

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

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ACCIDENTAL SWIMMING POOL

Lovesta Dorwin Davis

No Board of Health issued regulations to govern the use of what seems to have been the very first public swimming pool "in these parts." It came into being accidentally more than a century ago.

The pool lay along the south side of the old Mission pear orchard. The Padres' pear trees occupied the area that is now bounded, very roughly, by Franklin Street on the north, between Sherman and the S.P. depot. Its easterly boundary was a line drawn from the station to the juncture of Bellomy and Campbell avenues. Its western boundary ran along a line that would have been an extension of Sherman. The southern boundary extended in an easterly direction to connect with the juncture of Bellomy and Campbell. All at variance with the compass, one must stand and contemplate the area to be able to visualize an orchard in that open country of so long ago.

In its early years Santa Clara Mission was often in need of repair and rebuilding. Beginning with the first crude structures in 1777 uncounted adobe bricks were made and used in the building of the several missions and the compounds connected with them. As some of the bricks were damaged by earthquake, fire and flood on various occasions, more were molded and dried and stacked for later needs.

A number of good adobe deposits lay roundabout Mission Santa Clara. At least one such deposit was found to be of excellent quality. It was fairly deep, and extended southward beyond the Mission pear orchard.

For days, and weeks, during the hot dry summer of

1822 many an Indian convert hacked away at the adobe in the pit south of the pear orchard. They pounded great clods of the clay to a coarse consistency, and scooped it into troughs where a sufficient amount of water could be added. The neophytes trampled the crumbled sticky mass until it was ready for the addition of the right amount of dried grasses. After more trampling the mastic material was patted into wooden molds to shape and dry into uniform bricks. As the piles of bricks grew, so did the width and depth of the diggings. In time there was a sizeable excavation in the age-old adobe deposit.

Then came the heavy seasonal rains, saturating the country-side, and causing the rampaging Guadalupe River to overflow its banks as it did frequently in those days. The flooding waters replenished all the hard-bottomed low spots in the adobe soil everywhere, bringing back the familiar winter-time marshes and mudholes. As the many depressions were filled, so was the new adobe excavation on the south side of the Mission pear orchard. When warm days returned, with cessation of the rains, there was a ready-made swimming pool.

Recurring seasons had their effect on the adobe pool as on all other low spots in the Mission area. The heat of summer shrank them, and winter rains changed the many adobe depressions into pools and ponds of varying dimensions. It appears, however, that the adobe swimming pool was kept fairly constant by the inflow of a small permanent stream.

Now it was the year 1856. California had been American territory officially for eight years, a State for six of them. The Franciscan founders of the Mission had been replaced by members of the Jesuit Order. They had soon established a college which became the University of Santa Clara of today.

The adobe-lined pool was a happy feature for college students and others, and workers began to improve upon nature's gift. They excavated the old adobe pit into an oval shape, about 120 x 160 feet. They covered the sloping sides and bottom with permanent brick. Then potential calamity befell them, that summer of 1856. A neighboring grower in the area diverted to his own irrigation needs the little live stream that had for so long fed the pool with clean water.

School authorities at once planned to dig a well in the center of the pool, and lift the new flow of water with a windmill. But no windmill was ever needed. The well-borers struck a powerful stream which produced one

among hundreds of artesian wells that once dotted this part of the Valley. The released water suddenly surged upward twenty feet above the surface of the pool.

An additional bit of natural history has been briefly injected into this account. According to a note found in the San Jose Mercury Souvenir, 1895, people were not the only swimmers in that enlarged, adobe-lined pool, which had no other source of water supply but the artesian well. Small blind minnows were brought to light by the gushing underground stream. There inch-long fish were also found in overflow ponds of other artesian wells thereabouts. In due time the minnows developed eyesight, a faculty with which they had been originally endowed, but for which--until then--they had had no need.

But what of the old adobe swimming pool? It was used by the college public for awhile longer. Then in the name of progress the pool and the decrepit pear trees yielded to surrounding vegetable gardens, and ever-encroaching buildings.

Today you may see that 120 x 160 foot pool only in your mind's eye. Drive slowly along the easterly extension of Bellomy. Look carefully! In your imagination you may place the pool somewhere along the southern boundary of the present University Campus--inside or out. Perhaps not too far from the Buck Shaw Stadium?

Almost nobody knows that the accidental swimming pool ever existed. It is just a footnote in local history.

* * *

MEMORIES

Donald Tustin

(The following item is from the files of the late John L. Tustin, Donald's father.)

San Jose at the turn of the century was a town supported by products of hay, grain, fruit and cattle. Marvels of the mechanical age were safety bicycles with coaster brakes, patented gas lights, increasing use of electricity and the party telephone (wall) with a crank to turn. Juvenile delinquency was at a minimum for there were few things to make delinquency interesting, so young people had not developed the status of juvenile.

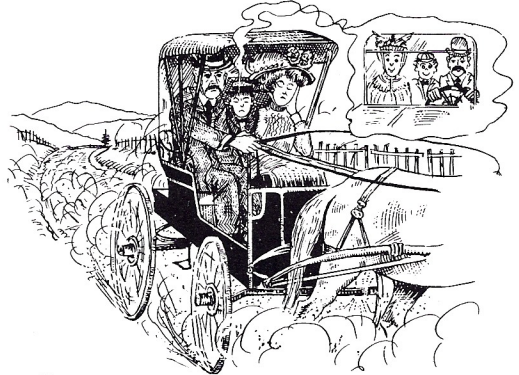
Life, and no doubt people were simpler, times were sometimes tough, the work was hard, but people were happy and welfare, nervous tension and psychiatry were something for the grandchildren.

* * *

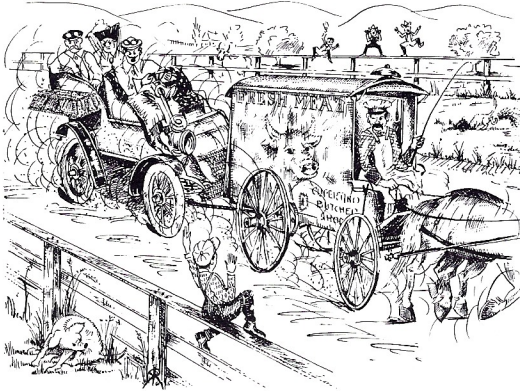
TRANSPORTATION



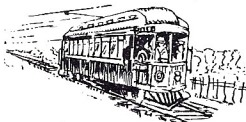
STEAMERS FROM ALVISO TO S.F. OFFERED DAILY COMMUTER SERVICE. FARE \$2.50 FOR A FIVE HOUR TRIP.



DREAMS OF AN AUTO INSTEAD OF A POKEY OLD HORSE SORELY BESET THE *SMALL BOY*.



THE FIRST AUTOS HAD MECHANICAL WOES GALORE- SPECIALLY OUR FIRST MILLIONAIRE'S RENAULT. WHAT JOY! ONCE THE CUPERTINO BUTCHER WAGON TOWED HIM HOME!

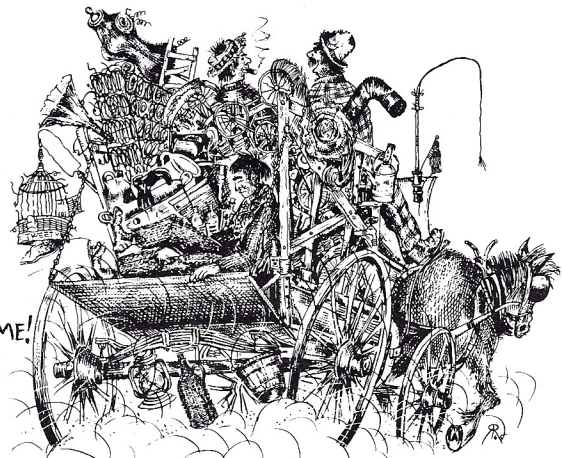


1910-1930

TODAY WE HAVE NO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO COMPARE WITH THOSE FAST INTERURBAN CARS.



NARROW-GAUGE - BROAD GAUGE STEAM TRAINS RAN TO ALUM ROCK, ALMADEN OR OTHER FAR AWAY PLACES.



IT WAS THE ERA OF THE JUNK-MAN. OUR MOST FAMOUS WERE THE THREE FIVE CENTY BROTHERS KNOWN AS 5-10 & 15 CENTYS



FROM 1860-FOR 20 YEARS HORSE-CARS RAN (OR WALKED) ALL SAN JOSE'S MAIN STREETS

Historical pen and inkings of Santa Clara Valley
by Ralph Rambo. Page 7 of his new book.

HOTELS and RESTAURANTS of EARLY SAN JOSE

Leo Sullivan

"The Auzerais House" founded by John and Edward Auzerais at 35 West Santa Clara Street in 1865, proved to be an exceptional edifice in fact, as well as fancy. When completed, the "Auzerais House" was recognized as one of the most ornate hotels between St. Louis and San Francisco, having the latest equipment, plus luxurious living appointments. Besides, the Auzerais was also a monument to the integrity of its builders, surviving two giant upheavels of nature practically unscathed--the earthquakes of 1868 and 1906. The Hotel acted not only as a rendezvous for the local French Colony, but also was the setting for various civic and patriotic affairs. The vehicular entrance to the Auzerais House led thru an arch on Market Street, in the rear of Spring's (now Bond's) Store, where stages and carriages could enter at will. This led to a park-like area with a fountain playing in the center of a formal garden.

Liveried attendants welcomed guests, taking care of vehicles and animals to be quartered in stables at the rear.

Among celebrities enjoying the hospitality of the "Auzerais House", were General Ulysses S. Grant, after his term of office had expired in 1877, and Mrs. Hayes, wife of President Rutherford Hayes, 19th Executive of the United States, and many other notables of the gay 90's.

(The writer has keen recollection of being chaperoned by his father to "McCabe's Hat Store" in the Auzerais House, where he was outfitted with a new straw hat; the straw was equipped with a cord that fastened to the lapel of the wearer's coat. Theoretically, the cord was to prevent the new "lid" from taking off unannounced in a playful summer breeze--if it worked.)

The brothers Auzerais originally were merchants, proprietors of the "Mariposa Store" on Market Street. The family home was to the West, beyond Delmas Avenue on what became known as "Auzerais Avenue".

(An earlier residence, a picturesque adobe set back on the corner of Market and San Fernando streets, opposite the present Library, housed an old Indian and his family when the writer was a boy.)

The Auzerais House was rejuvenated in 1900 and made over into offices, to be known as the "Auzerais Building". Many prominent men used it as a base for their professional activities. Senator Herbert C. Jones had his Law

Office in the newly renovated "Auzerais," as did Architects Wolfe and McKenzie, also Bert Herrington and Ben Peckham, both Attorneys at Law.

(The writer recalls the Auzerais Building for containing the Studio of the eminent local artist, Charles H. Harmon.)

ST. JAMES HOTEL

The St. James Hotel, located on 1st Street opposite St. James Park and next to the former main post office, was known primarily as a commercial hotel and patronized mostly by traveling salesmen or "drummers". A wing of the St. James facing St. John Street called "The Annex" contained sample rooms where merchants could view samples of merchandise they were purchasing for the months ahead. Commercial drummers were important individuals in the business world, acting as contacts between manufacturer and the retail merchant. The successful drummer, or traveling salesman had looks, personality, sales ability and a seemingly inexhaustible supply of humor to fit every occasion. Drumming was big business and the St. James was always crowded with "Peddlers" selling everything from shoestrings to Milady's hat.

Every train had its quota of traveling salesman. The automobile was still in the distant future.

Menues during the regime of Manager Tyler Beach in the gay 90's, assured squeamish diners the butter, milk and eggs served at the St. James Hotel were products of his own farm.

At one time the St. James was managed by Albert Bettens and was the scene of large banquets and fancy dress balls. The Hotel used a staff of colored waiters. Before each course during banquets the Orchestra, on cue, played "The Georgia Meeting", the current popular craze. Responding to the captivating rhythm, the waiters strutted into the Dining Room doing the "Cake Walk", their trays expertly balanced overhead--it was a pretty sight and always won the plaudits of the crowd. Those were the days.

The St. James Hotel made way for the new Post Office at 1st and St. John streets in 1937.

OYSTER HOUSE

An Oyster House located on the East side of Market Street is deserving mention. From such a humble station came one of the great educators of the United States, Dr.

A. H. Suzzalo.

Suzzalo's parents opened their place of business, an Oyster Grotto, a few doors south of what was then called "Hart's New Corner Cash Store" about 1886. Young Suzzalo known in his youth as "Pete", was an avid scholar and proved unrelenting in his quest for knowledge---even while opening the lowly bivalves in his father's Grotto. A brilliant student of lofty intellect and high ideals, young Henry attended Stanford University where he won high honors. Suzzalo spent sometime as Principal of the Alviso Elementary School following his years at Stanford. He was recognized in his profession as an outstanding Psychologist and reached the peak of his academic career as President of the University of Washington at Seattle, a chair he filled from 1915 until 1926.

Dr. Suzzalo passed away in 1933.

* * *

RECOLLECTIONS OF COLLEGE PARK IN THE '90's

Herbert C. Jones

(continued from the Fall issue)

College of the Pacific had a dormitory for girls known as "South Hall", situated at the south corner of the square. There was a building for classes known as "West Hall" located of course in the west corner of the grounds. There was a large brick structure at the east corner, the upper floors being a dormitory for men and the ground floor used for classes. There was a music conservatory located along the west edge of the square and entered from University Avenue. This music building was occasionally used for other than College functions. My own class at Hester School held its graduation exercises in this conservatory. As time went by a gymnasium was built in the center of the square.

The faculty had their homes in the neighborhood surrounding the College. I remember Dr. Eli McClish who was an early-day President of the College.

In the 90's the College Park Quaker Meeting was flourishing; the Meeting House having been built in 1885 on Morse Street. It had a large Sunday School attended by many of the children of the immediate neighborhood. The streets were lined on both sides with large poplar trees. I remember how in the Fall the boys would walk to Meeting and scuff through the drifts of dry leaves on the roadside. There were so many poplar trees in this particular area of College Park that it was known as

"Poplar City".

In those days the College Park Methodist Church was situated at the corner of Elm and Emory streets across from the college campus and served as a campus church. When the college was moved to the City of Stockton, the Church moved to Naglee and Morse streets and took the name of Calvary Methodist Church.

The Alameda was lined on both sides by the old Willow trees which had been planted by Father Catala a hundred years before. The Alameda itself was a dirt road of its present width. Those were "horse and buggy days" and on Sunday afternoons many of the residents would go for a drive along The Alameda to show off their shining equipage and perhaps a new horse. The young bloods would sometimes race each other. During the winter, the road became very muddy, and when the street car line was torn up everyone who drove had to detour via Union Avenue to go to and from the town of Santa Clara.

There were many social evenings at friends' homes and many of the young people held "song fests". There were picnics and outings at Alum Rock Park and these were necessarily all-day affairs because of the time consumed going there and back. There was no High School in College Park and young people had to attend San Jose High, then occupying the upper floors of Horace Mann School. In those days high school was a three year course. The classes were called Junior, Middlers and Senior. It was the custom of the graduating class to take a trip by stage to the top of Mt. Hamilton. We ate our picnic lunch on the way at Smith Creek and then drove on to the Observatory, where, when evening came, we all looked through the telescope. It was midnight when we got back to San Jose. The girls were driven to their homes, but the boys were dumped out at First and Santa Clara streets and had to walk home. I was the only one who had to walk to College Park.

Where the Y.M.C.A. building is now located, at 1717 The Alameda, was at that time a hay field on which the hay had just been cut and stacked in mounds. It was a quiet, moonlight night and the fragrance of the hay reminded me of the song very popular at that time and which we had been singing on the way down the mountain. "Oh, the moonlight's fair tonight along the Wabash. From the fields there comes the breath of new-mown hay." I hummed it as I walked along.

* * *

By-lines from the President

Greetings:

Our quarterly meetings of 1968 were brought to a fitting end on December 7th, with a turkey luncheon. Three hundred and four persons were present and it was especially pleasing to have so many of our "Over 85's" with us.

After seeing so many distressing photographs in our morning papers, taken on local campuses, it was reassuring to be so delightfully entertained by the Peterson High School Choir, under the direction of Mr. Mike Paterakis. If there was any "generation gap" it was not noticeable. The group seemed to enjoy being with us. Builds up our confidence, doesn't it?

The decorations forcast, in a charming way, the coming of the Christmas season. Our thanks to Mesdames Kathryn Monogue and Helen Haug.

You will no doubt be pleased when, elsewhere in this issue, you learn what was done with the money received from the "Dime March" on December 7th.

Cordially yours,

Laurence E. Bulmore

* * *

LOOK FOR IT HERE

1969 DUES may be mailed to the Pioneer Society, 1110 Morse St., San Jose, Calif. 95126. ***

FOR BUS TOUR information send a self addressed, stamped envelope to 562 So. 6th St., San Jose, Calif. or phone 295-2987 between 9 a.m. and noon. ***

\$42.15 was donated by the members present at our December quarterly meeting for the handicapped children at the Santa Clara County Medical Center Pediatric Ward. Many gift wrapped toys were also donated and presented by the officers and members of your Board of Directors. Miss Van Gundy reports the money was used to buy two buggies to wheel the youngsters into surgery. ***

24 members 85 years of age or older were honored at our quarterly meeting on December 7th. Those present were: Josephine Franklin, Tina Miner, Nina Moon, Dora Owen, Edward Petersen, Edna C. Ridley, Ida Skow, J. Winter Smith and Georgie Swall. Those that could not be present were: Embert Brown, Harriet Burnett, William Calvert, Mary D. Ferry, Louise Hardwick, Herbert C. Jones, May Kirk, Lavinia Lindeman, Addie C. Miller, Ernest O. Pieper, Mildred Robinson, Emma J. Rutan, Eva Sourisseau, Ann E. Topham and Mary D. Warburton. ***

Our program chairman informs us that we will have some very interesting entertainment at our quarterly meeting on March 1st. ***

Clyde Arbuckle was the principal speaker at the re-dedication of State Historical Landmark No. 448 at Patchen, the Santa Cruz Mountain ghost town, which once had a post office and was a stage stop. Named on the plaque are Charles Henry McKiernan (Mountain Charlie), who came to the area in 1850 and Mr. and Mrs. John Martin Schultheis, who homesteaded in 1852. The monument was re-dedicated on November 4th and sponsored by the Los Gatos Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. William I. Southern, D.A.R. chairman. ***

Frances L. Fox's new 32 page booklet with 19 illustrations "Hakone Gardens" is now on the market. The garden in Saratoga is composed of 17 acres with imported dwarf trees, shrubs, stones, lanterns etc. Mrs. Fox authentically portrays a charming Bit of Nippon. ***

"Historical Cartoon Book of Santa Clara Valley" by Ralph Rambo, 16 pages 8½ x 11" is off the press in a limited number and on sale at The Emporium, Powell's San Jose Book Shop and Warburton's Stationery Store in the Santa Clara Mall. It is brim-full of pen and ink illustrations that are worth more than one buck of anyone's money. ***

The Billy Jones Wildcat Steam Railroad will be re-located in Oak Meadow Park at Los Gatos. It will have a Victorian styled station with a 30 foot bell tower and clock, scaled to conform with the narrow gauge railroad, and expected to be in operation "by late Spring." Our Pioneer Town in Kelley Park is way overdue in improvements of this type. What are you members doing about it? Are you contacting your San Jose City Councilmen? ***

The historic First Congregational Church at East McKinley and Sunnyvale avenues was recently razed. It was probably the oldest church structure in Sunnyvale.***

WELCOME

Congratulations to our NEW MEMBERS: Harry Badger, Marie A. Barr, Jeanne Blackmar, John Blackmar, Elizabeth Kirby Boggini, Helen C. Bullock, Mamie Dalis, Ida DeVincenzi, John DeVincenzi, Abraham J. Flores, Alice Foster, Lucille Gangi, Paul Heiling, Helen Schoenheit Moore, Dorothy Fair Schmaelzle, Otto L. Schmaelzle, Clara C. Seebach, Elsie Swanson, Maxine G. Walters and Gladys Waterbury.

UNDER THE WEATHER

Clyde Arbuckle, Helen Arbuckle, Theron Fox, Louise Hardwick, Henry Hazen, Sara Holley, Irene Orr and Laura Wright have been reported ill. Our very best wishes for a rapid recovery are sincerely extended.

* * *

BEYOND THE SUNSET

Emma F. Green

November 19, 1890 - October 27, 1968

Elwin H. Weld

May 1, 1893 - November 4, 1968

Bertha H. Clift

July 11, 1886 - November 11, 1968

Henry Dykmans

Augusta B. Petersen

September 22, 1886 - December 10, 1968

Ethel M. Douglas

June 30, 1885 - December 19, 1968

Edward L. Petersen

February 9, 1883 - January 4, 1969

Anna A. Luchsinger

January 17, 1885 - January 5, 1969

Mary D. Warburton

September 17, 1877 - January 6, 1969

Ada R. Morehouse

April 4, 1889 - January 12, 1969

In behalf of the officers and members of the California Pioneer Society of Santa Clara County, the TRAIL-BLAZER extends their sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of our departed members.

* * *

THE TRAILBLAZER

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Associate Editor: Marjorie B. Fisk

Staff Artist: Ralph Rambo

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Bulmore, Marjorie Rusht, Barbara Spedding, Henry Clyde

Stout, A. Bernice Van Gundy and Austen D. Warburton.

* * *

THE SOCIAL CLUB of our society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday afternoon of each month. Card playing and various activities highlight each meeting. For further information call Mrs. Kate L. Owen, 295-1153.

BUS TOUR information for members of the Pioneer Society may be obtained from Mrs. Effie M. Hawkins, phone 295-2868 or Mrs. Jessie Black, 295-2987, 9a.m. 'til 12.

PIONEER SCRAP BOOK items may be sent to Mrs. Elsa Jensen, 520 Bradley Ave., San Jose, Calif. 95128.

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