

Volume 10

Fall 1970

Number 4

### BY-GONE EVENTS

I thought it might be appropriate to give you a glimpse back into the minutes of the Pioneer Society of Santa Clara County and permit you to enjoy a few high lights of by-gone years.

Organized June 22, 1875, with a charter membership of 274; Judge A. L. Rhodes was elected our first President. Alexander P. Murgotten was our first Secretary and Editor of the "California Pioneer" our first publication. Hon. David Belden delivered the address at our first quarterly meeting, held in the old Music Hall. It was an outstanding speech with a maximum attendance.

Among the great number of memorable social events which our Society has held, one of the earliest was the celebration on Admission Day, September 8, 1877. "The Pioneers of San Francisco, the recently organized Native Sons of the Golden West and the Mexican War Veterans were our guests. Following a parade unique for its size and the grandeur of its floats, all adjourned to a barbecue where, in a trench 200 feet long, 3 feet deep and 3 feet wide, 27 hogs, 25 sheep and 16 beeves were spitted under the direction of Uncle Ike Branham, assisted by Henry Lux and many others."

"On June 26, 1897 the Pioneers and their friends held their annual picnic at Alum Rock Park. Secretary Murgotten acted as Master of Ceremonies and the program was opened with 'The Pioneer March' especially arranged by Fred Brohaska. President Jonathan Coykendall gave the address of welcome, followed by Tillie Brohaska singing 'The Old Folks at Home,' J. E. Gordon singing 'The Old Oaken Bucket' and David Wight with 'The Cameron Clan.' Bill Lake delighted the audience with a cornet solo.

Dancing was then in order with such familiar numbers as the Virginia Reel and the Tucker Quadrille. The members spent a very pleasant day without a single accident to mar the day's festivities."

On December 20, 1899 we sponsored a three-day celebration. "It was one of the most spectacular ever held in a country noted for celebrations. The capitol of California was reproduced and Mayor Charles J. Martin presided over the event."

"On November 17, 1946 in the Hotel Sainte Claire - we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the New Almaden mine by Captain Don Andres Castelleros. President Allen P. Lindsay presided at the banquet. The speaker was Dr. Milton H. Shutes whose subject was: The Oldest, Richest, Longest-lived, Most Drama-and-History-Laden Mine in California."

August 24, 1952 we held a picnic at the old Alma School as a final tribute to two historical villages, Alma and Lexington. "The affair was presided over by President Ada Fox Carabal; Clyde Arbuckle was the speaker of the day. Many old timers were present including retired railroad men who had operated trains through Los Gatos Canyon. Lexington was an old stage-coach station and rest stop. This area is now under water, but the names are not forgotten--now we have Lexington Reservoir and Alma Bridge over Los Gatos Creek above the reservoir."

When Mrs. Albert Luhrman was President, she and Mr. Clyde Arbuckle began the Society's bus tours. "These trips were one day affairs taken to nearby historical spots with a narrator giving the history of places along the way."

During the Presidency of Percy H. Thompson, the Society began its sponsorship of an annual scholarship in the Social Sciences Department of San Jose State College. "The recipient must prepare a paper on some historical aspect of our County and present it at our annual meeting."

When Austen D. Warburton was President he sparked the publication of THE TRAILBLAZER, which is published quarterly. "In this members can recall old family anecdotes, write historical articles about the county and special events of the Society." Arthur M. and Marjorie B. Fisk have been its co-editors since its inception.

While Minnie L. Clark was President it was suggested that the Society sponsor a PIONEER TOWN in San Jose. "Arthur Fisk was appointed chairman of this committee, many meetings were held with the County Board of Supervisors and the Santa Clara County Fair Association for

14 acres at the county fair grounds, but it was finally decided to ask the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission to help locate another site." Spearheaded by Theron Fox the commission was able to secure 15.6 acres in Kelley Park, adjacent to the Japanese Tea Garden where an Historic Museum Complex will eventually be constructed, which will include our Pioneer Town.

The succeeding presidents have been: Miss Alice Vetterle, Mrs. Jessie E. Black, Mr. Laurence E. Bulmore and Mr. Leland M. Boruck.

All these activities have provided interest and growth in the Society. Our membership is now over 1000.

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### JUMPING FROG JUBILEE

Curtis Bailey

On May 15, 1970 we left San Jose on a California Pioneer Greyhound Bus Tour to Angels Camp to witness and enter the annual event to perpetuate Mark Twain's famous short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," his first published success.

Arriving at Sonora we were assigned rooms at the Modern Manor Motel for the two nights. After lunch we were taken on a four mile trip to Columbia, once one of the largest and most important mining towns in California. Gold was discovered there on March 27, 1850, and the vicinity proved to be one of the richest placer mining areas ever found. Between 1850 and 1880 approximately \$87 million in gold was extracted.

Saturday morning we left our motel for the drive to Angels Camp to enter our two frogs; "Pioneer No. 1" and "The Californian." The frogs perform on two platforms located in a hollow adjoining a sloping hill, grassed and shaded by trees where the audience watched the leaping amphibians. We were told that approximately 2,000 competed and after watching them perform for a couple of hours we believed this, as it was a continuous show.

Our Greyhound representative, Cliff DiFranco had difficulty lining up our entrees but finally succeeded. Pioneer No. 1 and The Californian toed the take off pad; although Cliff stomped hard enough on the platform to disturb the other entrants, Pioneer cared less about winning the prize money and only managed 9 feet in three hops. He probably had a stomach upset. The Californian had his Breakfast of Champions and really tried hard, after 3 hops his total mileage added up to 13' 1", not enough to be in the money. Splash Down from Concord won the competition with a total mileage of 19' 1". It is

not known whether he took a saliva test to determine whether he had been doped or not, but for the present he is the International Champion. Long Shot from San Jose won third place with a jump of 17' 9".

Adjoining the frog platforms was the Rodeo Arena where we were able to be entertained with cow-boy and cow-girl performances. An aerial performance by a mother and her three daughters above the main building gave the audience many thrills. At 3:30 the bus took us back to our motel for a rest, and left again at 7:00 p.m. for more frog jumping; many of us preferred to stay.

The next morning having seen enough of the Frog Jubilee we headed for more interesting spots in the Mother Lode Country. We cruised through the town of Angels Camp and headed for Murphys where gold was discovered in 1848. We enjoyed the museum at Murphys and the antique store, where we saw the clock taken from the Beans Building at First and Santa Clara streets, now the location of Roos-Atkins. The mass of machinery it required to function was beyond ones imagination. The buildings restored from the gold rush era were similar to the ones in Columbia and gave us all an idea how the people lived while searching for gold.

Just in case you might be curious to know what became of the two frogs we entered; The Californian was drawn from a hat by one of the tour group to be given to a grandson to live another day we hope, but poor Pioneer No. 1 was last seen headed for the swamp near the platform, his head bent in shame.

\* \* \*

#### A PIONEER RAINBOW

Henry J. Calloway

A recent afternoon Clyde Arbuckle was my personal tour guide through the secluded peace of the Pioneer Section at Oak Hill Cemetery, that dates back to 1839.

The enthusiasm and knowledge that Mr. Arbuckle has of this area is astonishing. Each marker of an old settler suddenly becomes an intimate friend or some near kin.

Names are etched here that ring a familiar sound throughout our city and county; possibly a school, a street, a road, a building or a vanished landmark.

The original wooden markers on some have weathered away and are replaced with stone by friends who hadn't forgotten the heroic struggle or contribution to the building of our town or valley a long time ago.

Under the protective oaks and cypress trees, some older than the pioneers rest here; we followed the vener-

able narrow horse and buggy driveways of California's oldest secular cemetery to say "howdy" to some old friends. There are many; we paused at a few names:

G. E. KRAHENBERG 1828-1855. Native of Germany who gave San Jose an industry and a past time; he founded the Fredricksburg Brewery.

JEAN JACQUES VIOGET 1799-1855. Native of France, was a drummer boy in Napoleon's Army. Mr. Vioget surveyed the sleepy little village of Yerba Buena in 1839, now known as San Francisco.

MONTGOMERY MAZE 1836-1875. Only known Pony Express rider to settle in this valley. He rode his seventy-five mile portion of the pony route in the Nevada area - Maze was an officer in the Civil War. He worked in San Jose as a City Clerk.

GEORGE F. BAKER - SENATOR, 1849-1882. Born in Ohio, was principal of Santa Clara High in 1871. Resigned that year to become County Superintendent of Schools. In 1880 he was elected to the State Senate.

JACOB HOPPE 1815-1853. San Jose's first American Postmaster. He died in the explosion of the steamer Jenny Lind on San Francisco Bay.

JOHN M. OGAN 1835-1915. He named Alum Rock Park.

BENJAMIN CORY 1822-1896. First medical practitioner in this county. Member of the first State Legislature. Member of the first Common Council 1851-1855.

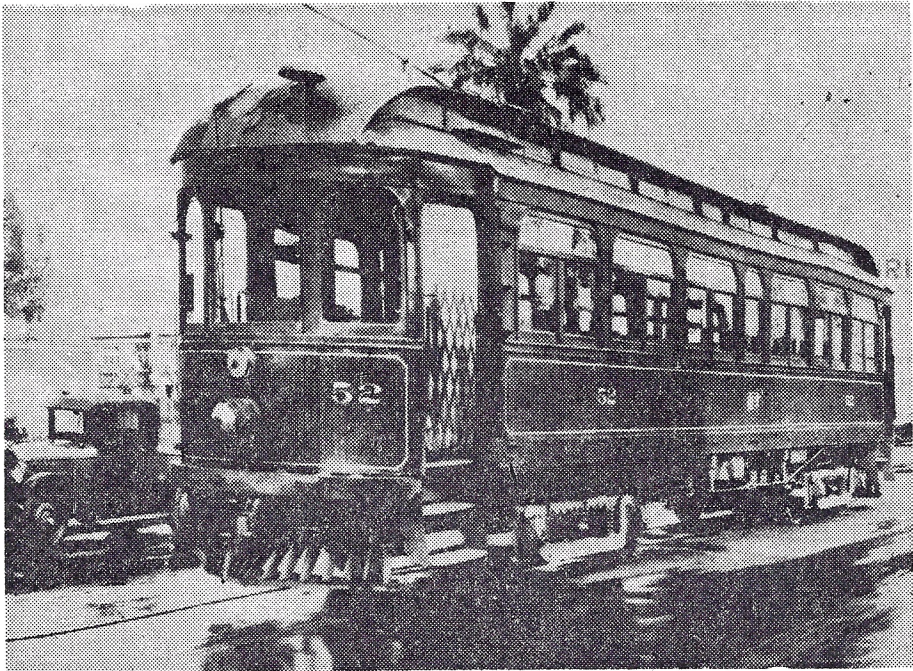
JOHN TRIMBLE 1828-1887. Mexican War Veteran and miner. Had over 300 acres of farmland on the San Jose-Milpitas Road. In 1853 went home to Missouri and returned with a bride and 350 head of cattle which he drove (not the bride) to his valley ranch here.

LEVI GOODRICH 1822-1887. Born in New York City. Was a carpenter and builder, had studied architecture. Came to San Francisco around Cape Horn in 1849. Paid his fare on a broken down sailing craft to Alviso, then walked to San Jose. Levi designed and built the Bank of San Jose - San Jose Normal School - The Knox Block - County Jail and Court House. Among his many achievements were the Monterey and San Diego County Court Houses.

JAMES A. CLAYTON 1831-1896. Born in England. Practically walked to California as a hunter for a wagon train. In 1861 he was elected County Clerk.

DR. A. B. CALDWELL 1819-1876. The man who founded Nevada City, California. Caldwell operated several trading posts in that area in 1849 - once called "Caldwell's Upper Store" after he opened a lower store. Many of the

(cont'd. p. 8)



## RAPID TRANSIT

### BIG RED

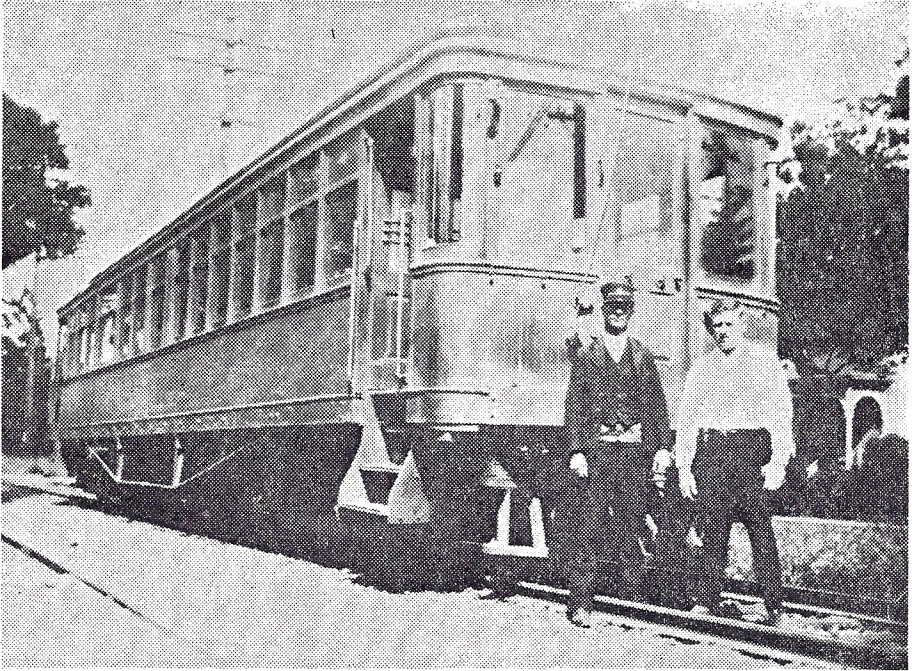
Arthur M. Fisk

With all this talk about RAPID TRANSIT, San Jose had it at the turn of the century. Remember the Peninsula Railway and its great crimson colored electric interurban cars of yester-year? It was smogless too!

The Peninsula Railway was a subsidiary of the Southern Pacific. It was often called the "Blossom Line," because of the many fruit trees in spring bloom along its lines and the well publicized blossom tours scheduled each year.

The Peninsula Railway completed their line to Los Gatos in 1901 and extended it to Saratoga and Congress Springs in 1903. The Campbell cut-off was built in 1904 and in 1907 they had finished their line via Los Altos to Mayfield and Palo Alto.

The Big Reds departed from the Southern Pacific station on Bassett Street at Little Market on high speed schedules for Los Gatos, Saratoga, Congress Springs, Monta Vista, Los Altos, Palo Alto and on the east side



## 70 YEARS AGO

to Alum Rock Park.

The original railroad to Alum Rock Park was a three foot gauge steam line, built by the San Jose & Alum Rock Co. In 1894 it was taken over by Hugh Center. In later years it was bought by the Peninsula Railway, changed to standard guage track and the "Big Reds" hauled the crowds to the open air depot in the heart of the park.

In due time the inroads made by automobiles caused many abandonments. The last Big Red to run from Palo Alto to San Jose was in 1929. The Campbell cut-off in 1932 and the Saratoga line in 1933. The great depression had taken its toll. The legal funeral for the company was June 12, 1935, when all its property was conveyed to the Southern Pacific Company.

Over half a century ago the Peninsular Railway gave this area true, mass, rapid transit that was inexpensive and exciting. It complemented the steam service offered by the Southern Pacific. With its demise, ended a nostalgic era, remembered only by a few oldtimers.

\* \* \*

doctor's patients and customers later suggested the name Nevada City. He came to San Jose in late 1849.

DR. JOHN TOWNSEND 1804-1850. He came with the Townsend-Murphy-Stevens party of 1844 that heaved and pushed the first wagons through the Sierra Nevada. The Townsend party opened a route that is near the present Highway 80, the Donner-Truckee route, a trail that once knew the slow pace of exhausted but determined pioneers. Dr. Townsend was the first American to practice medicine in California.

JOHN H. ADAMS 1820-1878. Native of Illinois--Settled on a ranch near Gilroy in 1853--The Adam School District is land he donated for that purpose. Wild, indeed, it was not uncommon to find bear and lion tracks in the school yard. Adams was elected Sheriff in 1863 and held office for three terms. He and his posse helped to run down the notorious Tiburcio Vasquez. He supervised the bad man's hanging in 1875.

SAMUEL A. BISHOP 1825-1893. Bishop, California is named for him. He helped form Kern County and eventually landed in San Jose seeking new ventures, like founding a San Jose bank and a land office. In 1867 he obtained a franchise to build the San Jose and Santa Clara Horse Car Railroad. Work started in August 1868 and the following November the horse cars were operating. Later Bishop converted to electric; that became the first electric street railroad in America. Mr. Bishop was a member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County.

THIRTEEN survivors of the DONNER migration, among them little PATTY REED who lived this tragic ordeal as a child, are engraved here. Heroes like WILLIAM H. EDDY and WILLIAM McCUTCHEN who were heroic in their rescue operations. Spanish names--some long since faded, are part of this Pioneer Section.

A vivid past lingers in the heart of these San Juan Bautista Foothills. The efforts of this westward movement is beyond price and beyond praise. Here, it's the end of the rainbow, it's where our Pioneers are at peace.

\* \* \*

Arthur E. Navlet sends in the following contribution: "I have often wondered what relationship exists between those who are members of the Society at present and the actual Pioneers who must have come to California before 1850 to qualify for membership? My step-grandfather Pierre Honore' Lutzen was a member of the Pioneers of Santa Clara County. My grandmother came by ship around the horn from Paris in 1852."

## BY-LINES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Leland M. Boruck

During the year it has been our good fortune to enjoy several tours conducted by Effie Hawkins. Recently we traveled twenty-eight hundred miles in thirteen consecutive days visiting points of historical interest in California, Nevada, Arizona and Utah. Accommodations and meals were excellent. When thirty-eight people return home tired, but happy, you know the leadership on the tour was tops. To Effie Hawkins we doff our hat in appreciation of your informative remarks during the sojourn and for your wonderful leadership which made the trip a delightful one. May this well earned tribute encourage you to continue as leader of our tours.

And now to the Pioneers, may we wish each one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthful New Year.

\* \* \*

## YUKON TERRITORY

Ruth Heath

"2239 MILES FROM SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA. SANTA CLARA COUNTY PIONEERS," this was the sign placed by thirty-eight travelers--members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and their friends at Watson Lake, Yukon Territory on August 8th. The much enjoyed, 28 day trip to Alaska by way of the Alaska Highway was led by Effie Hawkins. Bus driver was Taylor Comer, a favorite.

Watson Lake, Mile 635 on the world famous Alaska Highway is the place where tourists pause to view the famous forest of sign posts, placed by travelers from all over the world who are anxious to have their home town represented.

The project was started by a lonely G.I. who was one of the thousands who were helping construct the Alaska Highway in 1942 as a military operation during World War 2. He put up the name of his home town and others followed, so that today they are an established part of the local scene with the Watson Lake Lions Club maintaining them and the Yukon Territorial Government Information Center located beside them.

The sign was painted by Santa Clara County Pioneer, Norman Hollingsworth, who, with his wife, Lillian, were members of the tour group.

\* \* \*

Dear Marjorie and Arthur: I went to the old San Jose Normal and did my teacher's training there. As I look back it was fun--part of growing up. Margaret E. Schallenberg was principal and we always said "Margaret E.,

with her Ph.D." In those days not too many Ph.D.'s. She was later Margaret E. Schallenberger McNaught -- of course she has passed away. We must have many in the Pioneers from Normal School Training School. Bessie McCabe was kindergarten instructor. San Jose State Chapel was built in her honor. I remember I gave a donation for it. Miss McCabe was a lovely person and I knew her till the end. Sincerely, Inez Green Getchell.

\* \* \*

#### LOOK FOR IT HERE

When you change your address please let us know. \*\*\*

1971 DUES may be paid to our financial secretary, Madeline Smalley at our quarterly meeting December 5, or mailed to 1110 Morse St., San Jose, Ca. 95126. \*\*\*

The Social Club of our society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday afternoon of each month. For further information call Mrs. Lovene Luhrman, 292-0070. \*\*\*

Our program chairman, John Blackmar will present another fine Christmas program at our next quarterly meeting in Lou's Village, Saturday, December 5th. All members 85 years of age or older will be honored on this occasion. If you have reached the 85 year mark please notify Martha Bulmore, 2221 Coastland Ave, S.J., 95125. \*

Those of you who were present at our last quarterly meeting will recall seeing an enlarged replica of our seal at the east end of the head table. This was created by our assistant editor, Henry Calloway. Our appreciation to you "Hank" for a fine job. "CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY." \*\*\*

The Santa Clara City Council has authorized \$10,000 to move the old home of Samuel Jamison on Coffin Road near Bayshore built in 1866, to the Triton Museum grounds. The building is a good example of the architecture of the 1860's and will be used for display of artwork and also receptions and other functions. \*\*\*

A California State Historical Landmark for "Pioneers in Electronics" has been dedicated in Palo Alto at Chandler Avenue and Emerson Street in honor of Dr. Fuller's efforts in this field during World War I. \*\*\*

Why does everything have to progress or retrogress? What we need is a long period to just gress! \*\*\*

Times change and we change with them but never in the way the staff of the TRAILBLAZER feels about wishing you all a Hearty Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and all good wishes for the coming year. \*\*\*

## WELCOME

Congratulations to our new members: Loretta J. Brown, Genevieve M. Case, Laurence G. Case, Helen G. Estruth, Colin B. Hay, Ralph B. Gilman, Dorothy S. Gilman, Zola M. Hill, Doris E. Hubbard, Emma Johnson, Helen Kuesel, Ethel Lewis, Anna Meleyco-Krietsky, Stella Righetti, Rose A. Smith, Elizabeth B. Smith, Esther M. Talbot, Grace D. Vince, Gertrude R. Wagner and Guadalupe M. Wohnert.

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## BEYOND THE SUNSET

Bessie E. Coleman

January 19, 1898 - July 21, 1970

Frances E. Otto

August 17, 1909 - August 18, 1970

Edna Long Rodrigues

February 15, 1893 - August 20, 1970

Olin S. Lake

May 14, 1908 - August 26, 1970

Salvatore Troia

December 10, 1884 - September 3, 1970

Gold H. Wheat

October 14, 1891 - September 16, 1970

James Aloysius McCabe

January 13, 1884 - September 23, 1970

Elfonzo Ray Parks

December 8, 1894 - September 27, 1970

Ruth I. Nelson

August 24, 1894 - October 5, 1970

Walter P. Taylor

December 27, 1891 - October 19, 1970

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

THE TRAILBLAZER

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Editor: Arthur M. Fisk, 390 N. Winchester Bv. Santa Clara

Associate Editor: Marjorie B. Fisk

Assistant Editor: Henry J. Calloway

Staff Artist: Ralph Rambo

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Officers for 1970-71

- President . . . . .Leland M. Boruck
- 1st Vice President. . . . . Jack Blackmar
- 2nd Vice President. . . . .Lynn L. Vermillion
- Recording Secretary . . . . .Marjorie Rusht
- Corresponding Secretary . . . . .Esther Adams
- Financial Secretary . . . . .Madeline Smalley
- Treasurer . . . . .Curtis Bailey
- Directors: Clyde Arbuckle, Laurence E. Bulmore, Martha L. Bulmore, Ramona W. Moxley, Henry C. Stout, A. Bernice Van Gundy, Austen D. Warburton and Howard L. Worcester.

\* \* \*

SEND APPLICATIONS for membership to Bernice Van Gundy, 561 Fuller Ave., San Jose, Ca. 95125

SICKNESS and DEATHS please notify Martha Bulmore, 2221 Coastland Ave., San Jose, CA 95125. Phone 264-2104.

BUS TOUR information for members of the Pioneer Society may be obtained from Mrs. Effie M. Hawkins, phone 295-2868, 9 a.m. until 12 noon.

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