

QUARTERLY BULLETIN
OF THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

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DECEMBER 2, 1995 MEETING PROGRAM

THE DECEMBER 1995 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WILL FEATURE THE PENINSULA BANJO BAND PLAYING CHRISTMAS MUSIC. This different program was the idea of member Joyce Martini. This popular concert band numbers 55 volunteer members and four volunteer conductors with an average of 17 appearing at a performance. They promote old time music, especially the popular songs of the twenties and thirties. They are a non-profit charitable organization benefitting three cancer research institutes, this year donating over \$150,000. They have made 44 appearances this year besides playing at the Straw Hat Pizza Parlor on Meridian every Tuesday. They have been together for 30 years and I am certain you will enjoy their nostalgic toe-tapping music.

ATTENTION! AUTHORS You are invited to bring your books to sell at the December luncheon. Tables will be available for you to show the membership what you have been doing.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS AND READERS ! Use this rare opportunity to purchase books from the authors and get autographed copies of recent historical research for your gift list or yourself.



Jack Douglas, Head Archivist of the Special Collections at San Jose State University thanks the Pioneers for the valuable contribution of a nearly full run of the Trailblazer. It helps fill out their holdings in local history and is another place some of you historians and researchers may wish to visit.

CHARLIE PARKHURST

The first woman to Vote for President

Charlotte Parkhurst was born in 1812 in New Hampshire and was placed in a Massachusetts orphanage where she grew up unloved and in poverty. She borrowed a boy's clothes to run away from the orphanage at 15 and soon found that life was easier for males.

She applied for work at the stables of Ebenezer Blach in Worchester, Massachusetts and was hired. She cleaned the stables, pitched hay and cared for the horses in exchange for room, board and low wages. She like horses and soon learned how to handle a team and became one of the most popular drivers.

When her employer moved his business to Rhode Island, Charlie stayed with him. Her talents with the horses soon earned her the title of "Whip." It was there that she met two wealthy men who invited 'him' to come west and work for their gold rush transport business.

She came to California in the 1850's to drive a stage in the mines and was soon known as a fearless stagecoach driver, "Jehu." Other famous whips she rode with include Hank Monk, Charlie Crowell and Jared Crandall.

Charlie was of medium build and height with a "whiskey tenor" voice and a weather beaten face. She had broad shoulders and was clean shaven except for a scraggly mustache. She wore pleated blousy shirts, a wide belt, expensive trousers, buffalo skin coat, fancy high heeled boots, a broad Texas hat and embroidered buckskin gloves. The gloves cost \$20 and were seldom removed, even to eat. They were necessary for handling reins of a 4 or 6 horse team. She cut a fancy figure, but no one commented on it because Charley was a fighter, both with her fists and a long blacksnake whip. At 15 paces, she could cut a cigar out of a man's mouth or slice the end off an envelope. She could handle herself in a barroom brawl. She had a black patch over one eye she had lost to a horse kick and often, a big cheroot out of the corner of her mouth or a chaw in her mouth. Everyone called "him" Charlie or One eyed Charlie, and no one suspected her secret. She was an expert with 2, then 4, then 6 horses. She was a showy but careful driver.

For three years, she hired out to Ben Holiday out of Council Bluffs, Iowa, his main office, to drive the overland stage. Every Monday morning, Ben hired new drivers to replace those who left from fear or raised scalps. Some of the mountain roads were so steep and narrow that the singletree cut grooves into the banks and hung over the other side where the stopping place was 1000 feet down. These kind of roads plus the Indians thinned the ranks quickly.

When hiring a driver, Ben Holiday asked, "Ever drive a stage

before? How long? How near to the cliff could you drive?" Many answered nearer and nearer, but Charlie put a fresh chaw in her jaws, closed her jack knife she had used to cut the chaw or to mend harness or to skin a deer. "I wouldn't do a t all for you Mr. Holiday. I'd stay as far from that edge as the hubs would let me." That was what he wanted to hear. She held the job 3 years before moving to the Pacific Coast because she was being hard pressed to marry some Mormon girls.

Charlie drove on the Pacheco Pass run, then joined up with the Danforth Porter Lines that connected with the Santa Cruz Stage Line. She was a great "whip," moving with precision as she plied the brakes to stop the 20 passenger coach drawn by 6 mustangs right in front of the hotels' main entrance. Delftly, she whirled the 6 horse dash around its stock, laid it up, then wrapped the lines around the foot brake, then turned to hand down "the box" or mail or an adventuresome young female who had insisted on riding up front.

When the teams were running all out, the stagecoach would rock back and forth like a boat on the long leather thorough braces which acted as springs, each weighing 50 pounds and costing a \$1.00 a pound.

Charlie's rides were hair raising, but he often would cover 60 miles a day on muddy, wet roads, then make the return trip. Once when driving in the Sierra during the gold rush, her team veered off the road and she was thrown from the coach. She hung on to the reins and was dragged along, eventually turning the runaway team into some bushes. The passengers presented her with \$20 out of gratitude.

Another time a bandit ordered her to "throw down the box! She complied and the Wells Fargo box was lost. From that time on, she carried her six-shooter on the seat beside her. The next time that command came, she fired into the bushes and killed the highwayman. She didn't have to repeat the action.

Charlie never boasted about her experiences, but others did. She could run both wheels of her stagecoach over a quarter lying in the road with the horses going at stop speed. When asked how she could see through all the dust, she said, "I listen for the wheels to rattle...then I know I am on hard ground. If they don't rattle, I look to see if the road is there!" Then she would spit her tobacco.

Charlie led a lonely life, bunking with her horses, not the other drivers. They said that "He understood his business, he was pleasant and stiddy and sober. And with that, any feller can do well." She was accepted as "one of the boys," but knowing her secret, she kept to herself. She would gruffly reply that she got along better with her horses than with people. She did, however, carry candy for children in her pocket, help women in childbirth, set broken bones and donate money to needy children.

When a widow and her daughter nearly lost their home, she bought it and gave it back to them, then left in a hurry. People couldn't understand when "he" left such an attractive marriageable daughter behind. Other women had to sit beside "him" and became a bit of a problem.

From 1850 on she was driving near San Jose. In 1865, a notice in the San Jose paper mentioned...

"Upset the stage for Santa Cruz, on Thursday last, containing 8 or 9 passengers. Upset about a mile beyond Mountain Charley McKiernan's and rolled down a gulch about 150 feet. No one was seriously injured. It was caused by McKiernan's hogs rushing down the hill, jumping around the horses while they were making a sharp turn around a point."

After the gold rush, Charlie stopped driving her coach and bought a stage station and saloon between Watsonville and Santa Cruz. When the Rail- road reached 12 Mile House out of Santa Cruz where Charlies' Sand Hill Station was, she went out of business and began raising stock on Bean Creek, also hauling for neighbors until she became infirm. She sold her stock and retired to Charley Moss at Moss Landing.

Charlies favorite subjects were horses and the obligation and right of every citizen to vote. One of Soquel's claims to fame was that Charles Darkey Parkhurst, veteran stage driver voted for President in 1868 at Tom Mann's hotel which may have been the first woman to vote in the U.S. She is listed in a poll list for Soquel precinct which covered from Arana gulch to a point east of Aptos. Santa Cruz County had only 7 precincts at that time. In the list of 329, she is listed Parkhurst, Charles Darkey, Farmer, 55, New Hampshire. There seems to be no record of other elections and who voted.

In 1876, at age 64, Charlie's rheumatism bothered her so much she sold her ranch and moved into a small cabin on the property of a friend, Mr. Harmon. She lived out her last years there with the help of a hired man and the young Harmon boy.

She developed a persistent sore throat in 1879 and tried treating it with horse remedies and patent medicines which didn't work. When she finally went to a doctor, he found she had developed cancer of the throat and tongue from all the years of smoking and chewing tobacco. Her voice became a whisper and she only spoke when she needed something. She died on December 29, 1879, leaving her possessions of \$600 to the 12 year old Harmon boy who had looked after her.

Her partner, Woodward, waxed profane when the undertaker disclosed his findings when he "laid her out." Charlie had deceived him and everyone else for so many years. Supposedly, there were

indications that she had sometime given birth to a child and that among her possessions were a red dress and a pair of baby shoes. Regardless, Charley Parkhurst was one of the most skilled, fearless stage coach drivers of the gold rush era.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Seagraves, Anne, "Charley Parkhurst, Stage Driver (Jehu)," *Women of the Sierra*, Wesanne Publications, Lakeport, California, 1990.

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ARBUCKLES' ODYSSEY

by Helen Arbuckle

Moses Schallenberger, at 17, was the 'Man to Match My Mountains.' While a teenager, by today's standards, he spent the winter of 1844 alone in the snow near what we now call Donner Lake. Later, he became one of San Jose's distinguished citizens.

A group of history buffs led by Jim Rose of Nevada City decided that Mose deserved to be honored after a century and a half of being ignored for his heroism, courage and ingenuity in surviving the ordeal. They arranged a plaque dedication ceremony on August 19, 1995 at the original cabin site near the Pioneer Monument, Donner Memorial State Park, Truckee. A large crowd of historians, tourists and friends turned out.

Because of our respect for Rose and friendship with Schallenberger's late daughters, Clyde and I decided to attend the event. Our Odyssey began Friday, August 18, 1995. We boarded a Greyhound bus at 10:30 a.m. scheduled arrival late afternoon in Truckee, with a reserved room at the Truckee Hotel, a pleasant Bed and Breakfast, sans telephone, television and elevator.

Clyde had been over Interstate 80, the usual route to Truckee many times on his tours. After riding some distance, he thought the scenery and landmarks weren't right for getting to Truckee, but the bus driver must know of a shortcut for Truckee. Soon we were traveling through Tahoe resort country. Then the driver drove into Harrah's at South Lake Tahoe and announced, "End of the life folks. Have a good time."

The place was teeming with activity and noise. Nowhere did I see a sign of another bus or bus station. In a bewildering series of questions, when is the next bus to Truckee? Is there

any way to get to Truckee? Blank looks to all my questions. Every one there had his own car. Who rides a bus?

It was by then 5 o'clock. After hearing of our predicament, Mr. Watts, the Greyhound agent, offered to take us to Reno where we could probably get a bus to Truckee to arrive about 10:30. We accepted his offer. Then I called the hotel to tell them we would be late arriving. The clerk said she would leave our key in a place so we could get to our room if no one was at the desk. (Luckily, some one was there.)

In due course, we arrived in Reno. There was Clyde's bag in the baggage room, but where was mine? Probably in Truckee.

After another hour and a half layover, we departed for Truckee at 9:30. No mishaps, but the baggage room was closed and I couldn't get my bag with toilet articles and change of clothes. For PJ's, I used Clyde's shirt that he had worn during the day. Despite the trauma, we slept well. I retrieved my suitcase the next morning, too late to be of use.

Awaiting us in the morning was a note from Lee Schegg, an E Clampus Vitus buddy offering to transport us to the festivities and where ever else we might want to go. We accepted with alacrity. We saw a number of friends from San Jose whom we sought for a ride back to San Jose, but no luck-no one was going home. At two o'clock, we boarded the San Jose bound bus, relieved to feel our troubles would soon be over.

However, the crush of Saturday afternoon bumper-to-bumper traffic on I-80 delayed our making connections in San Francisco with a San Jose bus. Another ninety minute wait.

In our preliminary planning, we didn't anticipate delays. Jim, our son, said he would pick us up in San Jose about 7:30. I phoned to tell him we'd be late, but there was no answer, so I left a message on his answering machine. He had already come to meet us, but we weren't there. He returned home, checked the answering machine, dashed back to the bus station, and there we were.

Our episode didn't match Schallenberger's experience, but it put us to a test. I'm glad it didn't happen in a foreign county. It just shows how difficult travel can be in 1995.

Hank Calloway was one of the mainstays of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. He was Editor of *The Trail Blazer* for 16 years. The Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission recognized he and his wife, Laura, for that work with an Award of Excellence. He was also the first recipient of the Austen D. Warbuton Pioneer Award. (see the June, 1995 *Trail Blazer*)

From *The Trailblazer*, Volume 20, Number 4, November 1980

A 1911 CAMPAIGN PLEA "I WISH MA COULD VOTE"

by Henry Calloway

October 10, 1911 was a time of jubilation nationally and state-wide when California women won their long fought right to the ballot box. The passage of State Constitutional amendment No. 8 ended a struggle that had been underway in California since 1869.

This was accomplished by the vote of the electorate and not by legislative action. This special election was by no means a political landslide. The man on the street voted 125,037 to 131,450 for the amendment's existence by a margin of 6,413. San Francisco and Alameda Counties failed to pass it. The southern counties made the difference. Santa Clara County allowed the amendment 3000 votes in conferring upon women equal rights with men in governmental affairs.

According to the *San Jose Morning Times* of October 19, 1911, equal rights was already making headway. For the first time in California, two Santa Clara County women, Alice Vale, 37 and Mrs. Imogene Saveker, 52, then on the Great Register, were summoned to do jury duty.

California was now hand-in-hand with Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Colorado and Washington State already vested with full woman suffrage. "We couldn't make a worse mess of it than the men and we might do better," said one fair voter-to-be.

Yellow was the color signifying suffrage alliance as shop keepers and window dressers made the most of it. Merchants were wrapping parcels in yellow ribbon while railroads planned Yellow Specials to somewhere.

For the most, the "nitty gritty" of this right arrived on November 5, 1912 when women, for the first time in San Jose and California, had the opportunity of voting for a president of the United States; the presidential candidates, being Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. San Jose was reported to be wriggling with election fever as impatient lady voters, who now as full fledged American citizens, prepared their choices. According to figures released by the County Clerk, qualified registered voters numbered 34,121. Of these 14,604 resided in the city limits of San Jose and 19,517 outside the City: 18,787 were men and 15,334 were women.

Area fences and barns erupted with posters "Ma and Pa have gone to vote." In many precincts, flowers were a surprising addition to the occasion. Voting booths at 9th and San Antonio Streets boasted of moving outdoors later in the day under mild sunny skies after a wintry 6 a.m. opening.

The Burbank school house precinct reported how enthused neighborhood housewives, who were now voters, prepared trays of

tempting sandwiches with mugs of coffee for friend and foe.

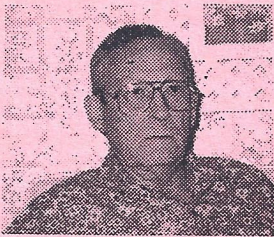
The Willow Glen precinct was rated as having the most serene polling site around. It was the Methodist Church where during voting lulls the election board was entertained with selections on the church organ. A number of women's organizations added a musical note or two with the placement of Victrolas and Grafanolas at voting locations.

Word was also spread insisting on nurses to oversee baby while mother attended to the proper marking of her ballot. Marking her ballot in haste in order to get back to her child could upset the political machinery of the nation.

With electioneering set at rest, the President elect became Democrat Woodrow T. Wilson and Thomas R. Marshal Vice President elect. Republicans swept Santa Clara County with every candidate on the local Republican ticket from Teddy Roosevelt down to supervisors given a large plurality.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bob Fisher



At the August meeting of your Board, a Memorial Gift was authorized in the Memory of Austin Warburton for his long service to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. A tape of the 500 Nations Video, which played recently on television, on the history of Native Americans will be donated to the Santa Clara County Library and will be available for withdrawal by the general public. The Native

Californians were of particular interest to Austin and were highlighted in this video. Recently, your Board authorized a gift in the memory of Henry Calloway for his many services to the Pioneers. This book will be given in his name to the California Room of the San Jose Library.

The upcoming quarterly meeting will be six months since I accepted the position of President and it has been a rewarding and enlightening experience working with dedicated and long serving members of the Board. They are working on several projects which will enhance and perpetuate our local history for the benefit of all who live in this area. However, we are still looking for someone who will serve as Treasurer for your Board. That person will support these projects by recording the income and expenses involved. The position is not a time consuming effort for anyone who is familiar with the operation of a checkbook, paying bills and recording the same. Someone in our membership has that talent and we do need your help.

See you Saturday, December 2nd, at Lou's Village.



TOURING WITH THE CALIFORNIANS

REGISTER FOR OUR WINTER TRIPS AT THE DECEMBER 2 LUNCHEON OR CALL NANCY HILL BEGINNING DECEMBER 4, MONDAY -FRIDAY, 9-12 A.M. GUESTS AND NON-MEMBERS MAY REGISTER BEGINNING DECEMBER 11.

DECEMBER 14, THURSDAY, CHRISTMAS AT THE CAMERON- STANFORD HOUSE AND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN OAKLAND- Leave at 9 a.m. Return 4 p.m. Price \$35..

The time has been extended to allow for a visit to the recently restored Oakland City Hall. The 1914 beaux arts building underwent an \$85 million renovation following damage from the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

JANUARY 18, 1996-THURSDAY-

MOFFETT FIELD & NASA-AMES RESEARCH CENTER

Leave at 10:30 a.m. return 4 p.m. Price \$19 Photo ID Required

As Moffett Field slowly fades into history, we recall the heyday of the dirigibles with a visit to the Moffett Field Historical Society Museum in the Landmark Hangar #1. Following our included lunch, we tour the modern day successor, Ames Research Center founded in 1939 as an aircraft research lab. It now conducts sophisticated projects involving its wind tunnel, flight simulators and advanced super-computing system.

FEBRUARY 24, 1996- SATURDAY-

WATSONVILLE QUILT SHOW

Leave at 9:30 a.m. Return 4:30 p.m. Price \$16

Traditional pioneer skills survive in the guise of the Pajaro Valley Quilt Association Annual Quilt Show at the Watsonville Fairgrounds. We will see displayed approximately 200 quilts, some old, some new, as well as a fashion show of garments made from quilted materials. Food booths are available for lunch on your own. We will also stop at the Desert Theatre Cactus and Succulent Nursetry plus one or two surprises!

MARCH 13, 1996 WEDNESDAY- SANFRANCISCO MURALS Leave at 9:30 a.m. Return 3:30 p.m. Price \$34.

The 1930's saw the flowering of mural art, a perfect vehicle for depicting the grand scale of California history. Our guide will be Masha Zakheim, whose father, Bernard Zakheim, was a prominent San Francisco muralist. Masha was featured on Bay Area Backroads a few months ago. We will see the 26 murals at Rincon Annex illustrating San Francisco and Northern California history and two Diego Rivera murals at City College and the City Club of San Francisco. The City Club, once part of the Pacific Stock Exchange, features stunning Art Deco architecture and decor. Lunch at the City Club is included.

1996 TRIP SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to all who participated. We received 70 responses

OUT OF STATE TRIPS-

There was sufficient response to offer the following trips:

SPRINGTIME IN MICHIGAN-MAY 14-23, 1996



Holland Tulip Festival, Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum, President Ford Museum, Mackinac Island, Grand Hotel, Sault Ste Marie, Bavarian Frankenmath and more. Brochure available at the December 2 Luncheon. Approximate price \$1949, including airfare, trip cancellation insurance, 9 breakfasts and 6 lunches & dinners.



CANADIAN ROCKIES-ROCKY MOUNTAINEER RAIL TOUR

Late September, 1996, for 12 days. Vancouver, Kamloops, Jasper, Columbia Ice Field, Lake Louise, Banff and more. Approximate price, \$2000 including airfare. Brochure available at the March 2 luncheon. Although we had sufficient interest for the Land of the Mayas Cruise, Regency Cruise Line has withdrawn that itinerary.

CALIFORNIA TRIPS

The strongest response was shown for Jack London Country, Laguna Beach Arts Festival/Tableau and Palm Springs. We are working on putting these trips together. We also received numerous helpful suggestions for one day trips. Thank you.

The Californians Tour Committee: Rose Crimi-Tour Director; Nancy Hill-Phone reservations (258-3449) M-F before noon; Fern McLaggan-Treasurer, 60 Palomar Real, Campbell, CA 95008; Helen Brooks and Pauline Hawkins-Luncheon sign ups.

The Argonauts invite you to participate in their Death Valley Trip, April 9-13, 1996. Call Fern McLaggan (371-9169)

GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS

The Sunshine Committee reports that cards have been sent to the families of the following members. Our Sympathies are extended to them all. They will be missed.

Henry Calloway on August 10, 1995

Meda Adams on August 29, 1995

Edna Zerkas on September 16, 1995

Susan Reed on September 22, 1995

Anna Olson on October 2, 1995

Prudence McClure

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

of \$7 a year are due and payable at the December meeting for the year 1996. Make your check payable to The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. Bring the check to the December Meeting or mail to Bob Johnson, 445 North 15th Street, San Jose, CA 95112. If you wish to have your membership card mailed to you, please include a self addressed, stamped envelope.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS ??

Notify the Membership Chairs, Bob or Irene Johnson as soon as possible if you move. The Post Office Will NOT forward your Trailblazer. It costs us 32¢ for every one returned and another 32¢ to remail.

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICERS

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David McKinney, 1st Vice President

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Jim Arbuckle, 2nd Vice President

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Rose Crimi, Californians Tour Director

408-293-0896

Nancy Hill, Tour Phone Reservations

408-258-3449 (M-F before noon)

Fern McLaggan, Tour Treasurer

60 Palomar Rd, Campbell, CA, 95008

Marshal —

P.O. BOX 8208 SAN JOSE CA 95155
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

PIONEER LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 1995
AT NOON LOU'S VILLAGE

PENINSULA BANJO BAND *17 BANJOES IN A* *CHRISTMAS CONCERT*

OVEN BAKED HAM
SALAD & ROLLS
FRESH VEGETABLES
HOLIDAY DESSERT
& COFFEE



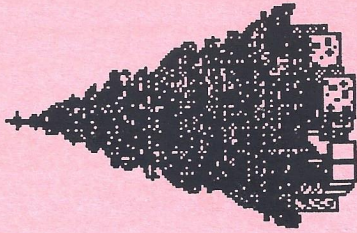
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