



Volume 9

Fall 1969

Number 4

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Ralph Rambo

Rough and Ready, You Bet, Last Chance, Hangtown, Jackass Hill, Volcano, Long Barn, Chinese Camp. Here are names to intrigue the imagination. Yet they are familiar to any Californian who has traveled the well-paved trails of the 49'ers. Each gives obvious hint of either historical reason or origin. The rough inhabitants of our Mother Lode country were not poets, but they chose ruggedly descriptive titles for their settlements. These century-old ghostly names have worn well; in many cases outworn their very town's existence.

As we descend into placid coastal valleys, early place names become more sophisticated. Certain ones still display the pioneer word-painting touch. A close look at the latest map of Santa Clara Valley will reveal these obscure spots: Blackbird Valley, Castle Rock Ridge, Cow Canyon, Gray Goose Slough, Elephant Head, Poverty Ridge, Wild Cat Cañon and Skunk Hollow. Admittedly remote and unfamiliar, they show Pioneer choice of revealing definitions. A traveler knew what to expect when he arrived.

Many of our commonplace names in this valley have been well established for over a hundred years and have both significant and often interesting meanings or derivations. We can recognize either the Spanish-California or Mission period influence or commemoration of some early settler's contribution to a certain locale.

The Good Old Days were close akin

To love and truth and ecstasy,

Life with a rapture, bright within

The golden glow of memory.

HISTORIC BRIEFS

Henry Calloway

To a local native, happiness could be recalling picking 40 boxes of prunes on a hot summer day, and the long wait for the check you would get at the season's end. Perhaps vaudeville at the Hippodrome Theatre followed by a 25¢ steak dinner. Then for something real sensational a visit to Canelo's Auto Agency to see the new Model T Fords arrive.

If you liked more action like going down to the depot to watch the trains arrive, was real jolly. One arrival we looked for was the elegant Southern Pacific Lark or as we knew it, trains 75 and 76. The Lark came into existence in 1910 running between S.F. and L.A. It originally consisted of four coaches and one R.P.O. car (Railway Post Office). As its popularity grew its "consist" increased until the late 20's; it was an all pullman sleeper train with two and sometimes three mail cars. At times of football games in Palo Alto, Berkeley or Los Angeles it would operate in three to eight sections or trains of 12 cars each.

Just before World War I the Lark was streamlined with the latest Pullman equipment, including bath, barber, maid and valet service. At that time the Lark was the finest equipped train in the U.S. On the 29th of September 1967 the last R.P.O. car left both S.F. and L.A. on trains 75 and 76. The engineer holding down the throttle on the last train No. 76 out of S.F. was my good friend Ernie Kiesel, another native who was nice enough to pass this historic note on to us. Our thanks to Ernie and the "Spirit of 76." ***

Fredricksburg Brewery was built in 1869. Falstaff now occupies the site. The original brick frame is still intact except for the German style castle towers that fell during the big quake in 1906. ***

January 21, 1861 lighting the street corners with gas lights began in San Jose. Seven street corners were illuminated. Later 84 daring firms and homeowners were supplied with the new light. ***

The mansion of Major Samuel Hensley situated within the 25 acres of his estate was completely destroyed by fire on Saturday morning, November 26, 1870. The caretaker came home after a night of saloon hopping and set his bed on fire. Nothing was saved, and the caretaker died in the blaze.

Hensley's property was called a floral kingdom.

He imported shrubs from all o v e r the world that were planted amid acres of rolling lawns. Called Hensley's Park, it was a show place in the valley for years. The Lettermen's Club on North 4th Street is located on some of the ground where the mansion once rose above the lush gardens. Hensley Avenue off North 1st Street was the entrance to the estate. ***

MAIL SERVICE 1895 -- "The most extensive form of delivery is that of the carrier service. The carrier limits include the entire city which takes in South San Jose to the Cottage Grove area, East San Jose to McLaughlin Ave., and West San Jose to the corner of Cinnabar and Stockton Ave., The Alameda to Sunol and Sunol to Park Ave." This was a news item back in 1895 as San Jose was proudly celebrating the completion of the new Post Office at Market and San Fernando streets. ***

The First normal school to be established in California was the San Jose Normal School, now known as San Jose State College. It was started in San Francisco in 1857 as a private enterprise, known as Minns' Evening Normal School taking its name from the first principal, George W. Minns. It was made a public school in 1862. In 1870 the school was permanently located in San Jose, and in 1935 it became known as San Jose State College.

* * *

RESTAURANTS OF EARLY SAN JOSE

Leo Sullivan

Joseph A. Chargin Sr. arrived in California from his native Dalmatia, Yugoslavia in 1881, as a youth of 16 years. Adapting himself quickly to the strange environment, our new citizen soon opened a restaurant in San Francisco. Finding the bay climate detrimental, Chargin moved to the northern part of the state and established an eating house in mountainous Amador County. In the Mother Lode, a close friendship blossomed into romance, resulting in the young Slav taking as his bride the lovely Josephine Smith. Chargin and his new wife then moved to Hollister before making their permanent home in Santa Clara Valley.

Opening "Chargin's Grill" at 28 Fountain Alley in 1900 Chargin found his San Jose venture met the approval of the merchant day trade and show people alike.

Joseph A. Chargin Sr. served San Jose and his adopted land in the best tradition, not only in producing worth-while food, his family proved exceptional cal-

iber as well.

Victor A. Chargin, his eldest son, became a prominent Attorney and passed away in 1964.

Joseph A. Chargin served as Post Master for three terms under President Franklin Roosevelt, 1933-'45.

John Mark Chargin another son, Attorney-At-Law.

Gerald S. Chargin, a son, Superior Court Judge of Santa Clara County.

Lawrence J. Chargin, a son, orchardist.

Victor Chargin Jr., a grandson, Attorney-At-Law.

In 1920, the senior Chargin retired from the restaurant business to devote full time to his numerous orchard and agricultural interests; meanwhile turning "The Grill" over to a brother, Jerry L. Chargin.

As a final chapter to our story, Joseph Chargin Sr. became a Director of the Cherry Growers Association, the Walnut Growers Association and Director of the "Growers Bank of San Jose."

Joseph A. Chargin Sr. passed away in 1953. ***

Another all night restaurant joined the San Jose scene when the genial hosts Billy Suttich and Michael Bautovich opened their "Saddle Rock Grill" on the S.E. corner of First and St. John streets about 1904, specializing in shell fish.

Fred Brohaska, the popular musician and close friend of Suttich, dropped into the "Saddle Rock" one evening after playing a street parade, carrying his saxophone. (At that time the Sax was practically an unknown instrument in America, being used only in large concert bands.)

"What in the world have you got there, Fred, Grandfather's pipe?" asked Billy.

"It's a saxophone," replied Fred, "and it will cost you a dollar a minute to hear it."

"Alright," Suttich agreed, handing out a silver dollar. "Give the crowd a minute's worth."

Brohaska had played about eight measures, when Billy reached into the till threw a five dollar gold piece on the bar, crying out in mock horror, "that's enough Fred, play the rest some night when I'm not here."

Strangely enough, a decade later the same Fred Brohaska was to open a restaurant on the very spot he had played his impromptu saxophone solo for Billy Suttich in 1904.

Broshaska, a novice in the restaurant business, with two partners, Dennis and John Maris, opened the "Antler Grill" in the new Elk's Building in 1914.

The "Antler Grill" catered to the legal trade with moderate success. For the peace of mind of all concerned, Brohaska "threw in the towel" and retired from the restaurant business in 1916, to devote his future efforts to the cause of Music.

Frederick C. Brohaska passed away in 1943. ***

A Los Angeles sage, with the gift of prophecy, made the outlandish prediction in 1905 that restaurants of the future would witness patrons, waiting on themselves and would be known as CAFETERIAS.

Cashing in on the revolutionary idea locally were Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Thompson who started what was possibly one of the first "Cafeterias" in Northern California at 72-74 East Santa Clara Street, between Second and Third in 1907, naming it the "Royal Cafeteria."

Thompsons served exceptional food in an exceptional manner and the "Royal Cafeteria" surprised the skeptics by doing a land-office business from the very beginning. All dishes were served a la carte. Patrons could dine on a crust of bread, or indulge in a feast "fit for a King."

A list of 1907 Royal Cafeteria prices follows:
Roast Turkey 25¢, Hot Rolls 1¢ each, Bread & Butter 2¢. All soups, mashed potatoes, baked potatoes, corn-on-the-cob, cabbage, spinach, squash, all salads, all cakes, ice cream, all pies, peaches & cream, peach cobbler, tea, coffee--5¢ each. For the sum of 10¢ the hungry individual could indulge in Fancy Roast Beef or Veal Fricassee, plus a generous helping of green peas, etc.

Before long, Thompson opened another Cafeteria on East San Fernando, just off 1st Street, where patrons by the score waited patiently for the novelty of carrying a tray and serving themselves.

Closing both establishments, Thompson then concentrated on a large, fancy "Royal Cafeteria" located at 83 South First Street in 1911.

The George D'Ablaing Orchestra furnished music Saturdays and Sundays for the pleasure of his guests. (The popular Lena May Leland, who later became the star and personality of Radio Station K.Q.W. (now K.C.B.S.) played piano in the group).

Hiram Thompson sold the Royal Cafeteria in 1922 to S. L. Mapes.

From this time on the Royal Cafeteria had a checkered career, becoming the property of Dean Park and Bert Willoughby in that order. Willoughby closed the Royal as a final gesture in 1929.



Picture from the past

WRIGHT'S STATION

Arthur M. Fisk

The picture on the preceding pages was taken at Wright's Station (circa 1901). It shows the Wright's Station Hotel in foreground and Charles Squire's general merchandise store and post office at the far left, on the hills in background are vineyards and orchards, with stately redwoods growing up the canyons. Tops of railway cars can be seen in the foreground, these were narrow gauge cars, as standard gauge track was not put in through here by the Southern Pacific until 1906.

Wright's Station was started in 1878 or '79 when it became the end of the line for the South Pacific Railroad and tunnel gangs of Chinese labor were brought in to bore a tunnel over one mile in length between Wright's Station and what is now Laurel, under the summit of the Santa Cruz Mountains. This feat was accomplished with black powder and hand labor. The railroad built on to Santa Cruz and regular passenger train service between Alameda and Santa Cruz began May 15, 1880. Through train service over this line was discontinued March 4, 1940.

Starting as a construction camp Wright's Station soon became an important shipping point and recreation spot in the upper Los Gatos Creek area. A small mill was erected and hundreds of carloads of redwood railroad ties, fence posts, grape stakes, shakes and shingles were shipped from here. The Earl Fruit Company built a packing shed at Wright's and shipped the finest quality of apples, pears, prunes and grapes to all points in the United States. Many people preferred the beauty of the Santa Cruz Mountains to the seashore, so during the summer season all rooms in the hotel and spare rooms about town were rented to tourists who loved to spend a few weeks in the mountains.

Today even a ghost would feel lonely at Wright's Station, that is, if he or she were a ghost from the turn of the century. The tunnel has been sealed up and all you can find to remind you of the exciting days of that busy community is the old railroad bridge across Los Gatos Creek with a lacy iron railing, which was built on in 1917.

The whole area at the head of Los Gatos Creek now belongs to the San Jose Water Works, and it wants to keep its water clean.

It is nothing but a memory--Wright's Station.

* * *

By-lines from the President
Leland M. Boruck

Unfortunately Kenneth Chow, the recipient of one of the scholarships established at Foothill College by the Pioneers, was unable to be present at the meeting of September sixth to read his paper on the activities of the early Chinese in Santa Clara County due to an appointment in Fresno to register at the college there on that date.

We were most fortunate to have Dr. Robert D. Levinson of San Jose State College as the speaker on that day. Doctor Levinson gave a most interesting and informative talk on the Jewish Pioneers, especially those associated with the mother lode area. He also told of the work being done to restore and care for the graves of the many Jewish Pioneers buried in Jackson, Grass Valley and Nevada City areas. Many favorable comments were heard from those in attendance.

At this time we wish to pay our respects to Mesdames Kathryn Monogue and Helen Haug for decorating the head table. We understand they have some novel ideas for our Christmas luncheon.

May we again remind you that a Christmas dinner will be held at the St. Claire Hotel on Christmas day for those who are alone and would enjoy good companionship at this season of the year. For more information phone Mrs. Jessie Black 295-2987.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

* * *

LOOK FOR IT HERE

1970 DUES may be paid to our financial secretary, Madeline Smalley at our quarterly meeting December 6, or mailed to 1110 Morse St., San Jose, Ca. 95126. ***

WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS, please let us know what your new address will be. Send all changes of address, applications for membership and other matters pertaining to membership to Miss Bernice Van Gundy, 561 Fuller Ave., San Jose, Calif. 95125. ***

Our program chairman, Dr. O. S. Hubbard, informs us that a very interesting Christmas program will be presented at our quarterly meeting on December 6th. All members who are 85 years of age or older will be honored on this occasion, so if you have reached the 85 year mark please let your officers know about it. ***

MARRIED--August 21, 1969 Mrs. Laurine Erickson and Dr. O. S. Hubbard. Now at home 10639 Ridgeview Way, San Jose, California 95127. Our congratulations. ***

Ralph Rambo's new book "THE LITTLE HOUSE," 16 pages chuck full of cartoons and belly-laffs worth \$20.00, on sale now at most book stores for only \$1.00. ***

The beautiful religious artifacts, including the ancient "Kilgen" pipe organ of the Holy Family Catholic Church at River and San Fernando streets were auctioned off on August 5th. Father De Lucchi bought the pipe organ and the altar for the new church. Holy Family Church built in 1906 and dedicated October 6, 1907 will soon be razed to make way for the Guadalupe Expressway.

The Sunnyvale Historical Society dedicated the Martin Murphy Jr. Historical Park in Sunnyvale on Sunday, September 14th. ***

On September 18th a bronze plaque was dedicated to the charter members of the Santa Clara Woman's Club which was founded in 1904. These women had the foresight to buy the Old Adobe at 3260 The Alameda and preserve it as a historical monument. ***

The old school site where the Fremont School once stood in downtown Santa Clara will soon be developed as a city park. The parks and recreation department advises it will include a playground, tot lot, barbecue pits and picnic tables. ***

The newer residents of "Morgan Hill" want to change the name to "Morgan Hills." This should move you Pioneers to action, because Morgan Hill was named for a man named Morgan Hill in 1892, he had acquired the Rancho Ojo de Agua de la Coches when he married Diana Murphy, daughter of Daniel Murphy. He was a brother of Sarah Althea Hill, a noted figure in California in the 19th century.

By the way, that hill in back of Morgan Hill is known as "Murphy's Peak." ***

A historical plaque at El Camino Real and Lawrence Road originally placed in 1962 by the California State Parks Commission was re-dedicated on July 5th. It had been temporarily removed to provide for a widening project along El Camino. The plaque reads: "Here on Jan. 8, 1847, Francisco Sanchez, leader of a California band, surrendered himself and some American prisoners and arms to Lt. Grayson, thus ending the Battle of Santa Clara or the Battle of the Mustard Stalks Jan. 2, 1847. This Armistice ended the last uprising against the tide of American conquest in Santa Clara Valley." ***

When your Mother takes care of you "That's Maternalism."
When your Father takes care of you "That's Paternalism."
When your Government takes care of you "That's Communism."
When you take care of Yourself "That's Americanism." ***

WELCOME

Congratulations to our new members: Martha Ames, Dort M. Anton, Mrs. Dort M. Anton, Edith Childs, Mollie S. Duffy, Ruth M. Ellis, Merle Fagundes, Harry N. Fredrickson, Mrs. Harry N. Fredrickson, Josephine A. Giovannoni, William I. Giovannoni, Mary Lucich, Glada M. Miller, Bessie S. Montgomery, Ethel E. Perry, Gertrude S. Stacy.

* * *

UNDER THE WEATHER

Miss Ruby D. Howes and Mr. Ray Tonkin have been reported ill. Our very best wishes for a rapid recovery are sincerely extended.

* * *

BEYOND THE SUNSET

Nina M. Smith
- July 1969

Elmer Connor
June 16, 1902 - July 22, 1969

Juanita Irene Stitser
May 17, 1894 - August 13, 1969

Frank C. Ladner
June 14, 1893 - August 27, 1969

Eva M. Sourisseau
October 29, 1883 - September 13, 1969

William J. Heath
March 13, 1896 - September 15, 1969

William J. Batten
November 29, 1892 - September 29, 1969

Joseph E. Freine
June 21, 1881 - October 17, 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

Issued in February, May, August and November.

Editor: Arthur M. Fisk, 390 N. Winchester Bv, Santa Clara

Associate Editor: Marjorie B. Fisk

Staff Artist: Ralph Rambo

Subscription rates to non-members \$1.00 per year. Single copies 25 cents each.

Officers for 1969-70

President Leland M. Boruck
 1st Vice President. Dr. O. S. Hubbard
 2nd Vice President. Fred R. Menzel
 Recording Secretary Eveleen C. Duff
 Corresponding Secretary Esther Adams
 Financial Secretary Madeline Smalley
 Treasurer Curtis Bailey
 Directors: Clyde Arbuckle, Jessie E. Black, Laurence E. Bulmore, Martha L. Bulmore, 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, 9 a.m. 'till 12.

* * *

2221 COASTLAND AVENUE
 SAN JOSE, CALIF. 95125

ADDRESS CORRECTION
 REQUESTED

Return Postage Guaranteed

Non-Profit Organization
 U. S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 San Jose, California
 Permit No. 1234