

# THE TRAILBLAZER

Quarterly Bulletin of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

Volume 1

Fall 1961

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## Santa Clara County Post Offices

Clyde Arbuckle

Since establishment of Santa Clara County Feb. 18, 1850, this area has had at least 60 post offices. In fact, if we count (as individual offices) several that had two or more names, it had 67.

The names of these offices, once well known to residents of the county, have almost faded from history as well as from memory. So let's recall half a dozen of them just for the fun of it.

McCartysville, established Nov. 2, 1855, became Bank Mills on Dec. 22, 1863, and Bank Mills became Saratoga on March 13, 1865.

Bethlehem, next door neighbor of Agnew, lasted only a short time - from Jan. 9th to May 19th, 1890.

Burnett, served Burnett Township - the Coyote - Perry Station area - from April 30, 1862 to March 13, 1882. On the latter date it changed to Coyote.

DeForest had the honor of being one of the county's most remote offices. Located in rugged country some distance east of Mt. Hamilton, it took its name from a rancher named Elmer Bryan De Forest. It was a little more than a drygoods box in a ranch house, but it served the area's mail needs from May 6, 1892 to Jan. 31, 1909.

The Willow Glen area of San Jose once had mail service all its own. Its post office, located on the northeast corner of Minnesota and Cherry Aves., came into existence as Kensington Jan. 14, 1893. Two years later to the day, it changed to Willowglen (one word). Since Jan. 15, 1900, its mail delivery has come from San Jose.

Pioneer, on the Almaden Road, was established Nov. 8, 1875, with Hugh L. Downer as first postmaster. It served a large area between San Jose and New Almaden until Nov. 3, 1886, when its mail service was transferred to the San Jose Office.

By-lines from the President  
Austen D. Warburton

I recently returned from a trip that covered a number of the rugged (though beautiful) areas intimately connected with the story of the pioneer west - the deserts of the Mojave and Arizona, the dry miles of sage brush of the Great Basin, and the sky shattering escarpment of the Sierra as approached from the east. It was impossible to pass through these lands of challenge without thinking back to the courage and fortitude of our people who traversed them in the winning of the west. Surely their faith was great to sustain them through the risks, the privations, and the dangers which they daily faced.

Quite fitting is it therefore that we begin all our meetings with the Pioneer Prayer whose wonderful words I thought you might like to have as part of these By-lines. Quite fitting is it also for us to carry on with the same faith and courage in the face of today's risks and dangers. Let us be worthy of our heritage!

THE PIONEER PRAYER

Almighty God, may the torch of endurance, truth and valor borne in the western wilderness by the early Pioneers ever be upheld and cherished by the members of this organization. May we profit by the experiences of the founders of this great State and may we dedicate our lives to the establishment and continuance of the principles of Justice, Liberty and Equality. May "Eureka" ever be the response of those who here seek freedom and opportunity. May righteous and everlasting peace and prosperity be assured to this Golden Land. Amen.

\* \* \*

Pioneer Chuckle

Clyde Arbuckle at the age of five attended a Sunday School class in Santa Clara.

His teacher was a 'teenager by name, Leora Doan. She later became Mrs. Leora Emig.

The story told the primary class was about Moses and the Burning Bush. The little folks were most attentive, but none could answer the question "Why did the bush appear fresh after the flames ceased? Why didn't the bush burn?"

Clyde knew. "'Cause it was green!"

Remember When  
Marjorie B. Fisk

The color tints of Autumn forecast the holiday season ahead and we look forward to Christmas. Do you remember the Christmas of years gone by?

Mothers and daughters created hand made gifts for those they loved. Tatting, hair pin lace, cross stitch embroidery, crocheted doilies, knitted socks, sweaters and scarves, hemmed tea towels and needle work, embroidered pillow shams for the spare bed and anti-macassars.

Younger children gathered seeds of the Job's tears plant, to string for necklaces. Petals of roses, pinks, lavender and leaves of lemon verbena were picked and dried. Later, with the addition of salt, cinnamon, orris root and lavender oil the fragrant mass became a pot-pourri for a beloved grandmother or aunt.

The girls reveled in creating lavender sachets made by weaving pastel ribbons and long stalks of English lavender into a cornucopia that was stuffed with cotton. They cross stitched a floral design on the hem of blue and white checked gingham aprons. They hemmed bleached flour sacks for dish towels and perhaps etched the outline of an apple in one corner.

The boys gilded walnuts to add to the Christmas tree decorations. They helped create gorgeous cornucopias of flowered wall paper to hang from the Christmas tree boughs. They hiked with father into the hills to cut the finest Christmas tree they could find.

The great day finally arrived. It began with family prayers, exchange of gifts, arrival of relatives, the aroma of roasting turkey and spicy puddings. The afternoon brought the family into the parlor, where someone played the organ and everyone sang the beloved Christmas hymns of their faith.

The Christmas we remember in the days of our youth is a day of reunion, one of reverence and one of heart warming expression of love for those dear to us.

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Advertisement in San Jose Mercury - the year 1875  
San Jose & Santa Cruz Stage Line. Leave San Jose  
10 a. m. daily. Returning leave Santa Cruz 7:30 a.m.  
Stop each way at Lexington for dinner.

Ward & Colegrove, drivers and owners

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## Pioneer Anecdotes

My maternal grandmother and grand-aunt, (Mary E. Furlong) crossed the plains in 1843 with the Applegate party, which arrived at Oregon City November 1, 1843.

The Indians used to meet them along the trail to trade dried meat for various articles. One day an Indian tied his horse to their wagon. They had a large fire burning and while her parents were trading, the horse became frightened and started to run. The rope wound around my grand-aunt and threw her into the fire. They rescued her quickly, but she was badly burned.

They traveled westward until they came to a river, where there was a small fort. My grand-aunt's father placed her in a canoe while he was working. She tried to get a drink of water and fell overboard. The men fished her out and sent her back to camp.

Later the party was joined by Captain Fremont, who they called the "Pathfinder" as he led them through and around many rough places. He carried my grand-aunt in his arms. So, you see, she went through fire and water and landed in the arms of Captain Fremont.

In 1849 they came to California. San Francisco was a tent city, and when they walked along the wooden sidewalks they could look down and see water through the cracks.

My grand-aunt went to school in Santa Clara until 1853, when they moved to Gilroy and in 1887 to Pacific Grove.

Bernice Van Gundy

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My maternal great-grandfather, Zechariah Moreland came to California via Oregon in 1848, and settled near Campbell in 1849.

The Moreland School is on what was once a part of the Moreland property. Great-grandfather gave the land to the school district and sold them the building, then donated part of the money to pay for it. As I heard it, he sold the building for \$150, then contributed \$50.

There were ten Moreland children and six or seven are registered in the first school register, which is in the possession of Mrs. George Payne. I have been told the Moreland School District was the second oldest school district in California, and the oldest now in continuous existence.

*Eve Morton*

111 Years Ago - Statehood  
Arthur Fisk

This being our Fall edition, we feel it quite appropriate to mention San Jose's part in the beginning of our State government.

October 1849, 48 delegates assembled in Monterey. Robert Semple was elected Chairman of the delegation that met in Colton Hall. On October 13th they signed a State constitution for California instead of a Territorial constitution. Peter H. Burnett was elected the first civil Governor of a State that was not yet a State. San Jose was chosen to be the first State Capitol of California.

San Jose had no hall large enough for the legislature to meet in, and the State had no money. 19 prominent citizens voluntarily executed a note for \$34,000 dollars gold coin, with interest at eight per cent, until paid; to purchase a hotel that could be used for a Statehouse. This building was located on south Market Street, just east of the City Hall Plaza. It was 60 feet in length, 40 feet in width and two stories high. The lower floor consisted of four rooms, one large room where the Senate met and three smaller rooms for committees and offices. The upper floor consisted of one large room where the Assembly convened.

Our Statehouse remained the Seat of Government from December 15, 1849 to May 1, 1851. The legislature consisted of 16 Senators and 36 Assemblymen. It was here on December 20, 1849 the legislature chose Captain John C. Fremont as California's first United States Senator. On the third ballot they elected William M. Gwin, but they could not be seated in Washington until California reached Statehood, September 9, 1850.

Our first governing body was known as, "The Legislature of a 'Thousand Drinks'" on the other hand it was described as, "one of the best we ever had, they were honest, indefatigable workers, who had to create an entire new code of statute law." It was here, we received our first Gubernatorial message, declaring California the 31st State to enter the union. It was here, the first State machinery was put in motion, where the State was divided into counties, cities and towns.

May 1, 1851 the State Capitol was moved to Vallejo and our Statehouse became the County Courthouse. In 1853 it was destroyed by an incendiary fire.

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## Look for it Here

Mr. Austen Warburton returned recently from a tour of the Indian country in the southwestern states. \*\*Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Jones enjoyed their visit in Santa Barbara during August. \*\*Mr. & Mrs. Percy Thompson are now at home after spending the summer in Napa Valley and Paradise Park. \*\*Mrs. Ora Merritt enjoyed a delightful vacation in eastern Canada. \*\*Miss Helen Mignon and Mr. & Mrs. Hubert E. Hood toured Mexico, Guatemala and Costa Rica during July & August. They participated in the culmination of the project of making sister cities of San Jose, Costa Rica and San Jose, California. \*\*Dr. & Mrs. Watrous and family packed in over Forrester & Kearsarge passes to climb Mt. Whitney during August. \*\*Mr. & Mrs. Charles Morton recently flew to N.Y. & Boston and enjoyed viewing the collection of glass flowers at Harvard. \*\*Mrs. Lovene Luhrman is home after a visit with her sisters in Morro Bay & Pasadena. \*\*Mr. Austen Warburton was the speaker for the Saratoga Historical Foundation on Sept. 18th. His topic was the Indians of Santa Clara Valley. \*\*At our last quarterly meeting Dr. Leo Kibby, chairman of the social sciences at San Jose State College gave an interesting talk on California's role in the Civil War. \*\*Mrs. Elizabeth Brawley (life member) was greeted by many old friends at our quarterly meeting on Sept. 9th. \*\*All members of the Pioneer Society are invited to attend a program honoring the Pioneers on Nov. 17th at 1:30 p.m. in the Womans Club Adobe, 3260 The Alameda, S.C. Miss Bernhardt reports the completion of 81 Pioneer bus trips under her supervision during the past 4 years. \*\*Our next quarterly meeting will be held Saturday Dec. 2nd.

## Welcome

Congratulations to our new members: Mabel M. Abbott, Mabel H. Austin, Stella Baggs, Ann Colby, Sam W. Colby, Leo M. Columbus, Lois F. Columbus, Clarence Dorsey, Leola Forward, Frances R. Fowler, Emma Fox, Rose W. Haley, Claire B. Harriman, Walter Harriman, Edna Jones, Estella Huntly Jones, Robert A. Jones, Catherine Marlatt, Mrs. Chester W. Moore, Carmen E. Pascoe, Frank E. Pascoe, Adah B. Plummer, Ludie Pohlman, Verna Miller Potter, Harry F. Potts, Bryda Sartain, Hans P. Schmidt, Emily B. Scott, Esther A. Scott, Ethel F. Scott, Rose A. Shreve, Juanita Stitser, Leona L. Utley, Eleanor M. Vennum, Gene E. Vennum, and Edith H. Wentworth.

## Social

Mrs. Mabel Ogier was honored on her birthday by members of the Social Club at a luncheon on September 15th at the Hawaiian Gardens.

The Social Club of your Society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday afternoon of each month. Card playing and various activities highlight each meeting. For further information concerning Club activities call Mrs. Kate L. Owen, CY 5-1153.

## Under the Weather

Mrs. John Drew is confined at home and would enjoy hearing from old friends.

Mrs. Minnie Sicotte is now home at 63 So. 19th St.

Miss Carrie Williams is much better, and now living at 1970 Park Avenue, Apt. 3, phone CH 8-5650. She would enjoy company.

Ed Maderis is recuperating slowly from surgery.

Mrs. Emma Rutan is back at the Montgomery Hotel and is much improved.

Mrs. Jessie Griswold is now at home and is on the road to recovery.

Mrs. Flora Brooks is now home at 1235 Benton Street Santa Clara and would appreciate company.

Kindly keep your officers informed as to the condition of any ill member, and report any sickness or deaths to the Chairman of our Good-will committee, Mrs. Irene Lial, phone CY 4-2057.

## Beyond the Horizon

Max C. Baugh

October 6, 1896 - August 11, 1961

Mary Kathleen Cox

Dr. Edward Cheney

True Trevor Tourtillott

- July 30, 1961

Herschel Johnson

May 28, 1877 - September 28, 1961

The officers and members of the California Pioneer Society of Santa Clara County extend their sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of our beloved members.

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## THE TRAILBLAZER

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Editor: Arthur M. Fisk

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Mrs. Ora Merritt requests those members that desire to pay 1962 dues at our quarterly meeting on December 2d, please bring their old receipt to help facilitate handling.

At our Christmas luncheon on December 2nd special recognition will be given members 85 years of age or older. Any member that can qualify, please mail to your editors: your name, age and pioneer background or call CY 3-7425, as soon as possible.

Any items for The Pioneer scrap book may be sent to Mrs. Elsa Jensen, 520 Bradley Ave., San Jose 28, Calif.

For information concerning chartered bus tours for members of the Pioneer Society, phone Gertrude A. Bernhard, CY 3-3087.

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Return to: 595 So. 13th St.  
 San Jose 12, Calif.