

Volume 13

Summer 1973

Number 3

A SILVER RAILROAD

Henry Calloway

A most picturesque and striking segment of American narrow-gauge railroading included our own mountains and valley and it all began in a San Francisco Saloon! Like some, Collins Saloon became firmly entrenched in the financial district, offering tycoons of the area a sanctuary. Here, mingled with cigar smoke, whiskey and sawdust floors, Senator James G. Fair of Nevada Comstock fame, had a hankering to build a railroad. This venture involved Santa Clara Valley and the steep reaches of the Santa Cruz Range. At a favorite corner table, caught between survey maps and time-tables, Jim Fair placed the entire project in the hands of one Alfred E. Davis, mining man and colleague. Tobacco chewing Davis, in addition, dealt in land sales and hog raising. Understood little about railroading, however, sources state: "He knew how to take charge and get things done." This gave birth to the South Pacific Coast Railroad, incorporated March 25, 1876, with "hog" Davis named as president. The South Pacific Coast was well on its way and in January 1877 narrow-gauge tracks reached San Jose. By June 1, 1878 it was operating continuous rails between Alameda and Los Gatos. The builders now met head on the hostile terrain of the Santa Cruz mountains; so rugged that men had to be lowered by rope to complete inspections and establish working points. This brutal division of track to Big Trees commanded two years of courageous labor and five extensive tunnels 16 feet high and 13 feet wide, reinforced with massive 10x12 timbers.

The rails were to cross Los Gatos Creek six times before reaching the first tunnel. Of the total trackage

laid, two and one half miles were located underground. This "silver" railroad was built with Nevada wealth and demanded from mining magnate Fair and his companions \$11,500,000 or \$110,576 per mile. The completed road was opened on May 15, 1880.

Revenues were bountiful and the road was a money maker from the start. The railroad passed through the most fruitful belt in the state, including the fertile Agnews farms of James Lick. Timber, tanneries, fishing cut stone, lime blasting powder, wines and wool all added to the profits of the "silver gauge." Near the end of 1887 passenger business became so brisk it was necessary to run two round trips daily to Santa Cruz, with additional excursion trains on weekends. Enjoyable flag stops included Glenwood Magnetic Springs, Alma, Aldercroft, Call of the Wild, Wrights Station, Laurel, Tank Siding, Zayante (Skyland), Olympia, Mt. Hermon (Tuxedo), Felton, Big Trees, Rincon, Powder Works and Santa Cruz. At Skyland the holiday passengers were trained directly into the wooded picnic grounds.

A remarkable specimen was "Old Faithful" engine No. 13, a Baldwin built ten wheeler. Puffing up a storm became a nightly ritual as she pulled the Campbell-Boulder Creek timber train through this mountain route with her fire box burning a cord of wood every eight miles of the haul.

Although this once dynamic and scenic railroad has left us, scars of its diligent past can still be seen on our valley floor and hills. Attending an almost forgotten course, perpetual oaks and redwoods keep green the memory of the wail of a friendly whistle and the clicking wheels of the narrow-gauge short line...The South Pacific Coast Railroad.

* * *

QUAKER MEETING

by R.R.

While little known amongst San Jose's many churches this little place of worship deserves mention. Without going deeply into their historical past, let's just simply say that Quakers found America a good place to enjoy freedom of religion. They were amongst our earliest immigrants, settling mainly in Pennsylvania.

My earliest impressions were obtained in the small Friend's Meeting House located in what was then called College Park. It was on Davis Street at Morse. When driving down The Alameda toward Santa Clara, look to your

left as you cross the overpass. The first little white building on the north bank of the excavated freeway will be this same original modest church or Meeting House. By some miracle (and I think with the aid of the late Attorney Herbert Jones, son of the founder) it was rescued, preserved and moved a block to its new site on Morse Street. It had been directly in the path of the new freeway. Without interruption, services are still held there dating back to about 1880. Amongst the congregation were the Jones, the Beans, the Satterwaites, Cox, Allen, Hammond, Brun and a young man to be heard from later---Herbert Hoover, then a student at Stanford University. Yes, he was a Quaker.

Quakers did not believe that wars were the answer to national disputes; but, like Hoover, Quakers put their shoulders to the wheel when these emergencies arose.

Quakers dressed plainly and somberly but believe me that doesn't mean their clothes were cheap or shoddy. Most of them were energetic and prosperous citizens. The ladies wore stiff black bonnets which were not necessarily unbecoming. When in their homes they wore delicate lace caps. Otherwise both men and women deviated little from dark grey or black cloth for their plain suits and dresses.

While they did not place too much credence or importance on the material things of life, don't get the idea they were dour faced, glum characters! They were good-natured, quiet, highly intelligent people with the same appreciative sense of humor you or I like to think we possess. They lived, laughed and loved like their neighbors, but let's just say in perhaps a less boisterous manner.

My only contact with this church and these good people was during my early boyhood. I must confess their orthodox form of worship did not appeal to me. It did not appeal to many young people even in those days. That is why the church failed to grow and barely managed to exist over the years, with, of course the naturally declining nucleus of orthodox elders. There was another less orthodox Quaker Church on Stockton Avenue.

This congregation of Quakers entered their Meeting House quietly, without the modern pre-church exchange of inconsequential chatter. Seated on hard benches or pews, you just sat there. There was no music and there was no minister. You sat there until the "spirit" moved one of the elder brethren. These long silences which now I re-



QUAKER MEETING

alize provided excellent meditation periods, were trying on little boys of six or eight. These interims might last from 15 to 30 minutes; nothing to do but just sit and fidget. You could hear a pin drop. Such boy-depressing silence was only broken, perhaps by the rat-a-tat-tat of a woodpecker working on the somber poplars then lining every street of this district.

Finally, one of the dignified congregation would slowly arise and in sonorous voice express his opinions on the frailties of mankind, the wicked ways of the transgressor and the extremely poor chance of crashing the Pearly Gates unless we mended our sorry ways. No doubt these men were most eloquent. Stephen Jones was a

State Senator. But I'm afraid it was mostly lost on this little boy. I was hungry, I wanted to sneeze, and my long woolen underwear scratched.

I was happy this only happened twice a year. We attended the Cupertino Church regularly, but my parents being Quakers broke the routine to attend the Quaker Semi-Annual. This had its trials, compensations and rewards, even for a little boy.

Among their many other virtues, the Quakers were wonderful cooks. There was certainly nothing modest or restrained about their eating! And a dinner in the tiny back churchyard terminated this Semi-Annual. That saved the day for me! It was worth the interminable wait no matter how long drawn out the preceding ordeal.

Delectable harbingers of better things to come began to waft their elusive, tempting odors through the open windows. Two of San Jose's first caterers, names forgotten, good natured black folks were heard rustling around in the back room. They had the two-gallon-tin coffee p o t boiling on the little wood stove, or were slicing the roast turkey or the spiced ham, cutting the thick pumpkin pies and deciding which Quaker sister's cake to use for a centerpiece.

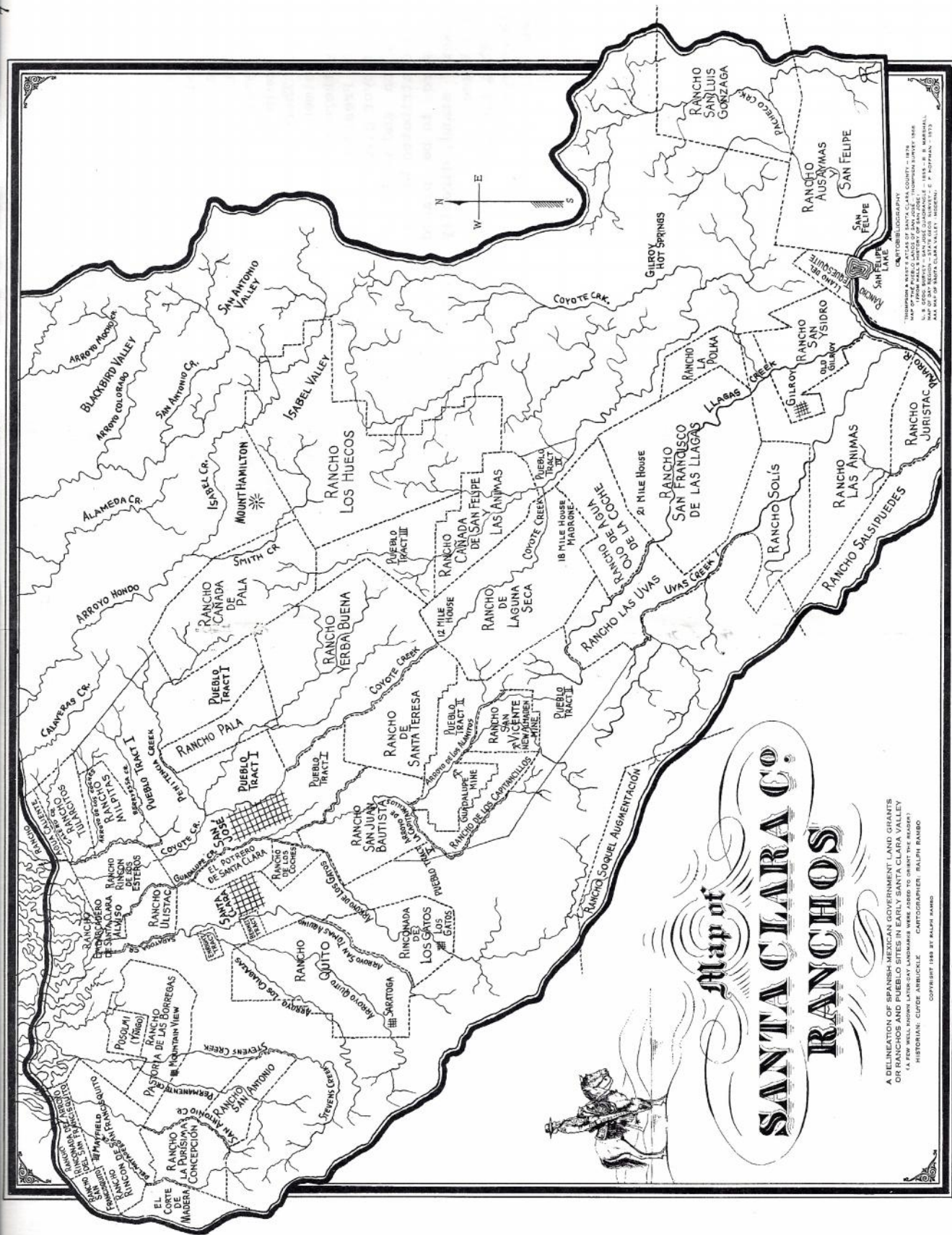
Delicious odors from all these promising and timely operations kept seeping through the cracks. They gave this bottom-tired little boy the last ounce of strength and courage necessary to endure the final "thee, thou, thine and Amen."

Quakers might have frowned on the too avid pursuit of worldly goods and their possession, but they certainly believed in the preservation of their God given "mortal shells" with good food!

If this sounds like their culinary ability was the Quakers' only virtue, I apologize to reader and Quakers. I simply mean it w a s the only thing that impressed a little boy. Actually, I'm proud of my Quaker ancestors. To this day I even like to think it shows on me a little. I mean the solemnity--not the food.

* * *

The map of Santa Clara County Ranchos on pages 6 and 7 was taken with permission of the author from Ralph Rambo's "Adventure Valley." It is a valuable map of the early day Ranchos and will aid the Pioneers to locate their holdings or those of their forebears. "Adventure Valley" is still available in most book stores.



Map of SANTA CLARA CO. RANCHOS

A DELINEATION OF SPANISH MEXICAN GOVERNMENT LAND GRANTS
OR RANCHOS AND PUEBLO SITES IN EARLY SANTA CLARA VALLEY
(A FEW WELL KNOWN LATER DAY LANDGRANTS WERE ADDED TO GRANT THE READER)
HISTORIAN: CLIFFE ARBuckle CARTOGRAPHER: RALPH RABBIT

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CONTINUED FROM THE BACK OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY - 1874 - 1898
MAP OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY - 1898 - 1900
U.S. 1898 MAP OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY - 1898 - 1900
U.S. 1898 MAP OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY - 1898 - 1900
U.S. 1898 MAP OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY - 1898 - 1900

WHEN THE PRESIDENT VISITED SAN JOSE

Ruth Heath

San Jose citizens left no stone unturned in their endeavors to make President McKinley's reception the finest he would have on his six-week trip from Washington, D.C.

It was expected that he would arrive in San Jose on Monday, May 13, 1901, remaining overnight at the palatial Hotel Vendome where he would be given a magnificent reception.

On the second day of the President's stay in San Jose he would be treated to a spectacular Floral Parade. There would be thirty or more decorated floats and carriages. There would even be a few automobiles. Two hundred wheelmen would ride decorated bicycles and later in the day there would be bicycle races.

The President was to be presented with the largest bouquet ever given to a Chief Executive. It would weigh over a ton and would be composed of 2000 individual bouquets contributed by as many loyal ladies of the Valley. They were to be placed on a large frame beside the speakers' stand, directly across the street from the Court House.

When the great day arrived, the streets were livened with evergreens, American flags and palm trees. Ninety-seven flags waved from the electric light tower at Market and Santa Clara streets. Chinese lanterns were strung on wires across the principal streets of the city to be lighted for the evening festivities.

Although the President would not arrive in San Jose until afternoon, places along the line of march were all occupied by eleven a.m. of that day.

A delegation had gone to San Jose to meet the guest of honor and the crowds waited expectantly. Reports began to be received that the party was nearing the city and finally bugles and fifes announced his coming. As his decorated carriage drew near there was applause and the waving of flags and handkerchiefs. He was escorted by his G.A.R. comrades.

The President entered the reviewing stand. He was presented with the mammoth bouquet and spoke to the large crowd of people. His remarks were greeted with cheers.

San Jose had outdone herself and the press of that day spoke glowingly of the celebration. The statue of President McKinley still in St. James Park at the site of the reviewing stand is a reminder of the occasion.

* * *

FROM THE PRESIDENT
C. Kelly Canelo, M.D.

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County was organized 98 years ago. The primary purpose of this organization is to collect and preserve articles of historic value of pioneer days, to assemble and preserve information concerning its members and other pioneers and data of the pioneer history of Santa Clara County and also California.

Pondering over these objectives one must assume the position of President of this organization with a great deal of humility. Were it not for an outstanding Board of Directors one would realize that these objectives are most challenging.

As I assume the leadership of this most worthy organization there are two subjects which must be presented to the membership at this time. As is usual there is some "good news" and some "bad news."

First the "bad news." Our quarterly luncheon meetings are very well attended -- the only trouble is that those in charge of the luncheon are forced to do some serious guessing. At our meeting in June we had only 244 reservations and 315 members showed up for luncheon. I'm sure you must realize that no restaurateur can give good service when he is unaware of the number who are to be served. The price of food (of which you are all aware) and the cost of help makes this an impossible situation -- so we are forced to make a change in our reservation routine.

When you receive the announcement of the September meeting it will not be a post card but a letter. The bottom portion of this letter is to be torn off and mailed in, with your check, for your reservation. When you arrive at Lou's Village, those with these confirmed reservations will be seated promptly -- those without reservations will have to wait till places can be arranged.

We regret that failure to make reservations in the past has forced us to take these steps. Advanced reservations with your check is not an unusual procedure especially in these times which are so difficult for the restaurant in their attempt to give good service.

Now, the "good news." The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County is about to publish their first book. It will be dedicated to Effie Hawkins, one of our beloved members who was killed in an automobile accident June 1971.

The book contents will be: A history of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County; a reproduction of our first issue of the Trailblazer; and three outstanding historical papers The early history of Alviso; the San Jose Earthquake of 1906; and John J. Montgomery, the father of aviation.

Advance orders can be placed in October and the book will be ready for delivery at our Christmas meeting, December 1, 1973. The price of the book will be \$7.00.

This will be an outstanding historical publication.

* * *

LOOK FOR IT HERE

Have you paid your 1973 dues? If not, please mail them to Curtis Bailey, 390 N. Winchester Blvd. 9C, Santa Clara, CA 95050. ***

Our next quarterly meeting will be held at Lou's Village, Saturday, September 1st at 12 o'clock noon. Our program chairman promises an interesting afternoon. ***

THE SOCIAL CLUB of our society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. For further information call Mrs. Frances Grant, 292-3852. ***

FOR TOUR INFORMATION call Mrs. Esther Adams, 264-8119 or Miss Alice Vetterle, 294-7510 between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Monday thru Thursday. Address: 2150-97 Almaden Road, San Jose, CA 95125. If you need a tour brochure, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to above address.

Theron Fox, former President of the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission, was honored on April 29th when the Printshop in the Historical Museum in Kelley Park was dedicated to him. The old press is a Liberty, circa 1875 and was originally used at the Notre Dame College in San Jose for printing report cards and school forms. ***

Austen D. Warburton was honored on May 2nd with a dinner sponsored by the Santa Clara Police Activities League. He was presented with a plaque for founding the Juvenile Advisory Council in Santa Clara and serving as its chairman for 19 years. Warburton is the first lifetime member of the Board of Directors of the League. ***

"Clyde Arbuckle Day" in Santa Clara was celebrated May 18th at a luncheon at the Jamison-Brown House at the Triton Museum. Clyde was born in Santa Clara at 445 Jackson Street. Austen Warburton was master of ceremonies for the awards presentations. Clyde was commended for his unselfish devotion to preserve early Santa Clara County history and most of this effort had been contributed as a volunteer effort. ***

WELCOME

Congratulations to our new members: Anna G. Beesley, Anita Bosschart, Charlotte S. Burrows, Glenn S. Burrows, Gladys L. Clark, Edna M. Dellavalle, Hilda C. Fischer, Viola S. Foster, Mary M. Hayes, Esther Fair Heller, Laurence E. Johnson, Lois P. Johnson, Loren Johnson, Thelma G. Jorgensen, Edwin J. Kaffer, Jean Kaffer, Lillian E. Kampfen, Mrs. Thais Kampfen, Evelyn A. Kleemeyer, Mary Lovoi, Samuel J. Miguelgorry, Thelma Miguelgorry, Grace M. Rice, Herbert P. Rines, Mrs. Herbert P. Rines, Eileen Rose, Harold F. Schroeder, Lee H. Schroeder, Frank M. Specht and Helen A. Specht.

* * *

UNDER THE WEATHER

Our best wishes for a rapid recovery to Mrs. Lottie Osen who is recuperating at home from a fall, resulting in a collapsed vertebrae and a fractured rib.

Kindly keep your officers informed as to the condition of any ill member and report any sickness or death to the chairman of our Sunshine Committee, Mrs. Ruth M. Heath, 390 N. Winchester Blvd. 3-3G, Santa Clara, Calif. 95050. Phone 241-4436.

* * *

BEYOND THE SUNSET

It is not death to die --
To leave this weary road,
and 'mid the brotherhood on high,
To be at home with God.

William I. Giovannoni
April 12, 1909 - March 4, 1973

Montrose Lillie
February 8, 1894 - May 5, 1973

Marjorie Buchan Fisk
September 29, 1892 - June 4, 1973

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

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Officers for 1973-74

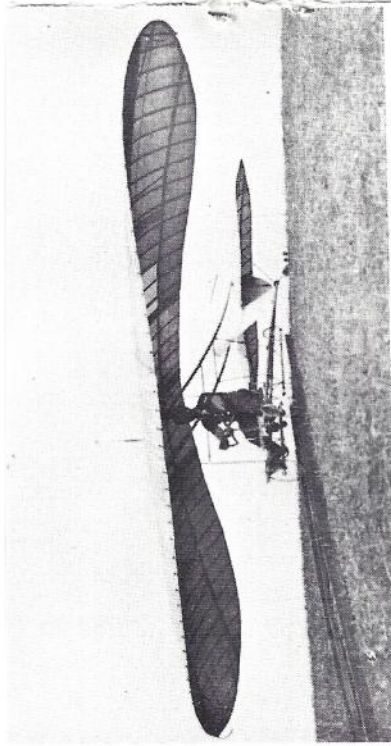
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* * *

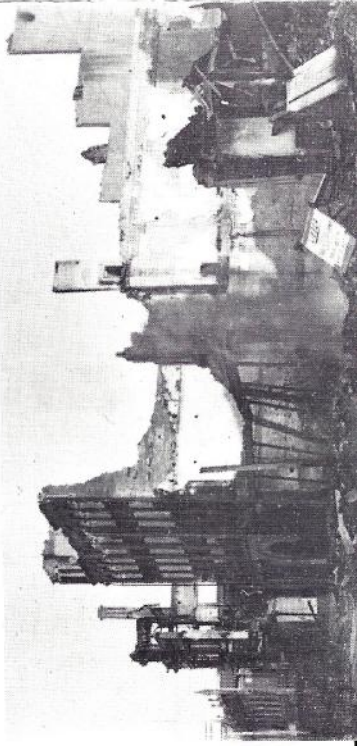
PLEASE SEND DUES to Curtis S. Bailey, 390 N. Winchester
Blvd. 9C, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Phone 244-1360. Tax
exempt dues are \$2 per year.

SEND APPLICATIONS for membership and address changes to
Bernice Van Gundy, 561 Fuller Ave., San Jose, CA 95125.
SICKNESS and DEATHS please notify Mrs. Ruth M. Heath
390 N. Winchester Blvd., 3-3G, Santa Clara, CA 95050.
Phone 241-4436.

INSERT - SIDE 1



Montgomery picture courtesy of Rev. A. D. Spearman, S.J.



Order Form

ANNOUNCING:

THE EFFIE HAWKINS MEMORIAL EDITION
of the

SANTA CLARA COUNTY PIONEER PAPERS

The Santa Clara County *Pioneer Papers*, a publication of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, Inc. will contain the fascinating story of the golden years of the Port of Alviso, the valley's early involvement with aviation through John J. Montgomery, and the dramatic events surrounding the earthquake of 1906 in San Jose. This is good history, a handsome hard-bound volume with illustrations, and a perfect gift. This card is your order form.

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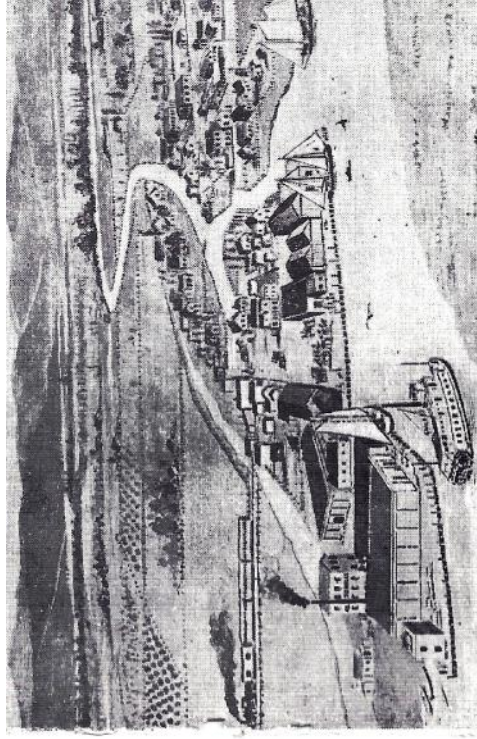
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Alviso

San Jose Mercury-News Photo

The Santa Clara County Pioneer Papers tell the interesting story of Early Day Alviso, the 1906 Earthquake and the flights of John J. Montgomery in both words and pictures.