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Inside this issue:

Cattle Brands for Roberto Adobe	1
Community Planting at Adobe	3
June Quarterly Luncheon	4
San Jose's Prolific Movie Star	6
Pioneers Film Archive Now HD	8
How Mt. Hamilton Got Its Name	9
Evolution of an Essay	10
Sketch of San Jose Post Office & Earthquake	11
Reminder of the Cold War	13
New Pioneers Members & Report	14
Pioneers on TV Program	15
Time Travel	15
Pioneers Gone To the Golden Hills	15
2014 Board of Directors	16

Cattle Brands for Roberto Adobe & Suñol House

By Paul Bernal

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County is honored to have master blacksmith John Grafton donate two historically accurate cattle brands to the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House. Grafton worked raw metal into brands that match those used by Adobe owners Roberto Balermينو and Antonio Suñol. These branding irons will be displayed in the soon-to-open museum, along with their accompanying *fierros* (brand burned into leather or wood as part of a registry).¹

Grafton is a scholar cowboy who not only has lived the cattle life, but travels to learn historic leather craft, metal work, and woodworking. He has immersed himself into the ways of the *Californio*. Grafton sees his vocation as a continuum of self-

education. He learns historic technique by regularly traveling to Baja California. "I always find a treasure trove of information. I learn by reading, translating historical material written in Spanish, sharing information with other people doing historical research, and checking out museums and archives." Grafton maintains thousands of photographs of ancient craftsmanship that he has acquired during his educational journeys from Baja to Canada.

His encyclopedic knowledge mainly benefits visitors of Mission San Juan Bautista State Park, where he works the blacksmith shop. Along the years, the Mission has been rehabilitated with replacement parts. Unhappy with the inaccurate materials, Grafton is gradually replacing non-historic elements of the Mission with accurate replicas. Grafton is able to identify styles, markings, mechanisms, and dating elements of each



John Grafton at work in San Juan Bautista

door knob, latch, keyhole, hinge, window, and nail at the Mission.

The breadth of his work is evidenced by the fact that he not only renders nails, but has adorned an entire church. "Perhaps the most difficult project that I have done was the ornamental architectural ironwork for Saint Stephens Catholic church in Sacramento," said Grafton. "It involved a lot of fairly large-scale ironwork from one end of the church to the other, as well as gates and fencing outside. It was fun, interesting, and a great privilege for me."

(Continued on pg. 2)



Antonio Suñol Brand

¹Fierro is Spanish for iron. Spain, Mexico, and the United States all required irons to be registered in brand books.

Cattle Brands (Continued)

Grafton was born in Boise, Idaho, which was the closest town to his parents' ranch. His ranching family moved to Southeastern Oregon, and then British Columbia, Canada. Grafton reports, "I think that I probably used an anvil for the first time before I can even remember. All the ranches that I grew up on had anvils, used mostly for shoeing horses." As soon as he could sit on a horse, he earned his keep pushing cows at the back of herds. "As I got a little older, by ten years of age, I started working with agricultural machinery, as well as planting and harvesting forage crops, feeding cattle, and clearing land."

Grafton worked outside his family ranch as well, laboring at neighboring farms. "I think the Quilchena Cattle Company might have been about the nicest ranch that I have worked. It wasn't the largest ranch that I have worked on, but a nice place to work with an owner who lived on the ranch."



Rendering of Roberto's Brand

For a short time he managed haying machinery for the Douglas Lake Cattle Company in British Columbia. "But then I went on the cowboy crew and didn't work with machinery any more. After that I was sent down to Ecuador, South America, by the Peace Corps to work in large animal husbandry and range management." Upon his return to the United States, he became a peace officer in Sacramento, but kept his cowboy spirit.

Over the decades, Grafton became equally skilled in historic woodworking, leather crafting, and blacksmithing. Originally, his leather and wood work



Burning a brand into leather to make a fierro.

were for primarily utilitarian purposes, whereas most of his metalwork was for arts sake. Now that he is instrumental to the "living history" experience at Mission San Juan Bautista, he finds all of his work – leather, wood, and iron – evoke his artistic talents. Grafton is proudest of his replica Mission iron work that he rends with tong, hammer and anvil. He finds *Californio* craft to be rewarding because "it gives me the opportunity to delve into both folk artistic and historic traditions; it gives me the chance to bring to light beautiful stuff that had faded from our present day awareness with the passing of our ancestors."

From wood, Grafton can produce almost anything, including long-gone tools, bench screws, saddle trees, and guitars. Although making guitars was fun, Grafton had to give it up because he "had too many guitars laying around."

When Grafton is not making things, he is outfitting historic re-enactment campsites – with period cooking, working and overnight sleeping. Besides

entertaining the public, Grafton indicates another benefit: "stuff can be tried out and discoveries made in an experimental historical or archaeological sense. The knowledge learned from that "live" setting helps with making items back at the shop.

Exhibition camping is a lot of work though, and it demands some time and expense. Of course, I never fail to forget something important when I am packing up to go to an event!"

The Pioneers organization is thrilled to have Grafton participate in the creation of our new museum. Grafton thinks, "It is fantastic the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House will be made available to the community as a museum. I believe it is a great opportunity to provide quality *Californio* interpretation, which has not been adequate in our communities." ♦

For more information about the Mission San Juan Bautista living history program, go to www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=563.

The Suñol Branding Iron



Community Planting at Roberto Adobe

By Gayle Frank and Paul Bernal

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County were pleased to work with Our City Forest which coordinated an effort to furnish 120 shrubs and 6 trees for a March 15 planting at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House.

In 2013, Pioneers members Ken Machado, Jim Zetterquist and Paul Bernal wanted to improve the berm between the Adobe and Highway 280. Plants would bring many benefits to the historic site and to San Jose: noise reduction, erosion control, adding beauty to the hillside, improving the section of Lincoln Avenue upon which the Adobe stands, creating a community experience, and helping the environment by reducing pollution. Leaves help reduce air pollution by "capturing" airborne molecules, such as nitrogen dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and sulfur dioxide, while at the same time they are releasing clean oxygen.



Rock Roses, one of the plants added to the slope between the Adobe and Highway 280.

The Pioneers approached Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio with the concept of improving the steep slope. Oliverio connected the Pioneers with Our City Forest, who in turn brought in Caltrans and the Willow Glen Neighborhood Association. All worked together to quickly bring the concept to

reality. The steep slope between the Adobe and Highway 280 is now populated with various rose bushes, shrubs and trees. These include: 6 Cedar trees (*Dedrus deodora*), 9 Catalina Cherries (*Prunus illicifolia lyonii*), 101 Roses (*Rosa* "White Meidiland"), 9 Rock Roses (*Cistus x hybridus*),

(Continued on pg. 5)

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The Pioneers is a 501(c)3
non-profit organization



Volunteers are greeted by Pioneers President Ken Machado as they stand under the heritage fig tree on the Adobe/House patio.

Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Saturday, June 14th, 2014

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT

Banquet Room—1547 Meridian Ave. in San Jose

Make Reservations by Wednesday, June 11th

E-Mail "sccpioneers@aol.com" or call
408-554-7587 with your menu selection

**If, after reserving, you cannot attend the Luncheon
PLEASE call or e-mail to cancel your reservations.**

We have to pay for no-shows

Luncheon Presentation
**Updates on Mt. Umunhum &
New Almaden Air Force Station**

presented by
Basim Jaber

Notice: Luncheon charge is now \$30

Please make checks payable in advance to
California Pioneers and bring to Luncheon.

Menu Selections

Three Flames Special Steak

tri-tip steak topped with sautéed mushrooms

Greek Chicken

Both selections above served with red potatoes
and fresh steamed vegetables

Pasta Primavera

Veggies tossed with Penne Pasta and Marinara Sauce

All of the above served with Salad, Coffee and Dessert
No Host Bar for soft drinks, beer and wine

*Parking is limited in front of the restaurant; however, ample parking
is available in the rear and close to a separate banquet room entrance.*

About Luncheon Presentation

Get up to speed on the current events on Mt. Umunhum. Learn about recently discovered artifacts from the site. See fascinating new historical photos of the site and some of the recent demolition.

Hear about the lives of the intelligence service people who worked the station. Basim will also update us all on the status of the iconic and historic radar tower at Mt. Umunhum and efforts to save it. ❖

- Basim Jaber, Board Director-
Umunhum Conservancy, Inc. and
Historian/Archivist - Almaden Air Force Station

See page 13 for a short article by Basim Jaber

Fiscal Annual Report

The annual fiscal report for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County will be presented to the membership at the June annual general membership meeting. If anyone wants a copy of the report, they can contact the Treasurer at tpkearney35@att.net. ❖

History San Jose Exhibit

History San Jose's new exhibit, ***Shirlie Montgomery: Picturing San José Since 1938***, can be viewed at the McKay Gallery, Pasetta House, History Park, through December, 2014. The life of Shirlie Montgomery was a colorful one. From her love of photography, sports, and journalistic photography, she was in a unique position to capture local history. She passed away in 2012, leaving thousands of photographs from her collection. This exhibit will be augmented by photos from private collectors, personal items owned by Shirlie, and other ephemera of old San José. ❖

Planting (Continued)

6 Muhlygrasses (*Muhlenbergia capillaries* “White Cloud”), 10 Sagebrushes (*Artemisia californica* “Canyon Gray”), and 6 Cherry Salvias (*Salvia microphylla* “Maraschino”).

The planting of the slope is one phase in an overall landscaping project of the property. The Pioneers is committed to creating historically appropriate gardens that will surround the buildings. Through plants, the Pioneers will present a comprehensive outdoor museum that will complement the interior museum. Besides bringing beauty to the property, we will “communicate history” to visitors through our plants. For example, children will be invited to search for indigenous medicinal herbs on a “plant treasure hunt.”

The 80 volunteers who helped with the April 2014 planting effort included a large group from Bliss & Wisdom of Northern California. The Pioneers provided coffee and donuts in the morning and lunch was served after the event. Caltrans workers prepared the site for weeks in advance of the planting day, and when we were all done, Caltrans installed irrigation.



Photos: Paul Bernal

Volunteers listen to instructions given by “Our City Forest” on how to plant on the slope above the Adobe.



In addition to the planting, the Pioneers also joined the Adopt A Freeway campaign by adopting a stretch of freeway between Meridian and Bird Avenues. The Pioneers will collect litter and rubbish to keep our city clean. If anyone is interested in volunteering for this noble effort, please let us know.

The Pioneers thanks Councilmember Oliverio, Our City Forest, and all the volunteers who shared their time and effort to beautify and stabilize the slope next to our historic Roberto Adobe & Suñol House. ❖

San Jose's Prolific Movie Star

By Bill Cassara

Quick, can you name a person born in San Jose who appeared in over 400 Hollywood films? Can you name *anyone* who was in over 400 films? The answer is the now almost forgotten—Vernon Dent. He was borne of a colorful local family.

Vernon Dent was the grandson of Rawley Dent, a wealthy land owner throughout Los Gatos, Saratoga and with a fifteen acre parcel in Willow Glen. Rawley Dent was celebrated not only as an orchardist, but as a resident of the “Willows” for twenty-five years. The Queen-Anne style Dent house still stands at 1305 Willow Street, overlooking Willow Street Bramhall Park. Rawley had a son named William Evans Dent, born in 1874. William was actor Vernon’s father. William attended Willow Glen School.

After grandfather Rawley died in 1894, William opened the Dash Saloon in downtown San Jose. Vernon was born in 1895. William raised his new family in a home overlooking Saint James Park. That home site is now regrettably a parking garage.

William Dent was heavily involved in many community causes and became a founding member for the Fraternal

Order of the Eagles (the eighth Aerial in the nation) in 1899. The original charter is displayed with his signature at the current Willow Glen lodge location.

Eleven year old Vernon attended Horace Mann School during the day and found employment after school doing menial tasks at the new Empire Theatre.

On January 5, 1907 an accident occurred at the Empire Theatre that almost stopped the show. While leaning against the railing in the balcony, it gave way and precipitated Vernon down into the only vacant chair. There was almost a panic in the audience, but then Vernon yelled out “I’m alright.” The crowd settled down in a good mood and did not know Vernon broke his leg in the fall. The incident was reported the next day in the *San Jose News*: “Boy Falls in Seat from Theatre Balcony.” In a scornful appraisal of the new theatre’s lack of safety, the article identified the young lad and his father. Talk about “breaking into show business,” this might be one of the most dramatic entries imaginable. This young troupier was subsequently embraced by the actors as one of their own.

Mirroring the rest of the national mood, this was a time when the temperance movement was very influential in San Jose, and Vernon’s father’s saloon was targeted as a den of vice. To counter the perception, Vernon sang to the bar patrons with his dad proudly proclaiming that along with food being served, his place provided “a family atmosphere.”

Vernon’s parents became divorced about this time and then the unthinkable happened, Vernon’s father was murdered in a love triangle. The suspect shot William Dent through the heart, shot at the woman, then turned the gun on himself committing suicide. The surviving woman told all during the Coroner’s Inquest.

The topic was juicy enough around town, but this was not just a local story. The name Dent was considered a “household name” in every community because the widow of President Ulysses S. Grant was still alive; her maiden name was Julie Dent. Newspapers across the country picked up the story and identified William Dent as a “cousin” to the former First Lady. *The Oregonian* irresponsibly identified William Dent as “Ulysses S. Grant’s nephew.”

(Continued on p. 7)



Vernon Dent, left, reacts warily to the Three Stooges; Curly, Moe and Larry starring in one of their comedies.

Movie Star (Continued)

In a lesson of local journalism practices, the two local rival newspapers went at it against each other. The *San Jose Mercury*, who employed the suspect, omitted the unflattering fact that the murderer was of their employment as a “solicitor.” The *San Jose Evening News* made sure everyone knew who was responsible for the murderous act, and where he worked. To counter, the *Mercury* printed a damning full page editorial to demean the *victim!* Using William Dent as an example to all who followed the path of vice, the last paragraph was particularly outrageous: *The worthless and wasted life and sordid, tragic death of William Evans Dent is such about which the plain truth should be told for the sake of its warning lesson to the young men of the community in which Dent has ignobly lived and died.* That was the last straw for Vernon’s mother. She moved her family to Oakland and began life anew.

Vernon participated in thespian pursuits while in high school and was an usher at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Oakland. Vernon was mixing it up with very prominent people in show business and he was hired to promote the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exhibition that would take place in San Francisco. Toward this end, Vernon wrote two published songs, and then was rewarded to work as a song pitcher and greeter during the fair.

This led to a job as a cabaret singer at Seal Beach, California. There, a film comedian named Hank Mann recruited him as a “heavy” (a foil) for comedy contrast. This led to Vernon actually starring in his own brief series for Folly Comedies in 1921. Vernon’s characterization was very similar to what Roscoe “Fatty” Arbuckle was doing on screen. It was probably not a coincidence that Vernon patterned himself after Arbuckle. After all, they were of the same build and



Vernon Dent at age 25
Listed as blue eyes, 5'9", 215 lbs.

Vernon had the opportunity to witness Arbuckle sing illustrated songs at the Unique Theatre in downtown San Jose before the 1906 earthquake shook it to dust.

On May 3, 1922 Vernon came back to San Jose to film a sequence for the prestigious Thomas Ince production “Soul of the Beast.”

The *San Jose Mercury* toasted Vernon “as the boy who made good.” The film featured a circus with local children and continued shooting in the Santa Cruz Mountains and Felton.

By the mid-1920s Vernon was hired by Mack Sennett to bolster his stable of stars. Vernon was cast opposite a new-comer to film, Harry Langdon. Sennett paired the two actors numerous times.

One 1925 comedy in particular, “Saturday Afternoon,” is hailed by scholars as a precursor to the team of Laurel and Hardy.

Big things were planned for Vernon Dent when he moved over to Paramount Pictures for the “Talkies.” He was a natural. Vernon was assigned to write and act in a Bing Crosby short called, “Please.” The theme song was Crosby’s signature tune for years. Vernon played the comedy rival against Crosby’s character; they hilariously competed against each other in a singing exhibition.

By 1936 Vernon was hired by Columbia Pictures in their stock company of support comics. The crown anchor of the comedy shorts department was The Three Stooges. From 1936-1954 Vernon appeared in various roles with the Stooges and is remembered fondly by their fans. Vernon was in more of their comedies than any other actor.

The last nine years of Vernon’s life were marked by darkness, a result of diabetes. He died in 1963 at the age of sixty-eight, in Hollywood.

(Continued on pg. 8)



Vernon Dent in suit and tie, holding the door.

Pioneers Film Archive Now in HD! By Bill Foley

Thanks to two state-of-the-art film scanners, new lightning-fast computers, and the hard work of our volunteers, the Pioneers Film Archive now scans motion picture film in 1080p HD! That is four times higher resolution than that of a standard television.

The Pioneers has posted several films online and the detail is striking. License plates, street signs, prices at gas stations, and, of course, faces, appear in incredible definition and allow us to dive deeper into historic detail than ever before. Rose Marie Bebe remarked, these films have become “teaching experiences,” readable documents that allow us to dive deeper into historical detail than ever before. Undated films can be precisely cited, and unknown locations are more recognizable.

For example, a film of a Santa Clara Parade in the late 1940s donated by Larry Guerrero was cleaned and scanned. Further inspection of license plate tags on the dignitaries' cars and distant print on banners on the floats allowed it to be precisely dated to October 17, 1948.



One of the new state-of-the-art film scanners, the Retro-16, purchased by the Pioneers Film Archive, now scans film in 1080p HD.

In addition, Tim Peddy located a valuable find for the Film Archive: a pristine and working Betamax player. This obsolete format may not see much demand today, but in the past it was an active and popular means of archiving television program. The archives of History San Jose, several local museums, and local libraries have many Betamax tapes, which we can now back up and convert to more accessible digital formats. This means you can expect a wider range of historic films to appear online soon.

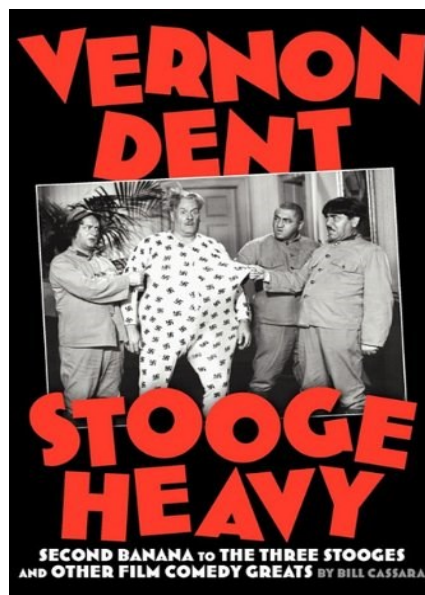
The Pioneers Film Archive is, as always, on the lookout for historic home movies of Santa Clara Valley. If you have such film, or know of any, we would love to help preserve them for future generations. We can give you DVD copies of your films, repair old damage to them, and store them archivally to ensure they last for decades.

You can see our collection online at youtube.com/sccpioneers and visit our Film Archive blog at pioneerFilms.tumblr.com. ❖

Movie Star (Continued)

According to his widow, Vernon always wished he could return “to the beautiful valley” he grew up in. He is buried at Forest Lawn in Glendale, California. His headstone is marked “A Gentle Presence.” Interestingly, Vernon made sure his parents were reunited in death by adjoining graves at Oak Hill Cemetery in San Jose.

It would have pleased him to know that San Jose has a Dent Street, crossing Branham Avenue, named in honor of his family's fruit-growing business. ❖



Bill Cassara is a third generation San Josean who grew up in Willow Glen. He served as a volunteer docent in 1975 at the new “San Jose Museum” under the supervision of Clyde Arbuckle. After graduating from San Jose State University, he began a long career with the Monterey County Sheriff's Office. Cassara has written two books: “Edgar Kennedy – Master of the Slow Burn” (2005), and “Vernon Dent - Stoooge Heavy” (2010). Cassara returned to San Jose to write another book about film comedian Ted Healy who had his professional start at the Jose Theatre in 1918. “Ted Healy - Nobody's Stoooge” is scheduled for release by Bearmanor Media later this year. These books are available at Discover San Jose, Bearmanor Media Publishing, and Amazon.com.

How Mt. Hamilton Got Its Name

By Gayle Frank

In 1860, the California state legislature established the authorization for the first official state geological survey and selected Josiah D. Whitney for the newly created position of Chief Geologist. Whitney appointed Professor William H. Brewer as Chief Botanist to conduct a thorough and accurate geographical survey of California. Brewer later served as first Chair of Agriculture at Yale University. Brewer in turn chose the German-American topographer, Charles F. Hoffman, who mapped in detail the state's surface features during their field explorations. In later years, Hoffman served as Professor of Topographical Engineering at Harvard University and eventually worked as a mining engineer in California, Nevada and Mexico.

The most ambitious geological survey ever attempted generated much information about the State that was previously unknown. The California Geological Survey inspired the creation of the U.S. Geological Survey in 1879.

This first California survey was documented in Brewer's journal, *Up and Down California, 1860-1864*. It included the earliest known written account of a trip to the top of Mount Hamilton. Among many adventures, the journal describes the team's exploration of what is now known as Mount Hamilton.

When first arriving in the area, Brewer says, "The Santa Clara Valley is the most fertile and lovely of California." Climbing the surrounding mountains gave Brewer and his team "a capital chance to see this part of the Santa Clara Valley." He added, "It was perhaps twelve or fourteen miles wide at San Jose, an almost perfect plain, very fertile, a perfect garden, and much of it in higher cultivation than any other part of California." During their study of the valley, the survey team set up camp under old oak trees at 21-Mile House, a popular rest stop south of San Jose.



William H. Brewer (1828-1910)

Brewer and Hoffmann planned to climb the peak just east of San Jose because it appeared to be the highest point in that section of the Diablo Range. Rev. Laurentine Hamilton accompanied the men, being Brewer's good friend when both men resided and worked in Ovid, New York. Hamilton was, at this time, a clergyman at the San Jose Presbyterian Church and served as Superintendent of San Jose Schools from 1862 to 1864.

The three men began their 13 mile journey on August 26, 1861. There were no trails to follow as they crossed over the first ridge, a wide valley and then a second ridge, reaching an elevation of almost three thousand feet. A deep canyon prevented the team from easily reaching the peak. They were forced to leave their mules and travel on foot for about three miles, reaching the summit just after 4:00 pm. During the final ascent, Brewer and Hoffman, carrying heavy survey instruments, fell behind Hamilton, who charged up to the summit, threw his hat up in the air and shouted, "First on top, for this is the highest point!" The day was clear and the view spectacular, with vistas beyond San Francisco and southerly to Monterey. They approximated the altitude of the mountain at 4,200 feet.

The team left the peak at 5:00 pm and reached their mules after sunset. Clearly, the way back would be long and risky in the dark. Brewer wrote, "...night closed on us among a labyrinth of hills and canyons twelve miles from camp." The team thought it best to give "their mules the bridle and let them find the way back." Remarkably, the mules, carrying the men and equipment, navigated over steep hills, narrow ridges, and through treacherous canyons to arrive at camp just before midnight. Brewer states that the men were relieved and proud that they had stayed healthy after the journey in spite of the cold night air and the lack of coats or vests.

Days later, Brewer and Hoffmann searched through records and maps but were surprised they could find no previous name attributed to the mountain. Brewer reports in his journal, "I made diligent inquiries then and later, both thereabouts and elsewhere. Indeed any definite information about the interior of that chain was curiously scanty." Next, they proposed the highest peak to be named after their boss, Josiah Whitney, but Whitney declined. He may have been waiting for a more significant peak - the 14,505-foot Mount Whitney named in 1864. Consequently, Brewer

(Continued on pg. 10)



Charles F. Hoffmann (1826-1913)

The Evolution of an Essay

In 1990, George J. Espinola (1961-2010), the successful architect and author, submitted an essay for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County Essay Contest about the designs by early prolific architect, Frank Wolfe. His essay that won first prize was entitled *Frank Wolfe and the Prairie Style in San Jose*. That prize encouraged Espinola to pursue further research and eventually publish a book in 2004, *Cottages, Flats, Buildings & Bungalows, 102 Designs from Wolfe & McKenzie*, a book contributing to the awareness of San Jose's historic resources and to the preservation of remaining buildings.

After fourteen years of research and many lectures, Espinola was considered the expert on architects Frank Wolfe

and Charles McKenzie, who partnered in San Jose from 1899 until late 1910.

Espinola grew up near the historic San Jose downtown and developed an appreciation for the beautiful homes and buildings of yesteryear, especially the styles of Wolfe and McKenzie. Not finding documentation on their early designs, Espinola set about to learn more. In a Los Gatos library, he became aware of a pattern book of homes, *Book of Designs*, published by Wolfe and McKenzie in 1907, that included photos and floor plans of 102 of their structures. After finding the locations of 79 of the designs from the original book of patterns, researching the history of those homes with significant help

from Bonnie Montgomery, and interviewing family members of Wolfe and McKenzie, Espinola's book was enthusiastically received in 2004.

Two years ago Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC*SJ) hosted a popular tour of prairie homes designed by Frank Wolfe and his son Carl Wolfe during 1911-1920. This year PAC*SJ is presenting a tour of Wolfe & McKenzie homes on August 23rd. Espinola's book has been an inspiration and a great help in finding the homes and providing information on their history and design.

Could it be that all this interest and activity of Wolfe and McKenzie designs evolved from an essay submitted to the Pioneers back in 1990? ❖

Mt. Hamilton (Continued)

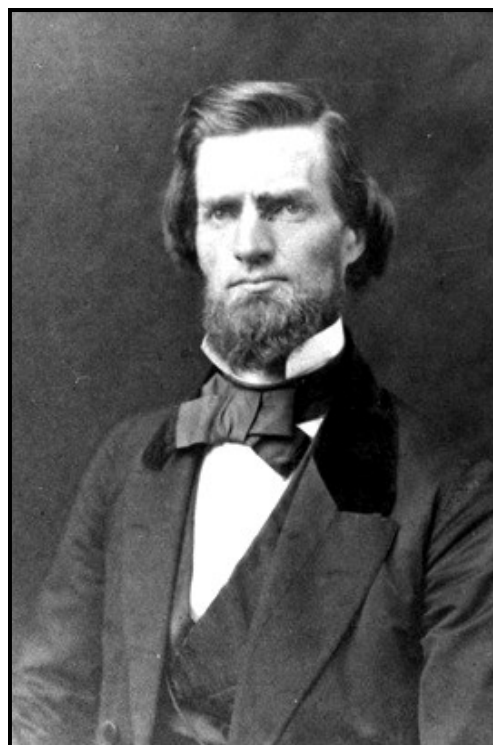
and Hoffman decided to designate the highest mountain east of San Jose as Mount Hamilton after their friend Rev. Laurentine Hamilton. After all, on their expedition, Hamilton was the first to race to the summit and claim his stake.

Further research later identified the Spanish name Sierra de Santa Isabel for Mount Hamilton; the highest point was originally called Mount Isabel. In 1895 the U.S. Geological Survey found a peak two miles southeast of Mount Hamilton that was a similar height (then measured at 4,193 feet) and officially named it Mount Isabel.

All three men from the Mount Hamilton expedition were honored with peaks named after them: first Mount Hamilton; then Mount Brewer in the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park; and Mount Hoffmann, a high peak in central Yosemite National Park. Brewer also had a rare spruce tree, *Picea breweriana*, named after him.

Laurentine Hamilton later moved to Oakland and founded the First Unitarian Church of Oakland. He died suddenly while delivering a sermon. ❖

Primary source: Up and Down California in 1860-1864; The Journal of William H. Brewer: Book 2, Chapter 4; Book 5, Chapter 1.



Laurentine Hamilton (1826-1882)

San Jose Post Office & 1906 Earthquake—A Sketch By Jim Campbell



The history of San Jose would not be complete without relating the 1906 earthquake disaster. This drawing of the San Jose Post Office illustrates its destroyed tower.

The 1892 structure was the first federal building built in San Jose. Constructed with locally-quarried sandstone blocks from the Goodrich Quarry, it is an excellent example of the Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style. The building housed the main post office until 1933, became the San Jose City

Library between 1937-1970, and ultimately was transformed into the San Jose Museum of Art in 1971. A new, modern wing was added in 1991.

The building was designated a California Historical Landmark (#854) in 1972 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

Willoughby J. Edbrooke designed the post office, officially opening in February, 1895. The walls are three-feet thick with steel reinforcements.

When the tower was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake, 45 feet worth of sandstone fell to the ground.

In 1908, the tower was restored, but not the vaulted roof cap. A rare, three-faced clock designed by Nels Johnson was installed. This Century Tower Clock, one of only five in existence, is powered by gravity. Its 600-pound weight and cables must be cranked every 3 to 4 days. It is an early high-tech instrument built in San Jose and still tells time for us today.

(Continued on pg. 12)

Post Office & Earthquake (Continued)

The bell tower was meant to be rebuilt because Johnson added a 1,700 pound McNeely Bell, designed to ring in a belfry above the clock. Currently, the bell cannot be heard outside the building and citizens have forgotten about the historic clock inside. Historians and preservationists are anxious to complete what the citizens of San Jose started 100 years ago. Information on the clock tower restoration is available at www.sjclocktower.org. It's About Time!

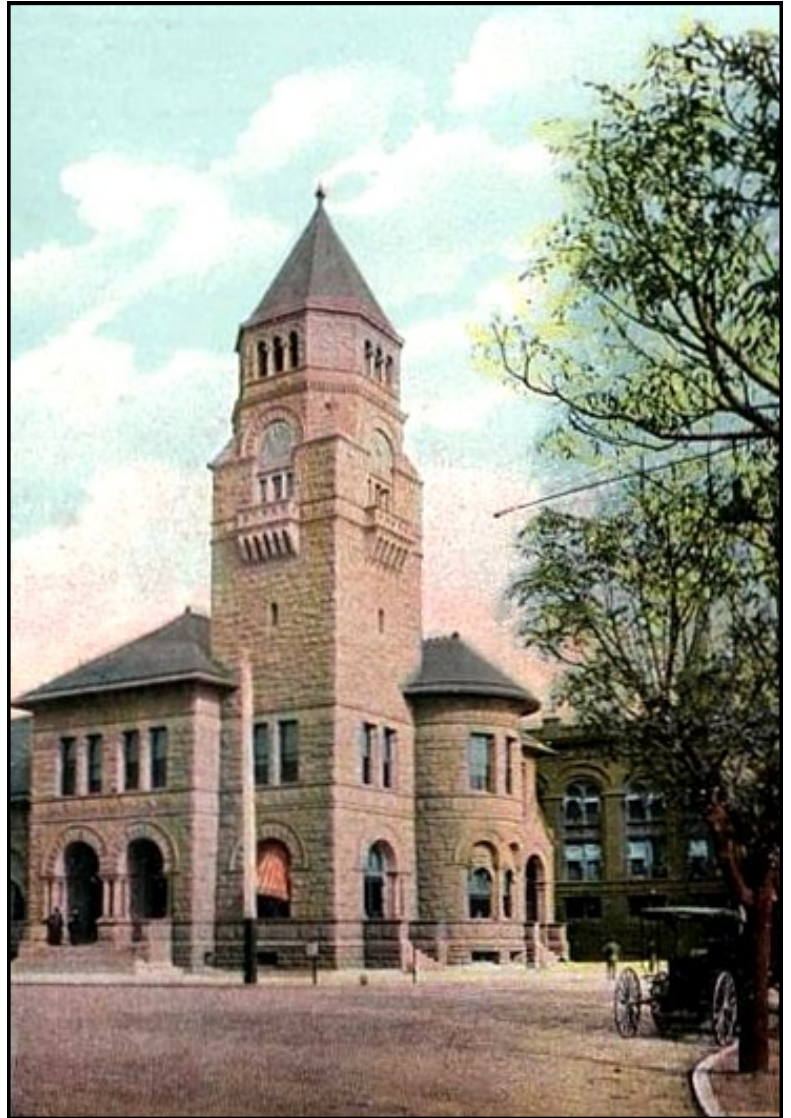
The Earthquake in San Jose

On the morning of April 18, 1906, at 5:13, the ground rocked and swayed, causing many buildings to collapse and instantly burst into flames. The great earthquake was caused by a movement along the San Andreas Fault with an intensity felt nearly two hundred miles away.

The severity of the disaster was made evident by falling walls, crashing roofs, and toppling chimneys. Many homes were damaged, but the greatest overall loss was in the downtown business district and Agnew State Hospital. The three-story Phelan Building collapsed, burying three people. Schools, churches and government buildings were damaged. In San Jose the quake took 16 lives and injured many more. Had the earthquake come a few hours later in the day, the loss of life would have been greater. Children would have been in school, offices downtown would have been bustling with people, and the streets would have been filled with pedestrians.

The city was crippled. Water mains were broken; trains, streetcars and most transportation came to a halt. Telephone and telegraph communications were cut off. However, by April 19, the city water was flowing again and by April 24, gas service had returned along with telegraph communications.

Early on, San Jose turned its attention toward providing aid and relief to refugees from San Francisco. Thousands were aided by a Relief Committee established in the Trinity Episcopal Church with food, clothing, shelter, medical assistance, and transportation. Temporary wooden buildings were erected to provide homes for refugees, accommodating about 300-400 persons. A hospital was established at the J. W. Chilton and Company's packing house.

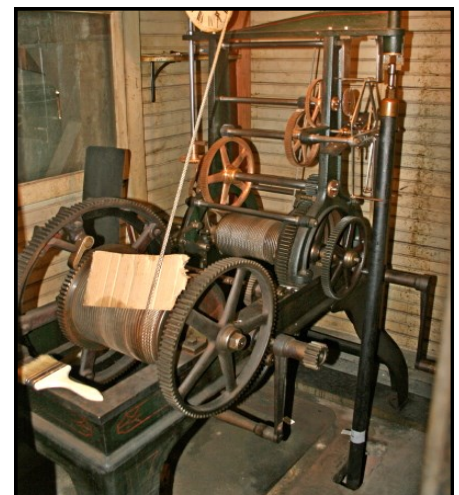


San Jose Post Office with Clock Tower, 1882-1906

The Vendome Hotel provided cots and blankets for 200 people.

As the weeks went by, the city began to rebuild. Within two years there would be no sign of the 1906 rubble in downtown. San Jose was back in business but the tragedy was far from forgotten. ❖

(Photos: www.sjclocktower.org)



The intricate gears that keep the tower's clock running accurately.

A Cold War Reminder By Basim Jaber

The former Soviets from the Cold War era mapped the world for their needs, highlighting tank-friendly roads, military and airport sites and important buildings. Maps like the one below of the San Francisco Bay Area contain meticulous detail and are rather involved to produce. It's not as easy as translating a USGS topographical map.

Key elements included in this map are radar stations like Almaden Air Force Station atop Mt. Umunhum. The station was in place to protect against the capable threat that the Soviets posed. The Soviets had the technology to attack and/or invade, yet the United States had

even better technology to detect such an attack. This underscores the importance and significance of early warning radar stations and the role they played in providing a blanket of protection for national air defense.

Only one station building remains atop Mt. Umunhum. It is the iconic radar tower that once supported the Air Force's largest ground rotating radar ever built (the AN/FPS-24 long range search radar). It is the last vestige to remind us of the importance it served during a very trying time for the Bay Area (and the rest of the country). Please help donate to save

the radar tower. Visit www.UmunhumConservancy.org for details. All donations are tax deductible.❖

*Basim Jaber,
Board Director - Umunhum Conservancy, Inc.*

*Historian/ Archivist - Almaden Air Force
Station (Mt. Umunhum, CA)*

*Founder - USAF 682nd Radar Squadron
Veterans Association*

More information at www.AlmadenAFS.org



**Сан-Франциско, 1980 style. A detailed map of the Bay Area made by the former Soviets.
The black lines suggest tank routes**

Source: <http://burritojustice.com/2012/06/27/the-russians-arent-coming-to-%D1%81-%D1%84/>

Welcome New Pioneers Members!

Bill Blockie is the brother of Pioneers Board member Bev Blockie. He lives in San Jose and is a marketing manager. He lists Al Cheffers as one of the family's pioneer ancestors.

Mary J. Hulbert is a native of Scotland who came to California in 1947 as a war bride. She says she is retired but many of us know she is still in the office everyday as the manager and owner of Diamond Laundry in Downtown San Jose. Her daughter Rosaleen Zisch is a Pioneers member.

R. Douglas Moore is a native San Josean and worked in real estate. His California ancestors were A.G. Schoenheit (a druggist), A.A. Schoenheit arriving in California in 1852 (an orchardist and insurance sales) and Elizabeth MacLeod (orchardist) in 1880. Douglas joined the Pioneers at the Loomis Level. Thank you!

Gordon P. Patnude is a native Californian and lives in San Jose. He is the nephew of Pioneers Board member Melita Kelly. Gordon is a retired network architect. His California ancestor is Don Jose Maria Hernandez. Mr. Patnude submitted an interesting family tree with his application in order to credit all of his pioneer forbears.

Lloyd William Walker is a San Jose native, retired from PG&E. He now lives in Campbell. Lloyd's California ancestors are Gertrudes Peralta (1779) and John Hassler (1856).

Allen and Sue Weitzel are interested in volunteering at the Paulson House. Allen was the Director of Merchandise and Games at Frontier Village and is now retired. They are related to the Cottle family; Flora Cottle was a great-grandmother. ❖



Would you like to **go green** and read the Trailblazer online? Do you toss the Trailblazer after reading it? Why not save paper and receive an email notification and link to read the newsletter online? Just notify Gayle Frank at GaylefrankCA@gmail.com and you will receive an email with the Trailblazer link as soon as the newsletter is ready. Using less paper means saving trees and reducing water consumption from paper manufacturing.



**Membership dues were owed
on January 1st, 2014**

Membership Report

The membership dues for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are due on January 1st every year. If you haven't paid your annual dues for 2014, you may pay them at the June luncheon or you can mail them to CA Pioneers, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA. 95155.

You will see the various benefits and categories of membership if you go to

CaliforniaPioneers.com and select "Membership Information" from the menu on the left. Additional donations or higher membership levels are always appreciated. And please don't forget the Pioneers in your estate planning.

If you have questions, please contact April Halberstadt at 408-293-2860 or email her at aprilhalb@gmail.com. ❖

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County Membership Categories

Individual	\$25
Family Level	\$45
Loomis Level	\$75
Lifetime Level	\$250
Arbuckle Level	\$500
Younger Level	\$1000
Murgotten Level	\$5000

Pioneers Featured on Television Program

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County is featured on the television show "In Our Community."

Host Bill Bascom interviewed Immediate Past President Paul Bernal about the Pioneers and its many projects.

"In Our Community" is a regular program of station KMVT based in Cupertino, California. The show is broadcast on cable locally, and via the internet worldwide.

The interview covers topics such as the Pioneers furniture loaning program, "In Grave Danger" program, our Hacienda Cemetery, the Paulson House Museum, and the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House.

Included in the taping is brief footage from the Pioneers Film Archive, illustrating some fun action in bygone Santa Clara County, specifically Gilroy and the City of Santa Clara..

The program will air every Monday in May at 4:00 pm. KMVT is accessed through Comcast channel 15 and UVerse channel 99. This outreach is in line with the Pioneers goal of supporting and celebrating History Month annually in May.

You can also watch it online by going to You Tube and searching for "In Our Community Judge Bernal" or go directly to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjQDUaDVwQ>. ❖

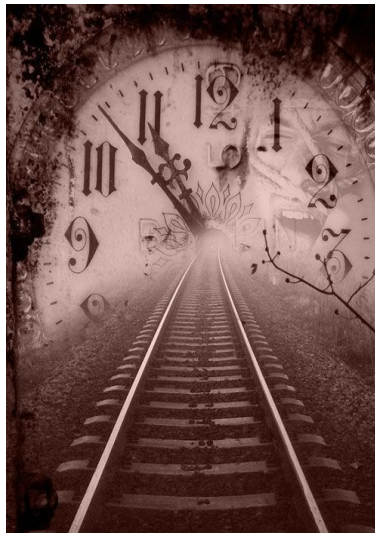
Time Travel

San Jose, 1899: Normal School girls were protesting against vaccinations in the arm and under sanction were permitted to have them on their legs.

Santa Cruz, 1902: Clergymen deplored covered bridges as temptations to "spoon" in buggies.

San Jose, 1902: A new invention known as a "cash register" was attracting attention among local business men with its demonstration here. The machine had a total and detail adder and change drawers, all adding to the efficiency of the operation.

San Jose, 1911: Chief of Police Kidderd urged a flashlight and telephone system be initiated in the police department as a means for better communication among patrolmen.



January 1911: For the first time in the history of aviation in this country, a live bomb was dropped from an aeroplane on Camp Selfridge Field at San

Francisco and exploded. The experiment was made by Lt. M.S. Crissy of the Coast Artillery.

San Jose, 1913: Councilmen made it known there was only four hours in each twenty-four when the city would be without the service of a patrol wagon. It was explained only two patrol wagon drivers were employed and they were on duty only ten hours each which left four hours every day not covered.

San Jose, 1927: Purchase of the Mt. Madonna Park of 2,934 heavily timbered acres of rolling land in the Santa Cruz Mountains for use as a County Park was assured when the Board of Supervisors declared to buy the land for \$60,000.

(News from San Jose Newspaper archives)

Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills



Robert G. Fisher



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Madeline Streight, Sunshine Chair, 408-259-4422 or
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Our Mission is to promote, preserve, and celebrate
the history of Santa Clara County and the heritage
of its past generations. We collect, archive, educate
and encourage research and scholarship.