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Inside this issue:

Orcharding at Martial Cottle Park	1
No March Quarterly Luncheon	2
President's Message	3
When San Jose Was Young; Two Romances	5
Essay Contest	6
Suñol House Upgrade Under Way	7
Dues Payments Now Online	7
Update on Historical Plaques	7
100 Years of Women Suffrage: Isabella Blaney	8
OSH Neon Sign Up	10
First Train to Santa Clara County—A Sketch	11
Reliving Ancestors' History	12
2021 Paid Members	14
Paulsen House at Christmas	14
Membership Report	15
Time Travel News	15
Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills	15
2021 Board of Directors	16

Orcharding at Martial Cottle Park

By David Zittlow

After decades of cattle ranching in Missouri several Cottle families left the turmoil of this pre-Civil War border state and sought the potential opportunities of California. Edward Cottle brought his family and 600 head of cattle over the Oregon/California Trails in 1854. They settled here along the Coyote River before acquiring 750 acres from the estate of Jose Joaquin Bernal in 1864. The property was developed as a wheat and cattle ranch and was so used for most of its 150-year history. Two hundred and eighty seven of those acres remain and now comprise Martial Cottle Park. During those 150 years no part of the ranch was put to commercial orcharding. I give you this tidbit of history because the balance of this column will discuss four orchards that now exist on the park property. It does seem like a contradiction!

Depending on time of year and whether you drive in or enter through one of the several access trails, the casual visitor to Martial Cottle Park may get a glimpse of fruit trees in bloom. Without entering the park anyone driving by on Snell Avenue in early spring is treated to the most prolific of blossoms as the cherry, apricot and plum trees burst into bloom and frame the two-story white house in the distance. This 20-acre fronting parcel was planted in the mid-1990s. Knowing his ranch would one day be an agricultural park, it is thought Mr. Walter Cottle Lester felt this would be a pleasant entry to his lifelong home and homestead. This is the only



Cherry blossoms at Martial Cottle Park (Photo: David Zittlow)

orchard in the park that has been periodically in commercial production. These trees are nearly thirty years old and are in decline.

As you enter the park from Snell Avenue and drive toward the Visitor Center you will find dozens of Bradford Pear trees in the parking lot and the Demonstration Orchard just west of the Visitor Center. Bradford Pear is a fruitless tree and a favorite among landscape architects in that the tree produces snowball-sized clusters of white blossoms. One issue with the Bradford Pear is its susceptibility to Fire Blight. The existing pear trees were planted prior to the opening of the park in May 2015. To date Fire Blight has ravaged nearly half of the trees. The park has decided to remove and replace the Bradford Pears with a blight-resistant native crabapple. This past fall, half of the trees in the Demonstration Orchard have been replaced and the remainder will be replaced in the spring.

Following his death in January 2014, we discovered Mr. Lester's fruit and nut orchard (we call it the Heritage Orchard) hidden behind several no-see fences and secluded behind his home.

(Continued pg. 2)

No Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

The normally scheduled Pioneers quarterly luncheon will not be held in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County hope you and your family are doing well during our county's slow return back to somewhat normal. Staying connected is especially important now and without our quarterly luncheons or events, we miss seeing and talking to you. Keep in touch with our website, Facebook page and other social media. We will be back together again soon, hopefully by mid-2021.

Orcharding (Continued)



Heritage Orchard in 2017 ready for new trees. (Photo: Dave Zittlow)

The Heritage Orchard is situated on a 1/2-acre parcel just west of the Cottle/Lester House in the Life Estate. (This 30-acre area is not available to the public at present). Whether the orchard was started by one of the early Cottles or Henry or Walter Lester, we have every reason to believe the fruit was grown primarily for family consumption and not for commercial use.

The orchard was designed for 60 trees, spaced 15 feet apart in rows 20 feet separate. Fruit would either be made into jams/jellies or canned utilizing the hot water bath method. All of the necessary canning equipment remains in the house. Hundreds of glass canning jars from eight-ounce jelly jars to gallon jars were found. Did they dry fruit? Certainly Henry Lester (Walter's father the orchardist) was familiar with this process; however, we have found no

evidence of their doing so.

When we first surveyed the orchard after Mr. Lester's death more than half of the trees were dead. It appears that in Mr. Lester's failing years he may not have had either the desire or ability to tend to the orchard properly. Of the remaining mature trees there is 1 Mission fig; 2 nectarines; 1 peach; 1 plum; 2 Bing cherry; 4 apple; 3 apricot; 1 prune; 5 walnut and 3 almond. We can easily speculate that a significant amount of canning was accomplished. Keep in mind the Cottle/Lester ranch was five miles south of San Jose so access to stores was not as it is today. In many ways we know the families were very self-sufficient. They raised their own crops, had a dairy for milk and butter and, likewise, preserved the fruit from this orchard. The one surviving peach tree produces very large freestone peaches. Perhaps two, but no more

than three would fill a quart canning jar.

Believing this Heritage Orchard would be preserved for future generations, in 2016 park management decided on an early start to restoration. Thanks to the dedicated staff and our volunteer corps, over 30 antique fruit and citrus trees were planted in 2017. Since then, they have been pruned, weeded, nourished and, where necessary, replaced. The main criteria for tree selection were their availability to Walter Lester had he chosen these trees circa 1950. In addition to the trees mentioned above, the orchard now includes avocado, Whitney crabapple, loquat, quince, pomegranate, Fuyu and Hachiya persimmon, orange, lemon, pluot and pluocot.

(Continued pg. 4)

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Gayle Frank, Editor

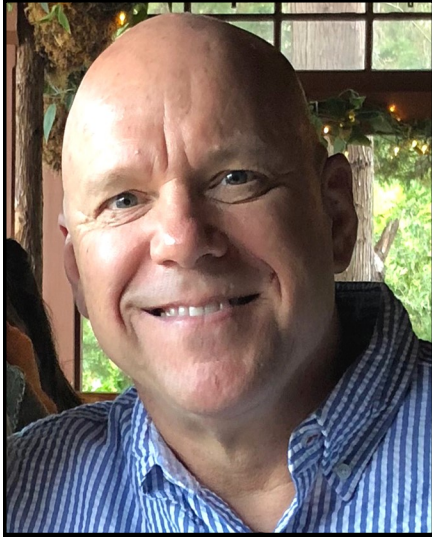
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President's Message



Jim Zetterquist, President

(Photo: Tim Peddy)

Although there have been many drawbacks to COVID-19, there is one positive thing we can say about the shutdown caused by this pandemic, "We have had plenty of time on our hands to take stock in all that is good." The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County's Board of Directors did just that when we unanimously voted to award Gayle Frank our highest honor. Since 1987, the Austin Warburton Award has been presented to individuals who have exemplified outstanding service to both the Pioneers and the community.

While every Pioneers member may not have had the good fortune to know Gayle, we have all been the recipients of the fruits of her labor. In fact, without her hard work and dedication we would not have this *Trailblazer*. Gayle is a Santa Clara County Pioneer to the core. In the 1940s, she was born in San José Hospital to Ethel and Glen Reinegger, both San José natives. She grew up in the Willow Glen/Campbell areas, attending Willow Glen Elementary, Broadway, Campbell Grammar, and Campbell and Camden High Schools. She then attended San José State College, where she joined Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

After graduating with a major in

Medical Technology and a minor in Chemistry, Gayle married her college sweetheart, raised four children (Erin, Kerry, Greg, and Trisha), and pursued an eighteen-year career as a Medical Technologist at Laboratory Services.

After a divorce, Gayle, who is clearly a life-long-learner, returned to San José State University, where she became involved in musical theater as a Theater Arts/Dance major. In 1977, while performing in and choreographing musical productions for community theaters, she married fellow actor/director Rick Frank. In 1988, Gayle returned part time to SJSU once again where she received her Masters degree in Biological Science/Toxicology in 1992. After tiring of her work in the medical laboratory, she became a Health and Safety Engineer at Lockheed, Tandem, and then NASA, where she found the wind tunnels and space exploration programs fascinating.

I first met Gayle in the 1990s at the San José Historical Museum (now History San José) while I served on their board. Gayle's parents had introduced her to the museum through Portraits of the Past, an education program that produced historical vignettes. These presentations allowed Gayle to blend her love of theater and local history while she participated in shows wearing beautiful period costumes. During this same period, Gayle gained an appreciation for the importance of historical preservation after touring the historic California Theater in downtown San José. I re-connected with Gayle after her husband, Rick, unfortunately passed away in 2001. In 2002, she joined me on the Board of Directors of Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC*SJ) where she does an outstanding job as editor of *Continuity*, PAC*SJ's newsletter.

In late 2011, after becoming president of the Pioneers for the first time, I

recruited Gayle and her new husband Robb Moore (whom she married in 2005) to join our board. The "two-for-one acquisition" was most fortuitous!

Robb became membership chair, Gayle became editor of the *Trailblazer*, and I had the pleasure of getting to know Gayle and Robb better as they tirelessly worked alongside Joan Bohnett, Jan Paull, Gertie Klem, Bill Foley, and me as we inventoried the Helen and Charles Stevens' estate.

Gayle's contributions to the Pioneers continued. She upgraded the *Trailblazer*, revamping its layout and making it a color publication. She also became membership chair in 2013, co-hosted our Pioneers Tea at the Paulson House, serves as a docent at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House, and worked at our Pioneer BBQ, along with assisting at many other events.

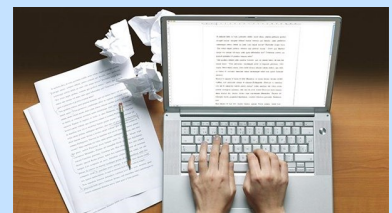
Although we will not be able to present Gayle with her plaque at our quarterly luncheon until the COVID-19 pandemic has been resolved, the Board and I want to recognize her for all her contributions and express our appreciation for her dedication and can-do attitude as we begin a new year.

Congratulations my dear friend,

—Jim Zetterquist

Time to write that essay!

You still have time. See page 7 for details on the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County Essay Contest.



Orcharding (Continued)

Six additional trees will be added this month including Bacon avocado, Stella cherry, Black Mission fig, tangerine, Wالتانا apple and Flavor King pluot. It is our goal to maintain this orchard at capacity so that once the Life Estate is opened to the public the trees will all appear to be mature and healthy fruit and nut producers.



Skinner's Seedling Apple* at Martial Cottle Park. (Photo: Don Bollinger)

How great it must have been to go to the pantry or the cellar in January or February and bring in a jar of canned apricots to make cobblers or a jar of applesauce to serve with a roast pork. And then there would be chopped nuts for fresh baked cookies and candy. Our archive team has located dozens of recipes in the house that call for cherries, apples, peaches and figs. Ms. Lester's recipes for Raisin Bread, Nut Loaf, Coffee Cremes and Chocolate-Pecan Candy all call for chopped nuts. At least once a year the park volunteers test these recipes and bring the goodies to Craft Day in the Visitor Center for sharing. You can take my word for it—the Mission figs make excellent jam.

Martial Cottle Park is blessed to have several Community Partners all working

to further Walter Lester's vision of providing agricultural production and education for future generations.

Jacobs Organic Farm leases 190 acres of the park and maintains active crop production. Master Gardeners lease four acres and are active in community education such as best practices in drought-tolerant lawn conversion, drip irrigation, pruning and pest control. Their most recent venture is the development of a demonstration fruit orchard in the southwest corner of their parcel bordering Chynoweth Avenue. Thirty-five trees were planted in 2019 and another 45 in 2020. The orchard planting should continue at that rate and fill in by spring of 2022 with a total of about 140 trees. The inner ring was planted to provide year-round fresh fruit. The outer part of the orchard is divided into 8 sections with such whimsical (but descriptive) names as Heritage, Backyard, Vineyard, Apples, Grafting, Weird, Citrus and Tall. The heritage trees are Moorpark Apricot, Sugar Prune, French Prune, Satsuma Plum, Imperial Prune and Skinner Seedling Apple.* A complete list is available. ❖

**See "Henry Skinner's Apples" story in the December 2020 issue of the Trailblazer.*

(An earlier story of the Cottles and the Park can be found in the Dec. 2017 Trailblazer.)

Dave Zittlow is a member of California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and Volunteer Park Lead at Martial Cottle Park. He was raised on a dairy farm in Wisconsin, brought to California by the Army in 1965 and retired from Comerica Bank in 2014. Upon retirement he started leading the Land Steward Team at Martial Cottle Park where he enjoys gardening, orcharding and farm equipment refurbishing.



The Cherry Orchard in 2019 can be seen from Snell Ave.

(Photo: David Zittlow)

The Martial Cottle Park is located at 5283 Snell Ave., San Jose.

For more information visit www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/pages/martialcottle.aspx

2021 dues for CA Pioneers of Santa Clara County are due on January 1st, 2021

Regular membership is still only \$35 (Family \$60)

**Please Mail your check to:
CA Pioneers of SCC.
Membership Chair,
P.O. Box 8208
San Jose, CA, 95155**

**or
You may now renew online at:
www.CaliforniaPioneers.com**

“When San Jose Was Young: Two Romances”

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

“I was looking for romance in Spanish California in San Jose, and I found it. I must not give you the real names of Don Pedro's two daughters, for one of them, Luisa, still lives. She told me the story.

When San Jose was young, Spanish society was so perfectly organized that the machine seldom skipped a cog. However, Engracia, Don Pedro's daughter, was different. Engracia was different from other girls. She was different from her sister Luisa. Engracia always smiled. She smiled on her way to church. She even smiled during mass. She could talk with a man and smile without blushing. Luisa never could. She knew that no daughter of a Don should smile during mass or speak to a man without blushing.

Engracia always bewildered Luisa. Once Luisa found her alone in the great hall at the hacienda with Carlos Juarez. Engracia and Carlos were close together. Engracia never blushed even when discovered. Luisa was shocked that a daughter of her father could behave so.

But when the footsteps of Don Pedro sounded outside, Engracia and Luisa fled and left the tall, dark Carlos Juarez to explain to Don Pedro that he had come to buy one of Don Pedro's horses. Don Pedro believed it, but Luisa did not reproach her older sister. In Spanish California families one respected elders, even elder sisters. That very night the situation grew grave. A guitar tinkled in the distance. Luisa suspected that Carlos Juarez was serenading Engracia.

Don Pedro and his wife looked at their daughters. All seemed innocent of any knowledge of any serenade, but most innocent of all was Engracia. Luisa blushed. Don Pedro and his wife stared hard at her. Luisa was a strange girl.

Very timidly that night when they

were alone Luisa asked Engracia if she knew who had been the serenader.

“Of course,” replied Engracia. “Carlos Juarez. I am going to marry him.”

“Carlos Juarez! He is half Mexican! Madre de Dios! What will our parents say?”

“It matters not if he is an Indian,” said Engracia. “I will marry him. You, Luisa, must tell our parents tomorrow.”

“I am afraid,” said Luisa. “They will be very angry. They will never consent.”

“I will marry Carlos even if I am killed with him,” decided Engracia.

“No one in our family ever disobeyed their parents. You wouldn't disgrace them,” pleaded Luisa.

“I will marry Carlos,” said Engracia obstinately.

Neither of the girls slept, but Luisa told Engracia that no matter what she did she would always love her. In the morning Luisa confessed to her father that Engracia wanted to marry Carlos Juarez. She wished to have the banns published immediately at Santa Clara.

Don Pedro raged. Carlos Juarez, like a thief, had stolen his daughter. Never should he have her. He stormed at Luisa, too. She was a bad girl to bring him such a message. In fear, Luisa sought Engracia. Straight to Don Pedro went Engracia.

“What Luisa said is true. I am going to marry Carlos. I would like your consent, father.”

“Gingo girl!” he raged at her. “I would rather see you dead than mix your blood with that worthless Mexican.”

“I'd rather be dead than live without Carlos. If you don't publish the banns, Carlos and I will go without



Sketches of Californio señoritas by Ralph Rambo

them to Sonoma and live on his ranch.”

Disgraced Don Pedro could not endure. He was beaten. The banns were published at Santa Clara. But during the days preceding the wedding, at the hacienda no one smiled.

Luisa wished to go with Engracia to the church, but she dared not further anger Don Pedro. And so, without feast or celebration, like a funeral, Engracia's wedding day approached. But Engracia's soul was feasting.

Even before the appointed hour, Carlos Juarez's horses pranced outside the gate of the patio. Tenderly Engracia kissed her weeping family farewell. To the servants she gave warm handclasps for she was going to live in far away Sonoma. Only the mother of God knew when again she would see San Jose. One happy moment there was in her going. As she stepped to the deep door of the adobe house Don Pedro said “Engracia daughter, kneel, let me give you my blessing.”

All the weeping family shed tears in joy. Perhaps Don Pedro would go to the church with Engracia.

Engracia herself gave a little sob of happiness as she knelt and said “Yes, father.”

Quick as a flash Don Pedro drew from his belt the short ugly rawhide used by him in beating the will of unruly animals. Blow after blow fell upon Engracia's thinly covered shoulder, making her low as a

(Continued pg.6)

Time is running short!

2020/2021 History Essay Contest

Prizes Awarded for Best Essay

Essay Subject: Any person, place or event concerning Santa Clara County from its beginning to the recent past.

For Details and Rules go to: www.CaliforniaPioneers.com

New Submittal Deadline: May 31, 2021

For more information contact CaliforniaPioneers@gmail.com

“Two Romances” (Continued)

beast. In defense the mother sprang forward, but the wild blows fell upon her, too, and silenced all.

Screaming, Engracia fled from the hacienda and flung her bleeding body into her lover's arms. Tenderly Carlos Juarez lifted her into the saddle. Away they rode to Santa Clara and were married.

“And they lived happily?” I asked Luisa.

“No girl who disobeys her parents is ever happy,” said Luisa, now broken and old. “Carlos had eyes for all women. Engracia lived alone on the Sonoma ranch with an Indian servant. Her heart broke. When she was old my father forgave her.”

“And you had no romance?” I asked.

“No,” she answered. “Guadalupe,

my husband, was the son of my father's best friend. All wished us to marry. Guadalupe's mother gave me beautiful silk dresses, linen, silver, and jewels as Spanish-California mothers did.

We rode to Santa Clara under canopies of flags and flowers. The Mission church was filled. The wedding party danced two weeks.

Guadalupe and I had eight children. We never quarreled. Rich or poor we were happy. Fifty-five years we were happy. When he died my brain seemed numb. It is numb today. I sit here in this little room, looking at this picture. I feel death devouring my body. I am glad. I want to go to him.”

I left her looking at her husband's picture. I wondered which sister

had the great romance, Engracia or Luisa.”

—Evening News, Oct. 18, 1916



Sketch by Ralph Rambo

Suñol House ADA Upgrade Under Way

The CA Pioneers of Santa Clara County have begun work on the ADA Compliance Project at the Roberto Adobe and Suñol House. This project is being funded by a generous grant from the County of Santa Clara's Historic Grant Program. Many members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and members of our community wrote letters on our behalf and in support of this project. These letters were instrumental in our receiving this grant.

The scope of work includes the demolition of our two existing bathrooms and the construction of one new ADA compliant unisex bathroom, leveling of the path of travel from the parking lot to the entry door, automatic door opener at

the entry door, handicap access ramp to the entry door and handicap parking with signs in the parking lot.

Assuming no unforeseen delays, the project should be completed in two months.

The Roberto Adobe and Suñol House has been closed due to the pandemic and will remain closed until the completion of the project, reopening only when COVID-19 regulations will allow. ❖

—Tom Kearney

Many thanks to Tom Kearney who completed the grant proposal and managed the work to be done!

On Line Payments, Donations Now Offered

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County is now ready to accept payments for membership renewals, new members applications, or donations on our website at www.CaliforniaPioneers.com.

Click on **"Support"** at the top of the page and then select **"Contribute."** Choose how much you wish to pay (as an example, \$35 for regular membership renewal or \$60 for family renewal). Don't type in the \$ sign. Then click the box saying **"I would like this donation to go to a specific fund,"** followed by choosing **"Renew Membership."**

You can pay with a credit card or PayPal. Many of our members have been asking to renew their Pioneers membership on line, so we are pleased that the capability is finally here! In addition, persons wishing to join the Pioneers can now pay online.

Memorial donations or contributions to certain projects can also be made on our website in the same way. ❖

Update on Historical Plaques

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and the Clampers (E Clampus Vitus) are partnering on installations of historical plaques in Santa Clara County. In the last issue of the Trailblazer (Dec. 2020) we discussed the Skinner's Seedling Apples history and its two plaques to be installed. A formal ceremony dedicating the Skinner's Seedling Apples has not taken place due to COVID-19 restrictions. Stay tuned for a future announcement.

Research and planning work is progressing on a plaque memorializing Secundino and Maria Robles. Our President, Jim Zetterquest, has taken great interest in this plaque since Secundino is a distant relative. In fact, the Pioneers look forward to Jim's upcoming book on the Robles family and early local history.

Secundino was a young boy who discovered the Almaden

quicksilver mine and went on to make his fortune, only to lose it all. He was so penniless that there was no money to pay for his gravestone in the Santa Clara Cemetery. A new plaque and gravestone will correct this injustice.

We hope this project will be complete by spring. The Pioneers will help share the plaque costs and our name will be displayed on it. ❖

—Russ Robinson

Roberto Adobe & Suñol House

Saturday Free Tours suspended
until further notice.

Celebrating 100 years of Women's Suffrage

After a long battle for the women's right to vote, the U.S. Congress finally approved the 19th Amendment in June of 1919. Three-fourths of the then-48 states ratified the Constitutional Amendment by August, 1920. To celebrate the 100th Anniversary, the Trailblazer is printing a brief summary of one of our Santa Clara County suffragists in each issue.

Isabella Blaney

Isabella Williams Blaney (1854-1933) was born in Chicago, Illinois and after marriage to Charles D. Blaney (1854-1923) in 1877, moved to sunny California, first in San Francisco and then to a large ranch in the Santa Clara Valley. Mr. Blaney worked in real estate and served as Chairman of the first California Highway Commission in 1911.

The couple had one child, Clarissa (1883-1901), who died from typhoid at 17 years old. After her death, Isabella and Charles funded the construction of a "beautiful new building"—an isolation ward at O'Connor Hospital in Clarissa's memory (*Evening News, August 5, 1910*).

Isabella traveled widely and was deeply interested in foreign medical missions. She was a key advocate for a medical hospital established in Northern China.

The Blaneys built a grand home (pictured right) in Saratoga in 1906 that was designed by prominent architect Willis Polk. The 20-room mansion was called Rancho Bella Vista and had two landscaped gardens, one designed by Isabella. The home included a ballroom and a theater. In 1927, dramas about lives of American Indians were performed in the gardens to benefit the Indian Defense Association of Northern and Central California. Numerous musical and charity events were organized at their home. As an example, a benefit for the construction and maintenance of a children's playground at the Home of the Benevolence was held there (*Evening News, June 24, 1908*). The Blaneys also made monthly donations to the



Isabella (Bella) Blaney

(Photo: FindaGrave.com)

Home. The couple spent part of each year at their winter home in Pasadena, California.

In 1927, Isabella funded a memorial pipe organ at the Saratoga Federated Church in memory of her deceased husband who had passed four years earlier.

Isabella's interests in social reform and politics drew her to participate in many organizations such as the Club Women's Franchise League with 2500 members throughout California. Isabella served as vice president after helping to form the group, which had campaigned fervently

for support of women's suffrage in California, finally succeeding by the 1911 election. As chairwoman for the Santa Clara County organization committee for the Franchise League, she financed and managed a house-to-house canvass persuading voters to support women's suffrage. As reported in the *California Outlook* (April 13, 1912), "With the utmost delicacy and tact, Blaney won over to Woman Suffrage many of the most stubborn opponents and inspired her co-workers with courage and enthusiasm."

Other groups in which Isabella was active were the executive board of the California Equal Suffrage Association, the American Association of University Women, the Astronomical Society of Pacific, the Santa Clara County Rose Society, and other organizations in San Francisco and Pasadena.

By November 1911, Isabella was chosen as vice president of the La Follette League of California, supporting progressive Senator Robert La Follette for president. She was the first woman in California to be given a post in a partisan political organization. But La Follette dropped out of the race, so Isabella joined the Executive Committee of the Roosevelt Progressive Republican League of California and served as a

(Continued pg. 9)



**Blaney
Home
in
Sara-
toga.**

(Photo:
Saratoga
History.
com)

Women's Suffrage— (Continued)

vice president of the Women's Roosevelt League of San Francisco. By March of 1912, she was chosen as a delegate to the National Republican Convention to be held in June 1912. She and several others were the first women to cast votes in a national convention (with one exception in 1892). An *Evening News* article (July 3, 1912) said that the strain of cheering for Roosevelt "caused Mrs. Blaney to lose her voice until she was unable to speak above a whisper." Consequently, she had to cancel her scheduled talks in Illinois promoting women's suffrage.

When Theodore Roosevelt lost the nomination to W. H. Taft, Isabella and other Roosevelt delegates left the party to form a new Progressive Party with Roosevelt as the presidential candidate. She was one of the first women to serve on an executive board of a major political party, becoming a delegate for the second time that year to the Progressive Party Convention, nominating Roosevelt.

Over the next eight years, enabling women's suffrage throughout the country became an increasingly crucial issue. Isabella worked as a local suffrage leader and joined the National Women's party in Sacramento. She was present when the California

state legislature ratified the national amendment. Isabella and a group of San Francisco women tirelessly persuaded the Republican Party Chairman to urge the remaining states to ratify.

A glowing tribute to Isabella was written by suffragist Elizabeth Lowe Watson in the same 1912 California Outlook article. "Trusted and beloved by all who know her, endowed with rare insight and indomitable courage, Mrs. Blaney is destined to become a valuable factor in the political and social reconstruction that promises such splendid results in her adopted State. (An article on Mrs. Watson appeared in the June 2020 issue of the *Trailblazer*.)

Isabella, who died in 1933, and Charles Blaney are both buried in Madrona Cemetery in Saratoga. ❖

—Gayle Frank

Sources:

—Isabella (Bella) Blaney — *Philanthropist and Suffragist* (saratogahistory.com)

—Findagrave.com/memorial/28843009/isabella-blaney

—*Biography of Mrs. Charles (Isabella) Williams Blaney b. 1854-1933*, by Laura Moore. <https://documents.alexanderstreet.com/d/1009657261>. *Biographical Database of NAWSA Suffragists, 1890-1920*.

— "A Distinguished Woman," *The California Outlook*, April 13, 1912.



Mrs. Isabella Williams Blaney

"Who is a Member of the Roosevelt Ticket of Delegates to the Republican National Convention.

Photo Study by Margaret B. Craig, Pasadena"

(Photo: *The California Outlook*, Apr. 13, 1912)



Left, Suffragists: Isabella Blaney, Mrs. Mary Willmarth, and Jane Addams.

(Library of Congress, unrestricted).

OSH Neon Sign Up

By Ken Middlebrook



Left, installing the OSH Neon Sign on top of the OSH Boxcar at History San Jose.

Photo: John Frolli

On December 4, 2020, neon once again flowed through the Orchard Supply Hardware sign. The neon sign, now part of History Park, helps tell part of the story of the city of San José and the Santa Clara Valley. For many locals, the sign represents the time when the Santa Clara Valley was known as the “Valley of Heart’s Delight.” This local landmark originally stood on W. San Carlos Street in San Jose for nearly 70 years until the chain’s closing in 2018. The restored sign has been rehung on its original 70-year-old pole and placed adjacent to the famous OSH Boxcar, which was moved to History Park in 2014. Both of these wonderful historic objects tell the story of OSH, orchards, and farmland in the Santa Clara Valley.

The OSH Boxcar

Since the early 1960's, Orchard Supply Hardware's only boxcar sat behind the W. San Carlos Street store alongside Auzerais Street.* When Lowe's looked to expand the store, they donated this local landmark to the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation (CTRC) and moved it to History Park where it is now displayed between a steam locomotive and a caboose. The display is readily seen from Senter Road.

Over the past few years, CTRC volunteers spent hours repairing the roof, installing a new floor and replacing rusted side panels. It is now water-tight.

The remaining task was repainting the green paint, logo and lettering. After many decades, new paint and lettering was applied by Colla Signs this past November. See the ‘before’ and ‘after’ images below.



Boxcar photos: Ken Middlebrook



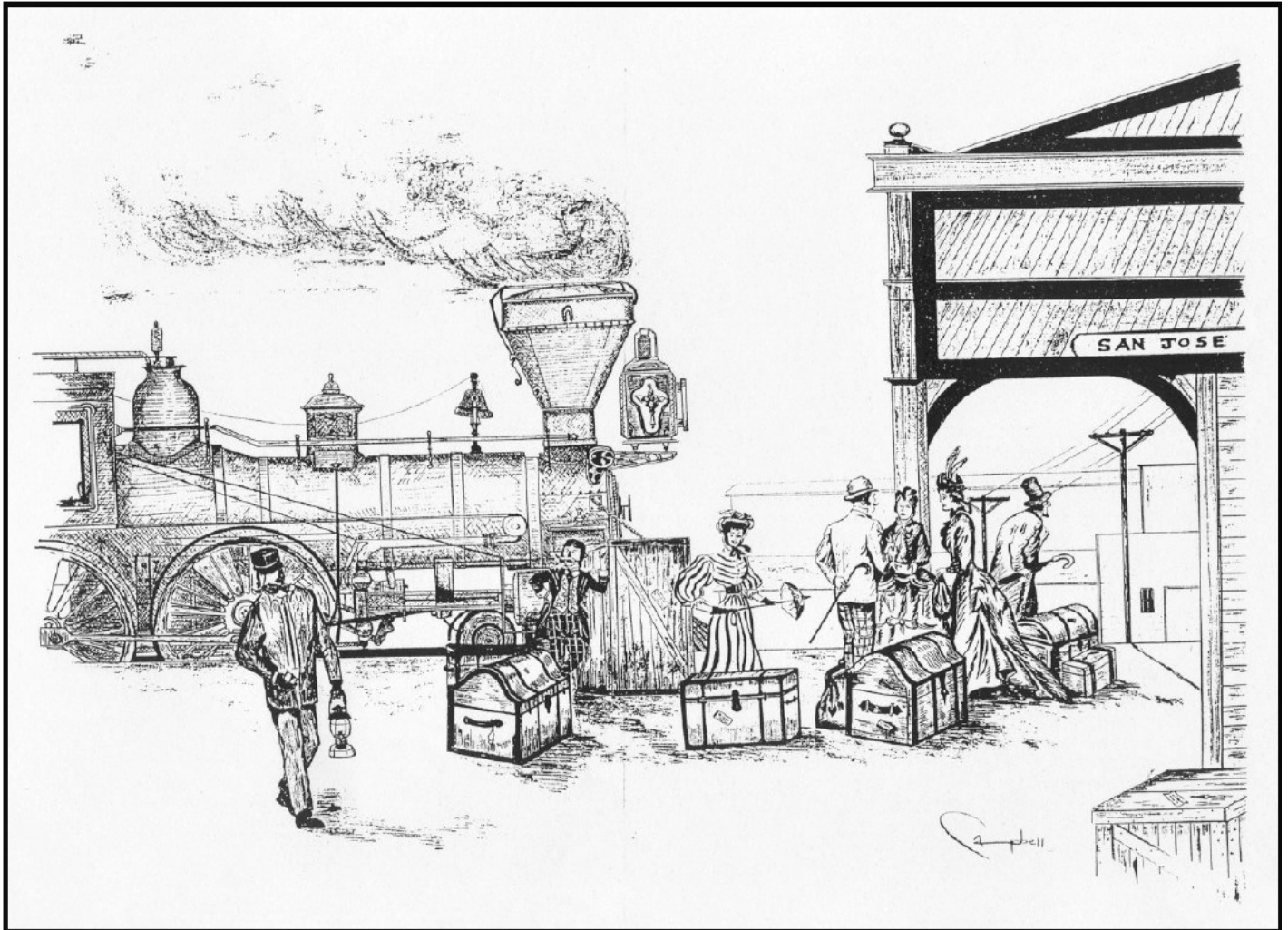
Al Smith would be proud!

If you have any items from Orchard Supply Hardware that you think are historically significant or interesting, and would like to donate them to the museum, please feel free to get in touch with us at collections@historysanjoase.org. ❖

** The City of San Jose had denied Al Smith (OSH President from 1962-1980s) permission to install a sign along Auzerais Street to promote his Orchard Supply Hardware store because a sign for the store already existed facing San Carlos Street. So the second OSH sign was painted on the boxcar.*



First Train to Santa Clara County—A sketch by Jim Campbell



The first plans for a railroad in Santa Clara County were discussed by the Legislature as far back as 1849. However the first train to roll into Santa Clara County did not arrive in Mayfield (Palo Alto) until October 1863.

The San Jose & San Francisco Railroad lines were completed to San Jose on January 16, 1864, amid tremendous celebration. After two trains arrived together at the San Pedro Station in San Jose, bands played, speeches were delivered by the railroad dignitaries and local leaders, and then thousands of citizenry attended a large barbeque.

The railroad carried both passengers and freight. The passenger fares were \$5, a hefty sum but still cheaper than the stage

line fee of \$10. Travel time was much faster by rail—two hours for a trip to San Francisco. Stage or steamboat travel between the two cities could take up to eight hours.

Several years later the San Jose & San Francisco Railroad was purchased by Southern Pacific, which built new lines including one to the Almaden Mines.

With the introduction of railway transportation, Santa Clara County became a major agricultural producer throughout the state and beyond. ♦

Source: "Down Memory Lane: Illustrations of San Jose & Surrounding Points of Interest," by Jim H. Campbell, 2015.

San Francisco and San Jose RAILROAD.	
THROUGH TO SAN JOSE	
CHANGE OF TIME.	
ON AND AFTER JANUARY 18, 1864.	
The Regular Trains of the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad Company will run as follows:	
Leave San Francisco.....	4:00 P. M.
Leave San Mateo.....	4:45 P. M.
Leave Redwood City.....	5:10 P. M.
Leave Santa Clara at.....	6:00 P. M.
And arrive at San Jose at.....	6:10 P. M.
RETURNING.	
Leave San Jose at.....	7:10 A. M.
Leave Santa Clara.....	7:30 A. M.
Leave Redwood City.....	8:10 A. M.
Leave San Mateo.....	8:30 A. M.
And arrive at San Francisco at.....	9:20 A. M.
ON SUNDAYS	
Two Trains will be run, leaving San Francisco at 9:30 A. M. and 4 P. M.; returning, will leave San Jose at 8:10 A. M. and 3:20 P. M.; stopping at all Way Stations, both going and returning.	
A. H. HOUSTON, General Superintendent.	
The Folsom Street Cars will connect with the above trains on their arrival at and departure from San Francisco. Fare, Ten Cents.	
Jan 19	

Schedule from Wikipedia

Reliving My Pioneer Ancestors' History, Death Valley, Nov. 3-8, 2020

By Jan Jensen

I think everyone has a "bucket list" of things and adventures they want to do before their hour glass runs empty. One of the items on mine was to drive a covered wagon on the same route my great-great-grandfather Harry Wade and family took through Death Valley in 1849.

With all the uncertainty of COVID-19, and the shutdowns that went with it, it was doubtful that the annual ETI Corral 14 Death Valley wagon drive would happen in 2020. Fortunately, with the same determination those pioneers had, our wagon master (organizer) was able to work with the National Park Service and get a permit to allow the event to occur.

On November 3, 2020 I met up with the wagons at our rendezvous location at Harry Wade's Exit Route Monument which is located on the south end of Death Valley outside of Baker. Here is where we spent a couple of days organizing and dropping off trucks and trailers at a staging location. It was a wonderful sight to see all our teamsters and support folks as I arrived.

This year, I joined Dave "Doc" Fly and his grandson, Justin, to be a swamper (helper with all of the things having to do

with the wagon) and cook. Doc and his grandson came from New Mexico and this was Doc's 20th plus year of attending the drive. Traveling with Doc was my chance to learn more about a wagon, harnessing the team of three mini mules and driving.

The early morning of November 5th arrived with anticipation of hitching the mules up to the wagon and sensing their anxiety before starting the long drive of 100 miles over ten days. Then a total of seven wagons started the journey with a little get-up-and-go. It was fun to watch the wagon train as it rolled by the Wade Monument onto the trail.

The first day was a short one of only six miles. This allowed the teamsters to sort out any issues with the wagons or mules/horses before the next long day of driving. Our first stop was on the road to Saratoga Springs which included a hike around the spring and time to explore. Near this location is where my great-grandmother, while on the trail with her father Harry Wade and family, saw a bird fly over a small mountain. Thinking that the bird was heading to water, the family



decided to follow it and was gloriously rewarded in finding a spring (above). This was surely what saved them after many days with limited water

November 6th started with one of many incredible sunrises that lit up the surrounding mountains. As I packed up my gear, I paused to think of the limited items and supplies my pioneer family had in their wagon. They had brought dried meat, milk cans to hold water and very few personal items. They were using oxen to pull the wagon and travel was even slower than the 3 mph pace we were setting.

Finally, the time arrived. Doc handed me the lines to the mule team and I was now doing what I had only dreamed of. At first my full attention was on the team and whether or not I was working them properly. With guidance from Doc, and a few deep breaths, I allowed myself to take in the surrounding landscape and visualize the pioneers in 1849.

Our family genealogy mentions that the Wades stayed in the natural wash and followed the greener foliage where water was more likely to be found. Although the graded exit route goes through the south end of Death Valley, it is not accurate as to the actual route taken in 1849. The wash and plants are located away from the road but can be easily seen.

(Continued page 13)



Justin, Doc and Jan (in blue) with wagon.

Reliving History (Continued)

That evening I spent some alone-time away from the group, sitting under the stars. I quietly thought of how hard a struggle it was for a family of six to leave home in Illinois and travel over four months to a land of unknowns. It was an opportunity to soak in the silence and put myself in the place of my ancestors.

After a 13-mile drive the day before, the morning of November 7th was greeted with less excitement from the mule/horse teams. We were all on the trail by 8:30 am for another-13 mile drive to Ashford Junction. On this day, Doc handed me the lines early on and I drove the team for most of the day.

As we traveled along the trail, the weather soon started to change. Dark clouds now overshadowed the sunlight and a cold wind crept through my bones. It was easy for me to reach my jacket. Again, I thought about my family as they traveled in December through Death Valley. What were their provisions for warmth? Jackets? Blankets? By this time, they had traveled so far and many of their supplies had run out.

As we arrived at Ashford Junction, which is the location where the Harry Wade Exit Route begins, I was a bit melancholy that my wagon time on our family's trail was over. I took my time on my last drive into camp and did not rush getting off the wagon. I took some time to look around at all the



Jan's view while driving the wagon.

other wagons and teams and watch them settle in first. Listening to the sounds of the rattling wagons and seeing the harmony within the harnessed mules/horses as they came to a stop added to my memories for my "bucket."

What my ancestors, the Wade family, actually endured I may never fully know but one thing for sure, I have a better idea of how tough their journey was. ❖

Jan Jensen is a member of the CA Pioneers of Santa Clara County and previously presented, with her father Marv Jensen, a family history of the Wades of Alviso at a past Pioneers luncheon. One of her articles on this subject was printed in the September 2019 Trailblazer.



**Wagons
at
Ashford
Junction**

*(Photos by
Jan Jensen)*

Members 2021 Paid* Dues—Thank You!

Abney, Timothy
 Alves, Diane
 Ames, Larry
 Arnoldy, Carol
 Beckman, Jane
 Behringer, Lu Anne
 Boehm, Ana Rosa
 Boehm, Paul
 Buck, Gary
 Cahal, Dave (new)
 Campbell, Jim
 Carter, Robert P.
 Carter, James
 Carter, Terri
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 Chargin, Jan
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 Crockett, Andrew
 Dahl, Virginia
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 Edwards, Robert (new Life member)
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 Fissel, Lauren
 Fissel, Neil
 Fitzpatrick, Mary Lou
 Foley, Bill

French, Craig
 Frizzell, Glenn**
 Frizzell, Marilyn
 Gammell, Helen
 Garza, Helen
 Girard, Patricia
 Gonzales, Augustine
 Green, Gloria
 Grialou, Richard
 Gustafson, Edward
 Hanel, Mary
 Herz, Joanna
 Hew, Sylvia
 Johnson, Philip
 Lechner, George
 Lechner, Diane
 Leung, Nancy
 Lindsey, Cheryl
 Maggi, Franklin (Loomis Level)
 Martin, Mary
 Martin, Nancy
 McDaniel, Gwendolyn
 McDonald, Charles
 McDonald, Michael
 McDonald, Patricia
 Mena, Dennis
 Midwin, George
 Midwin, Juliana

Moellering, Jan
 Moore, Bernie
 Moreno, Nicola
 Nunes, Theodore
 O'Donnell, Marlene
 Pappanastos, Lisa
 Pelizzari, Catherine
 Rasor, Noriene
 Renk, Jo Ann
 Renzel, Ernest (new member)
 Renzel, Jean (new member)
 Robinson, Russ (new Life member)
 Samson, Madeline
 Sargent, Susan
 Sciba, Kathleen
 Sisneros, Susan
 Smith, Adele
 Souza, Joanne
 Souza, Mary Jane
 Spicher, Elizabeth
 Streight, Madeline
 Sutherland, Jean
 Swenson, Barry
 Traill, William
 Vuica, Ilko
 Vuica, Carol
 Williams, Richard
 Wyman, Beth

*** Extra donation*

** Payments received between Nov. 2, 2020—Jan. 26, 2021*

Paulson House at “Christmas in the Park”



The CA Pioneers’
 Paulson House was beautifully
 decorated for “Christmas in the
 Park—a Drive Thru Holiday!”
 at History Park.

Thank you Tim and
 Barbara Peddy for
 decorating the Paulson House.

The lights on the eaves
 were installed by
 “Christmas in the Park”
 personnel.

(Photo Tim Peddy)

Membership Report

The membership dues for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are **due on January 1st every year**. Basic dues are only \$35.

Please send in your membership renewal for 2021. Dues for 2021 can be mailed to CA Pioneers of SCC, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA, 95155 or paid online at www.CaliforniaPioneers.com.

Check your mailing label on your Trailblazer and it will indicate when your dues expire.

For example, if after your name it says, Dec-2020, your Pioneers membership is up-to-date until the end of 2020.

Additional donations or higher membership levels are always appreciated. Visit www.CaliforniaPioneers.com for more details. And please, don't forget the Pioneers in your estate planning and consider donating from your IRA's required minimum distribution to lower your taxes. ❖

**For Questions
contact
Membership Chair
Walt Gil
at
wgil@cpi-re.com
or 408-978-1090.**

Time Travel (*Past News from Newspaper Archives*)

1775: On the Pacific side of North America, Spain's enthusiastic soldier, Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza, was establishing a land colonization link between Mexico and California. On the Atlantic side Britain's rebellious colonists were receiving scads of gun powder and other liberty-making stores from none other than Carlos III of Spain.

Monterey, 1847-1849: Young crusty Lt. William Tecumseh Sherman of Civil War note, who was assigned duty in Monterey from 1847-1849, is credited with this nippy comment: "What is San Jose? Nothing more than a string of low adobe huts garnished with red peppers and garlic and the Mission of Santa Clara was a dilapidated concern, with its church and orchard. The long line of poplar-trees lining the road from San Jose to Santa Clara bespoke a former period when the priests had ruled the land."

San Jose, October, 1878: The Pioneer News (the Trailblazer precursor) printed: "The dues of the Santa Clara County Pioneers are now payable at the Secretary's office, Commercial Bank Building. The 'old boys' are expected to walk up and settle."

San Jose, 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 Wednesday night."

San Jose, 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."

Feb. 21, 1928: At the University of Santa Clara, George Washington was being eulogized by the noted historian, Dr.

Sunshine Chair

If a Pioneers member is ill
or needs cheering up notify,

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

Frederick J. Kinsman. "He was the greatest statesman of all time," said the authority. "He was a daring horseman, a good wrestler and a good swimmer. He had practically no sense of humor. He talked but little and his usual air was one of melancholy that stopped just short of sadness. He was often imposed upon, that he loaned thousands of dollars to people who had no intention of repaying—and in his last will he cancelled all these debts." ❖

Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills

Ray L. Clark (2020)

Anne Louise Heigho (2020)

George T. James, Jr. (2020)

Jill Marci Sybalsky (2019)



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Jim Campbell, Resident Artist for CA Pioneers of
Santa Clara County

Madeline Streight; Sunshine Chair; 408-259-4422 or
madeline.streight@att.net

Our Mission is to promote, preserve, and celebrate
the history of Santa Clara County and the heritage
of its past generations. We collect, archive, educate
and encourage research and scholarship.