on board with a view of the Eiffel Tower; cruising on the River Seine, with stops at French villages where the impressionist artists painted; a night-time city lights tour of Paris, and more! The cost, including air fare, is \$2135 for the Main Deck and \$2260 for the Upper Deck Call Rose Crimi, 408-293-0896, or Valerie at Golden Gate Tours, 1-800-874-4345.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2001

SPLENDORS of the FORBIDDEN CITY

Treasures of the imperial palace of the Qing Dynasty emperors in Beijing will be on display at the Oakland Museum of California. The Oakland is one of only three museums in the United States to present this magnificent exhibit. The collection includes: jewelry and royal robes; ceremonial drums and armor; paintings; furnishings and wall hangings; ceramics and inlaid lacquers; ivory carvings; and a furnished imperial throne room. We will be using audio guides so that you may go at your own pace, with the sound volume you choose. We will have some extra time to view two other special exhibits. One is a collection of contemporary illustrations of California plant and animal species, executed in fine detail. The other is a collection of 100 samples of 1912 arts and crafts pottery by Marin County ceramics artisans. The galleries of the permanent collection, rich in California history, will also be available. We will end our excursion with a Chinese luncheon at Le Cheval Restaurant, which you may recall we visited last June.

Leave: 9:00 A.M. Return: 3:00 P.M. Price: \$ 35

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2001

JOHN MUIR HOME and BENECIA STATE CAPITOL

Naturalist and conservationist John Muir lived with his family in this 17-room mansion in Martinez from 1890 until his death in 1914. We will visit this national historic site for a guided tour, and learn about John Muir's influential writing and leadership in establishing the Yosemite, Sequoia, Mount Rainier, and Grand Canyon National Parks, and in supporting the environmental movement. We will also have an opportunity to walk to the fruit orchard on the grounds, and the 1848 Martinez adobe where Muir's daughter lived. Then we cross the Benecia-Martinez Bridge for lunch at the 1882 Union Hotel, a guided tour of the Benecia State Capitol, and see the Fischer-Hanlon House, a former gold rush hotel.

Leave: 9:00 A.M. Return: 5:00 P.M. Price: \$ 38

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2001

SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER and GARDEN SHOW

This 16th annual show at the Cow Palace presents an array of over 20 show gardens. Other attractions include: seminars and demonstrations, a plants market, miniature gardens, a 30,000 plant orchid show, flower arrangement, garden fountains, garden furniture, and an exhibit of flower and garden paintings, and photographs. The delightful displays should inspire us to create our own garden projects. Bring your camera! Food booths are available for lunch on your own. The entry fee is included in the price of the trip.

Leave: 9:00 A.M. Return: 4:00 P.M. Price: \$ 29

APRIL 19 - 23, 2000 RAMONA and the MISSION TRAIL

The California Pioneers and Mary Lou Lyon's California History Class are planning a trek to six Spanish missions, and a performance of the Ramona Pageant, bringing to life our colorful history. As we travel south, we will make stops at the Missions: San Antonio, San Miguel, La Purisima, Santa Inez, Santa Barbara, and San Gabriel. Mary Lou will draw upon her intimate knowledge of the missions in her

inimitable way. This should be enlightening and fun! The Ramona Pageant is the longest running outdoor pageant in America, having been first performed In 1923. Taken from the Helen Hunt Jackson novel, it tells the story of the bitter-sweet romance between Ramona, an 18-year old California girl, and the Indian, Alessandro as well as the conflicts among the Californios, the Indians, and the incoming Americans. A cast of 350 performs in an amphitheater near Hemet, overlooking a five-acre natural setting. We will also have lunch and a tour of "la Hacienda," William Randolph Hearst's ranch house designed by Julia Morgan. Lunches in Solvang and the Basque Woolgrowers Restaurant in Bakersfield. Also, if the blooming time is right, we will stop at the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve for a breath-taking view of rolling hills covered with California poppies. Brochures will be available at the December 2d luncheon. We need a minimum of 30 people with deposits by February 1st, so register early. Price approximately \$600- see flier.

MAY 4 - 12, 2001

COLUMBIA RIVER CRUISE

This trip is filled, except for replacing cancellations.

Call Rose Crimi, (408) 293-0896.

SEPTEMBER 29 to OCTOBER 11, 2001

THE ERIE CANAL

See the Northeast as never before on a 13-day cruising tour of Long Island Sound, the Hudson River, the Erie Canal, and the St. Lawrence Seaway with a bonus of fall colors! We board the *M.V. Grand Caribe* from Rhode Island. Sights along the way include: the sky-line of Manhattan with a shore excursion of the forests and estates of the Hudson River; a tour of West Point Academy and FDR's Hyde Park estate and passage through the Erie Barge Canal locks on an excursion to Fort Stanwix from the French-and-Indian War era; passage through Lake Oneida and the Oswego Canal across Lake Ontario to Kingston for a visit to Fort Henry, which was built to protect Canada from American attacks; a paddlewheel cruise through the Thousand Islands; steaming down the St. Lawrence River through several locks to our

final destination- the beautiful city of Montreal. After a city tour of Montreal, we fly home. The cost is \$2945 to \$3175 for inside cabins, and \$3575 to \$3895 for window cabins. Only 48 cabins are available. An early deposit of \$500 per person will hold the cabin of your choice. Cabin configurations are shown in the brochures, which are now available. You are protected by a full refund policy for cancellations before June 8, 2001. The cost includes: transfer to and from San Francisco; round trip air from San Francisco to Boston, and return from Montreal; a 12 day cruise; all meals on board; all shore excursions; all tips: on-board and to the guides, drivers, and tour manager. Final payment is due March 24, 2001. Current passports are required. Brochures will be available at the December 2d luncheon.

SAVE THIS DATE! MAMMOTH LAKES & YOSEMITE
September 11 - 14, 2001. Brochures will be available at the March 3d luncheon.

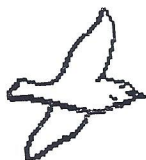
GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS

Helen Young

August 21, 2000

Warren B. Wieman

September 21, 2000



SENIOR POWER

MYTHS: Older people do not constitute a vital market for today's consumer products. Most older people are institutionalized, inactive, infirm, incontinent and senile. They spend less money.

FACTS: Seniors makeup 35% of the population and control 43% of the nation's disposable income! It is projected that there are 40-45 million Americans over 65. The over 50 age group has a combined annual income of \$500 billion! In this decade, the numbers of people over 50 buy 40% of all new cars and 49% of luxury cars. Seniors spend more on travel and recreation than any other age group. Seniors spend more per capita on groceries than any other age group. Seniors even account for 20% of all toys bought! George Miskulin, from the *Santa Clara Retired Teachers Bulletin*

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DEADLINE- for March Trailblazer January 25, 2001

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PIONEER LUNCHEON

DATED MATERIAL

BARBERSHOP QUARTET

SATURDAY, December 2 AT NOON

LOU'S VILLAGE - Cross Ribs of Beef

Salad & Bread

\$15.50 Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Seasonal Vegetables

CHOCOLATE CAKE

RESERVATIONS 554-7587

BEFORE WEDNESDAY, November 29, 2000

RICHARD M & NANCY HILL L

10393 DORIS CT

SAN JOSE, CA 95127-3013

