



VOL. 47 NUMBER 1

March 4, 2006

PIONEER LUNCHEON
Saturday, March 4, 2006
Noon at Mariani's \$20.00

Reservations before Monday, February 27, 2006
Call 408-554-7587

Chicken Marsala in Mushroom Sauce
Green Salad

Chef's Choice Ice Cream • Coffee or Tea

(Make checks to Mariani's)

Directions to Mariani's Restaurant:
*Go to El Camino Real, turn northerly, towards
Santa Clara. Mariani's is between
San Tomas Expressway and Bowers Ave/Kiely Blvd,
on the west side of the street.*

It Was Our Earthquake, Too!

April 18, 1906-April 18, 2006
A Commemoration 100 Years Later

The Program for March will be two-fold. (1) Jim Tanner, formerly an engineer with Lockheed and also with the National Geodetic Survey has studied the earthquake at length and come to different conclusions than the popularity held ones. He will give us his scientific findings. (2) Leonard McKay will talk about the effects of the 1906 Earthquake on San Jose, *It Was Our Earthquake, Too!*

April 18, 2006 will be the 100th anniversary of that great shake. A plethora of new books have recently been published on the subject from many different points of view. Come hear Leonard expound on why San Jose was saved.

Some of the new books on the 1906 Earthquake & Fire are:

Carl Nolte, *San Francisco Century*

David Burkhart, *Earthquake Days*

Richard Schwartz, *Earthquake Exodus, 1906*

Sister Mary Anne Gainey & Sister Estella Morales,
Steel Frames

These 5 authors will appear at the California Historical Society on Thursday, March 23, 2006 at 6 p.m., Free

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lou's Village is gone! The location for our next meeting is *Mariani's* at 2500 El Camino Real in Santa Clara. Leonard McKay and I met with the people there and are pleased to say that they fill all of our needs: ample parking (please use the rear parking lot), easy access to the room (no stairs to climb), and round tables.



December, 2005, David McKinney presenting a certificate to Tim Mueller, Co-Owner of LOU'S VILLAGE for the Many Years They have Hosted Us. President Jerry Rosenthal at Podium.
Photo by Bob Johnson

I am pleased to announce that Barry Swenson Builder has decided to underwrite the costs of planning and architecture for the Paulson House! Barry's Architect, Stan Gould, has met with the History San Jose Staff, examined the site, is in the process of finding the city's requirements and should have all of the information by the first of February! And, before the end of January, we hope to have all of the Jackson items moved into the old Beechnut plant for storage and the start of restoration. We have already restored Mrs. Jackson's family's side-saddle.

The Cochrane side-saddle was built by L. D. Stone sometime around 1859. L. D. Stone started work in San Francisco in 1852 and continued until the firm merged with Main and Winchester in 1905. At one time, Stone's catalog had over 400 pages filled with chaps, spurs and other horse goods!

Main and Winchester was founded in San Francisco in 1849 and the combined Main Winchester and Stone was purchased by the Keystone Brothers in 1912.

Mr. Bob Mattson, the Carmel Valley saddle maker who did the restoration, pointed out that he dated the saddle because the padding was deer hair. By 1860 the use of deer hair for padding had ended and the use of side-saddles was fading as the "Anglos" moved west with their divided skirts. As time moved on, the use of astride saddles for ladies became acceptable. Here in California, by the turn of the century, side-saddles had almost vanished from the saddle makers' catalogs, but the proper ladies who lived on the ranchos still rode the side saddle, especially on fiesta days.

I have found that the following saddle makers worked in San Jose at one time or the other:

Alex Ayers, 1870-1900

C. H. Corey, c.1882

Keiser & Koch, c. 1879

Major Leland, c. 1920-40

H. Messing & Son, 1880 +

Nino Oliver, 1945-1998(?)

R.L Stearns, 1860-1900

Fred M. Stern, 1852 – (now known as Stern's Luggage.)

If anyone knows of others, please let me know!

NEW MEMBERS:

Aldiva Buran, Peggy Conaway, Pearl Director, Chuck Evans, Sonja Gerwerdinck, Carl Heintze, Janice Lieberman, Christopher Marchese, Lynne Rosenthal, Florence Sutcliffe, Gregory Stewart, Lynn Stewart

Pat Loomis

by Mary Mueller

Patricia Ruth Loomis was born in San Francisco on June 9, 1920. Her parents were Ivan Loomis and Christine Brown Loomis. Her parents met at Stanford before World War I, and then served in a hospital unit from Stanford which was deployed to Scotland. During that war, her mother was a nurse and her dad was a corpsman. When the War ended, they were married and moved to Arroyo Grande to live and raise their children: Patricia, Margaret, Richard and John. Pat attended the public schools and graduated from Arroyo Grande High School in 1939 where she worked on the school newspaper. She remembers a teacher who helped her to think about her future career. San Jose State College was recommended as having a fine Journalism department. She felt the college would best fit her needs to make the transition from a small farm town to a small college on the downtown campus in San Jose.

Her dad drove her to San Jose in the fall of 1939 to help her settle into a room at the YWCA. By Christmas, she was lonely and ready to quit college to return to the comfort of the family home and the small town where she knew everyone. Her parents encouraged her to finish the freshman year. When she returned to San Jose, she searched for a new home at Sallie Jones Boarding House, on Fifth and San Carlos, adjacent to the campus. She was happy there and made lasting friendships among the seventeen young women. She stayed until graduating in May 1943.

When she was in her sophomore year, she joined the staff of The Spartan Daily, the official newspaper of San Jose State College. She met Harry Farrell, a fellow student, in a college speech class. After his graduation, he went to work for the San Jose Mercury. Pat was hired in the Public Relations department for another company near San Francisco. Within the year, she learned the Mercury News had an opening so she applied for the job and was hired. Her first assignments were writing fillers and rewriting copy.

Pat met Clyde Arbuckle in February, 1944 when the News published her first story on San Jose artist A.D.M. Cooper. In 1949, she enrolled in his California History class, which was held at Roosevelt Junior High School, one of the sites for San Jose Adult Education night school classes. He was leading auto trips for his students on what were called "Environmental Studies." Those were mostly within Santa Clara County. Pat has recalled some of those trips when her hair was dark and she wore skirts.

She was assigned to cover the Santa Clara County Fair in 1946, which led to her working with 4 H-Clubs. Later, she went on the Fair Board and is still active in providing the history exhibit during the fair. She always encourages the 4-H'ers by buying a lamb or two, sometimes giving it back to the youth who raised it.

Occasionally, she would go out with other reporters when they were covering news. She questioned them about the community as she was curious about things. Dick Barrett was her editor. He was the one who recognized her interest in history and that she would like to write about history for the News. He named the column "Signposts" written by Pat Loomis. The column ran in the paper from 1971-1977.

I met Pat Loomis in 1977. I had been reading her columns for years. When Clyde Arbuckle talked about her, he called her, "Miss Loomis." He would say, "I think you and Miss Loomis would have a lot in common." Nearly 20 years passed before I met her in Arbuckle's history class at Markham Adult Education Center. Indeed, we shared an interest in history and the trails, and what is more, we enjoyed the companionship that has extended nearly 30 years.

Clyde and I, with the Argonauts, had been traveling for history more than 12 years when Pat signed up for the 18 day trip from San Jose to Independence, MO. She wangled the extra time with an arrangement with the City Editor to "report" about the trails as we traveled. Pat packed her manual typewriter and requested a single room, so as not to disturb a roommate. She wrote her articles at night and phoned them in the next day, often skipping breakfast, to meet a deadline. If you want to hear about the pitfalls of calling the San Jose paper from a public phone on a busy street in Lander, Wyoming, just ask Pat. She will tell you about the plane flying overhead to spray for mosquitoes and a "lady of the night" walking away from town.

In 1979, the Arbuckle's and Pat traveled to Tucson to meet Mary and two employees of San Jose KNTV, a reporter and a photographer. They requested the assistance of Clyde who was familiar with the history of the Anza Trail to photograph sites to complete a documentary they planned for television. Mary was familiar with the sites because she had led a trip on the trail for the Argonauts and Clyde had narrated the history. That was Pat's first trip on a southern trail and she found another trail story to write.

Three years later, in May 1982, Pat with Mary and Florence Hawley, spent a week searching the sites on the California Trail,

east from Dog Valley near Verdi, Nevada to Pilot's Peak, near Wendover, Utah. On the return trip, they drove on the Hastings Cut-off with copies of James Frazier Reed's diary as their guide and regional maps provided by the Elko office of Bureau of Land Management. The personnel at BLM were committed in helping them succeed on the search.

On August 12, 1982, the Oregon-California Trails Association was formed and Pat became a charter member of OCTA. She found another venue for researching the trails. Within 6 months, she retired from the newspaper, in March 1983 after 40 years as a reporter for the San Jose Mercury. She had the time and the interest to volunteer, as well as donating to the Endowment Fund managed by OCTA.

The California/Nevada Chapter was organized in April 1984. The first field trip was scheduled for October on the Black Rock Desert to High Rock Canyon led by Tom Hunt. The small group included Pat, Bill and Mary Mueller, Fiona and Doyle Reed, Jim Klem, Neal Johns and a friend. Then she learned about Trails West, Inc. which place T-iron rail markers in seemingly impossible sites. That memorable trip left the imprint for traveling on the trails of the emigrants. Pat was always ready for the next trail experience in a vehicle with four-wheel drive. She met the qualifications to join Trails West in 1985. Pat has been a member of the staff of Trail Talk since November, 1991. She has written articles and rewrites. As a proof-reader, her years with the newspaper make her invaluable.

In August, 1986, the fourth OCTA convention was held in Carson City. Pat studied to be a tour leader on the bus for the 40 Mile Desert and the Carson Trail. After the convention, she and others met a caravan of OCTA members to travel the Applegate Trail starting from Callahan Bridge near Rye Patch Reservoir in Nevada to Goose Lake, California. We learned a lot about creating a campsite for three hot sweaty days, and three nights of cold temperatures in the high desert. What is more important, we gained a tremendous knowledge of the trail with some of the greatest OCTA members from all over the United States.

Pat has attended most of the OCTA Conventions and once went to Independence for the mid-year board meeting. She has been a tremendous volunteer in Trails West. When the markers are installed or maintained, Pat lingers nearby talking to the workers until it is time for painting. She grabs the first brush, gloveless, and begins to paint, usually leaving the proof in her white hair.

After Clyde Arbuckle retired from teaching in 1988, Pat helped keep the Argonauts alive, the name Clyde used for his traveling group. New members have joined as they learned about the interesting speakers and the tours. They meet on the fourth Thursdays, from September until June, excepting for November-December, when they meet for a Christmas Party and May, when they have a picnic at Vasona Park.

Most of you will know the name of Patricia Loomis because of her history columns in the newspaper and her books. She has written two books of *Signposts*, published by the San Jose Mercury News and the San Jose Historical Museum Association in 1982. *Signposts II* followed in 1985, published by the San Jose Historical Museum Association. Both give short histories of the namesakes of some of our old, prominent roads in the valley, as her columns once did. *A Walk Through The Past* about San Jose's Oak Hill Memorial park and its inhabitants followed in 1998. It was published by the Argonaut Historical Society of San Jose. She has also written a book on Milpitas and some other specialized books for special events.

(Pat Loomis is the recipient of the 2006 Auston D. Warburton Pioneer award)

GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS

Robert Oliver, Helen Brooks, Stuart Campen Hall, Everett, Johnson

A NOTE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP/FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Our membership is now fewer than 600 because those who have not paid their dues for the past year have been dropped. Don't let this happen to you! We have started another year and most of you have sent in your dues for 2006. Please check your Trailblazer to see if you are current. Dues are \$15.00 a year for each member, so please send your dues as soon as possible if you are to remain current. Make your checks payable to the California Pioneers and send to: Melita Kelly, Membership, 460 North 15th Street, San Jose, CA 95112-1725. Life memberships are also available. Be sure to enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want your membership card mailed to you. You may call me if you have any questions on membership or need applications for your friends. My number is (408) 292-2385.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next luncheon.

Melita Kelly



Rick Helin giving roses to Beverly & Bob Fisher at the December Meeting.

Photo by Bob Johnson

TOURING WITH THE CALIFORNIANS

Rose Crimi Muench – *Tour director*

Marie Rider – *Phone reservations and cancellations*

(408) 251-7887, M-F am.

Beverly Fisher – *Treasurer*

3435 Yuba Ave., San Jose, CA 95117-2966

Pauline Hawkins – *Luncheon reservations*

REGISTRATION FOR SPRING TRIPS begins at the March 4 luncheon, 11:00 a.m. at *Mariani's Restaurant*. Checks are preferred or exact cash. Preference is given to California Pioneers members to register at the luncheon. Non-members and guests may sign up starting March 13. Note: We request that members register absent members after the luncheon, so that members present have the opportunity to register first.

PHONE RESERVATIONS or CANCELLATIONS:

call Marie Rider. After reservations are confirmed, send check payable to The Californians to Beverly Fisher.

PICK-UP POINT: Valley Village, 390 No. Winchester Blvd., Santa Clara on Dolores Street.

DAY TRIPS

MARCH 23, 2006, THURSDAY - SAN JOSE'S NEW CITY HALL and the MUSEUM of QUILTS and TEXTILES

Our guided tour of City Hall includes the council chambers, the 18th floor council offices, a view of the city, the rotunda, the historic gallery with displays of historic photographs and artifacts, the architectural features by Richard Meier who also designed the Getty Museum and several other public buildings around the world. We will see the parade of "floats" - art works on Fifth Street leading to City Hall. Our included luncheon will be at Spiedo Restaurant in the building which once housed the McEnery family's Farmers Union. We expect to have former mayor Tom McEnery join us and make a few remarks. Next we will have a tour of the new and enlarged home of the Museum of Quilts and Textiles on South First Street. The historic 1923 Mission Style building housed the San Jose Supply Company. After extensive remodeling, the museum had its re-opening in September after occupying several other locations since its founding in 1977. The collection includes historic quilts, political designs, embroideries and textiles from other lands, plus an attractive gift shop. Also, we will see a new exhibit of works by Jean Ray Laury "*A Life by Design*" including contemporary quilts, paper artwork and wood appliques.

Depart: 9:00 a.m.

Return: 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$52

APRIL 21, 2006, FRIDAY WHALE WATCHING AT PIGEON POINT LIGHTHOUSE, HARLEY'S GOAT FARM and LUNCHEON at DUARTE'S

April is the best chance to see whales and their calves migrating from Baja California to Alaska. (Bring your binoculars!) Park Rangers at the Pigeon Point Lighthouse will narrate the whale exhibits and the history of the lighthouse. First we will see an example of the agricultural tradition of the Pescadero area with a guided tour of the award winning Harley's Goat Farm to see the herds milked and goat cheese made, with a visit to the cheese shop and cheese tasting. Our included luncheon is at Duarte's Tavern which opened in 1894 as a stage coach stop.

Depart: 9:00 a.m

Return: 5:00 p.m

Cost: \$63

MAY 30, 2006, TUESDAY GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL CEMETERY, SAN FRANCISCO COLUMBARIUM and LUNCHEON at the CLIFF HOUSE

In honor of Memorial Day, we will visit Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno. The site was the Spanish Rancho Buriburi,

later the Sneath Ranch which was bought by the federal government. The 161 acres of rolling hillsides were dedicated on Memorial Day, 1942 with Earl Warren, the Attorney General of California, as the dedication speaker. The cemetery is now at capacity with 100,000 graves. The highest ranking officer buried there is five-star admiral Chester W. Nimitz. On Memorial Day, the Center Plaza flies many flags and the graves are decorated with flowers. We will receive a detailed guide to the cemetery for a self-guided tour. Our included luncheon will be at the newly restored Cliff House. The floor-to-ceiling picture windows offer spectacular views of the Bay and the ruins of the Sutro Baths. The original Cliff House was built in 1863. Bring your binoculars to see the seals and sea birds on the off-shore islands. In keeping with our memorial theme, our next visit is to the San Francisco Columbarium, which is over 100 years old. The beautiful belle époque building has a mosaic floored rotunda capped with a sky-lighted dome, a circle of Doric columns, and stained-glass windows. Among the elite of San Francisco this was the place to be dead! Our docent will give us a guided tour and tell us the stories of the unique personages resting in containers appropriate to their lives. Our final visit is the California Historical Society to an exhibit of photos and commentaries by Jack London when he covered the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fires for Collier's Magazine. The display is one of several in the bay area commemorating the 100th anniversary of this catastrophe.

Our own History San Jose will also open its exhibit "*It's Our Fault Too: the 1906 Earthquake in Santa Clara Valley.*" A member preview reception is in early April.

Depart: 9:00 a.m.

Return: 5:00 p.m

Cost: \$63

EXTENDED TRIPS

MAY 8 – 19, 2006 MICHIGAN – WISCONSIN TULIP TOUR (Trieloff Tours) We experience another world of Midwest scenic wonders as we circle Lake Michigan including: a tour of Chicago, tulip fields and festivities in Holland City, the Gerald Ford Presidential Library, Sleeping Bear sand dunes, Mackinac Island and its famous Grand Hotel with its wraparound porch, Hiawatha country, Green Bay, Wisconsin, Door county's scenic villages, Circus World Museum celebrating the Ringling Brothers' Circus begun here in 1884, a boat cruise through the Wisconsin Dells with unique pre-glacial rock formations, a visit to the House on the Rock and a tour of Madison, Wisconsin's beautiful capital city. Cost is \$1799, \$600 single supplement, which includes RT airfare San Jose/Chicago, hotels, 20 meals

and the tour fees. Optional cancellation insurance is available. Brochures are now available. Fee for credit card use is waived.

SEPTEMBER 13 – 23, 2006 ALASKA'S INSIDE PASSAGE
(Golden Gate Tours) Cruise aboard the Regal Princess departing from San Francisco. Ports of Call are: Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Victoria B.C. Inside cabins, \$1335 and \$1350. Ocean view cabins, from \$1635 to \$1750. Balcony cabins, from \$2100 to \$2195. Cost includes: RT bus transportation San Jose/San Francisco pier (no air flights!), all meals and amenities on board, port taxes and fees, and stevedore tips. Book early for best choice of cabins. Brochures are now available.

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