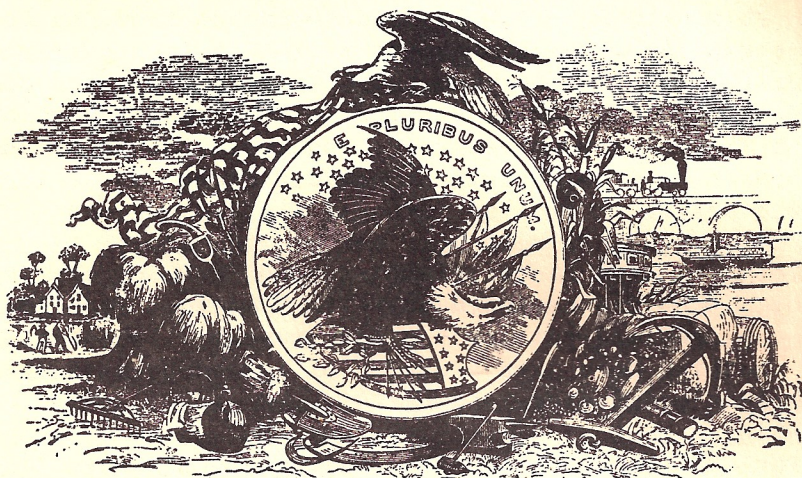


QUARTERLY BULLETIN
OF THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY
INCORPORATED 1875

Vol. 16

February 1976

Number 1



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HAIL '76 A NATIONAL EXPERIENCE
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WHALE BLAZERS

1776 - Certainly an amazing date: We added this group of commemorative digits and came up with a winner, "Twenty-One."

1775 - On the Pacific side Spain's enthusiastic soldier, Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza was establishing a land colonization link between Mexico and California. On the Atlantic side Britain's rebellious colonists were receiving scads of gun powder and other liberty-making stores from none other than Carlos III of Spain.

An historical plaque in San Jose pays homage to Thos. Fallon, an adventurous Irish saddle maker, for raising the first American flag over San Jose on July 14, 1846. This Bear Flag Revolt leader and one time San Jose mayor (1859-1860) was also adept at raising and capturing the pretty eyes of the community, a pastime which dissolved two of his marriages. The gallivanting eye of our roguish flat raiser was to prove costly. A San Jose jury in a breach of promise suit awarded \$10,000 to a local dejected heart.

Young crusty Lt. William Tecumseh Sherman of Civil War note, who was assigned duty in Monterey from 1847-1849, is credited with this nippy comment, "What is San Jose? Nothing more than a string of low adobe huts garnished with red peppers and garlic."

Feb. 21, 1928 - At the University of Santa Clara George Washington was being eulogized by the noted historian, Dr. Frederick J. Kinsman. "He was the greatest statesman of all time." the authority said. "He was a daring horseman, a good wrestler and swimmer. He had practically no sense of humor. He talked but little and his usual air was one of melancholy that stopped just short of sadness. He was often imposed upon, that he loaned thousands of dollars to people who had no intention of repaying - and in his last will he cancelled all these debts."

Mark Twain about age... "Two seconds would be an age if you sat on a hot stove."

H.C.



OUR COVERED WAGON BABIES

California's Diamond Jubilee had a special meaning for San Joseans back in 1925. The townsfolks claimed an exclusive order of historic remainders, her covered wagon babies!

Mrs. Sierra Nevada Smith was born in the covered wagon of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. John Martin Ogan, as the family crossed Utah, California-bound from Kentucky and Missouri in the summer of 1853. Her eight brothers and sisters were born back east and christened with good Bible names. However, Mother Ogan decided some special name for the little one must be chosen to commemorate the unusual circumstances of her birth. So, being just about to cross the Sierra Nevada, and liking the soft Spanish sound of the barrier, she named her daughter Sierra Nevada. The family settled in Berryessa.

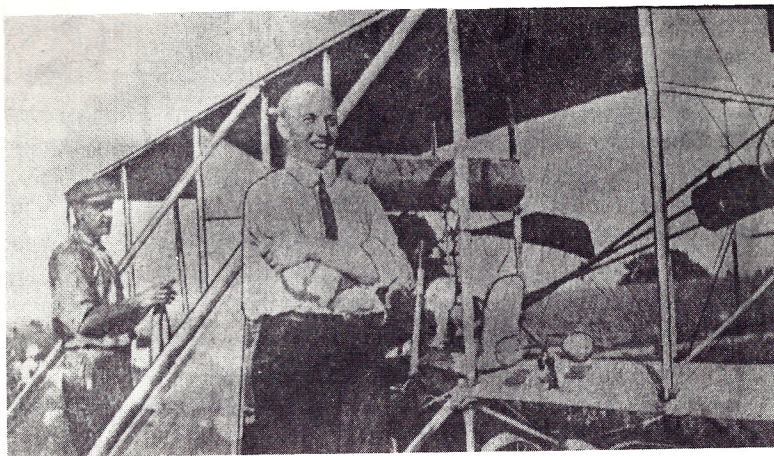
Another prairie schooner arrival was Miss Katherine Desert Travis born at the last sink of the Humboldt River in Nevada in 1853. The Travis group became lost in the snow but escaped the fate that plagued the Donner Party. Miss Travis was a member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County.

Mrs. Louise Herrington's maternity ward was also an ox-drawn wagon on the desert near Salt Lake in 1853. Mrs. Herrington related how her father approached a war-minded Indian chief. So impressed by her dad's bravery the Indian leader ordered his followers not to molest the emigrants. Her father was J. W. Lane, a San Jose horse dealer.

Little Truckee Nevada Steward put in his appearance near the banks of the Truckee River on Sept. 23, 1869. This site-named tike missed being a Native Son by nine hours. Steward's Iowa parents experienced a number of Indian episodes although they were never actually attacked. Truckee Nevada was a grocer at 196 Race Street.

Although our venerable cradle wayfarers have long since left the scene, the distinct wheel ruts left by these memorable "baby buggies" still endure.

EARLY BIRD



In high spirits Bob Fowler, early San Jose pilot, was taking a break by his box-kite-like plane in El Paso, Texas. He was flying from California to Florida in 1911. This pioneer aviator's desire to fly was hastened by a \$50,000 prize offered by a newspaper publisher for the first 30-day cross-country flight. Aviation year books recognize Fowler as the first to accomplish such a trip. The plucky youth who had never been in a plane when he heard the offer was fanatically determined to fly and pocket the award. Fowler hurriedly left for Dayton, Ohio where from Orville Wright and associates he received a five day session in aeronautics with only three hours of flying instruction.

Upon "graduation" he bought a Model B Wright plane powered by a 30 HP 4-cylinder motor. The awkward looking craft was a hodgepodge of bamboo, pig iron, fabric, and wire. Fowler impatiently assembled his consignment in Sacramento. Flying to San Francisco was his first solo flight. The obsessed Fowler was now ready.

He took off from Golden Gate Park for the Sierra assault but his frail machine failed to muster the altitude and he cracked-up near Colfax. Unhurt Fowler dismantled his airship for a Los Angeles wheat field take-off and a preferred southern route. A harrowing forty-five days later on Feb. 8, 1912 he reached Jacksonville, Fla., after 72 hours of actual flying time. Weather, mechanical problems and unknown handicaps of the times were the cause of repeated delays. Fowler at no time had the use of prepared landing fields. Accounts state, of his 66 stops a good one-third were forced landings. After leaving Yuma he was to establish a new airplane world's record by remaining air-borne 4 hours and 26 minutes. Fowler traveled 230 miles on that hop. Of the entire stretch he changed spark plugs 96 times. Persistent Fowler made the entire trip with the same plane and motor.

His rival, C. P. Rodgers, who made the flight from east to west, landed in Pasadena utilizing several planes and motor changes to complete the distance. However, Rodgers and Fowler never qualified for the prize money as they both overshot the 30-day period. Fowler's evidence, his flying machine, now rests on cherished ground at the Henry Ford Early Birds' Museum in Dearborn, Mich.

Robert Fowler was not to be grounded for long. He sought out other challenges. On April 27, 1913 this now veteran in flying circles became the first unfeathered creature to fly the Isthmus of Panama, a crossing lasting 55 minutes for the 52 miles. Buzzing aloft with Fowler in the pontooned plane was moving picture cameraman, Ray Duhem of San Francisco. According to Fowler this was the first time such a thing was done.

Among other laurels The Smithsonian Institution at Washington, D. C. recognizes Fowler was the first man to fly across the United States.

This one-time San Jose Martin Ave. resident served as president of the San Jose Flying Club. Organizations and schools always listened intently as Bob Fowler was never at a loss for words as to the future of aviation, his favorite subject. "Remember, planes weren't like they are today," he said in 1936. "We had to fly 'em in those days."

Several heritage-minded civic groups in 1949 pushed a movement to change the expanding San Jose Municipal Airport to Fowler Field. Perhaps there is still time to enshrine the memory of our pioneer ghost flyer in the sky.

H.C.



On April 6, 1917 a war authorized by Congress and Pres. Wilson was upon us. The entire valley responded. Training camps opened; men flocked to fill them. The first of five Liberty Bond Drives shifted into gear by May 14th with every drive going "over the top." Sinister words like "slacker" and "disloyal" circulated. Liberty Bonds were urged as wedding gifts. Slogans met everyone: "Fight or Pay," "Enlist or Contribute," "First to Organize." Ladies in bib overalls armed with paste buckets and brushes posted bold banners: "For Every Fighter a Woman Worker."

A "Shoe Leather Campaign" was organized to canvass business and residential areas to inspire bond subscriptions and war service drives. It opened with ear-splitting whistle blasts, horns, fire, church and school bells.

Newsboys mobilized. Al Herr, a blind "newsie," rallied to the cause with a bond pledge.

Liberty Day, April 24, 1918, marked the biggest and most novel parade ever viewed in the county. Stores closed and banks stayed open for bond pledges. Tears held back for cheers as War Mothers marched by. A plane circled the city. Every profession, craft, agricultural association, service club, youth, fraternal, religious group and foreign society was out to "beat the Kaiser." Tillie Brohaska played patriotic piano airs for hours at First and San Fernando with Willie Petree's violin aiding the bond appeal. The city council authorized the sale of the Alum Rock Meteor as Liberty Bond pledges continued to mount.

War gardens were initiated. All weeds and trash vanished as home ground and neighborhood lots prepared for increased food production. Fire depts. flooded lots. The city furnished horse teams to plow as many lots as possible. The Bean Spray Co. offered a tractor for larger areas. The spade became a weapon as patriotism bloomed on every plot and lot.

Patriotic and dramatic store windows by Stull & Son-nicksen, Frank Smith, Trinkler-Dorhrman, Harts, Denegri's Drug, The Arcade, F. W. Gross & Son, Prussias, Owl Drug and Reich & Lievre were constant reminders of a duty.

Paper drives realized tons of paper for pounds of money. The Lyric Theater was handing out admissions to any boy or girl bringing in 10 lbs. of paper or more. A wounded soldier, George Goldworthy, thrilled a capacity house at the Victory Theatre. "Men are being killed, murdered, over there," he pleaded, "but the war is being fought right here."

Thrilled hearts worked harder as more and more answered the call. San Jose and her county were not to be labeled slackers. Prayers and tears were shared with those whose loved one would never come home. A toll taking flu epidemic and a disastrous rainfall which ruined a prune crop failed to dampen nationalism.

At last Our Valley waited as the last gun was silenced. The sedate town went wild with the arrival of the peace declaration, The Armistice. Auto sirens, factory blasts, bells, fireworks and music heralded the great event. A parade three miles long formed. Alex Sherriffs led a patriotic song atop the Garden City Bank. City Hall declared Nov. 12th a holiday. Influenza was forgotten. Johnny was coming home! It was 1918 and that's the way it was.

H.C.



Anthony R. Sapena

The December 6, 1975 Quarterly Membership Luncheon was another successful meeting with 464 members and guests attending. The Valley Choraliers, a singing group of the San Jose Branch of the American Association of University Women, gave a most entertaining Christmas performance. The collection for Valley Medical Center was \$210. This sum and the children's gifts that were donated by our board members were presented to the Valley Medical Center "We Care" Committee by Trailblazer editor, Henry Calloway.

Clyde Arbuckle, our Program Chairman, has scheduled a most interesting speaker for our March 6, 1976 Quarterly Luncheon. Bring a friend or prospective member.

All members are urged to help recruit new members for our organization. Our "Who Are We" sheet can be a big help in this effort. We must continue to grow, and in this way bring new people and ideas into our organization. This is necessary if we are to carry out our objectives of preserving our historical heritage. To the officers, board members and members, I take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts and cooperation which made our December 6th membership luncheon a success.

RESERVATIONS FOR OUR QUARTERLY LUNCHEON MEETINGS

For the meeting on March 6th use the post card which is enclosed with your Trailblazer.

For the June 5th meeting and all future meetings phone your reservation to a number which will be given in the next issue. This phone number will be a Professional Telephone Answering Service and will be available from the day your Trailblazer is mailed until the day before the Quarterly Luncheon Meeting. There are 10 lines answering this one phone number so you should have no trouble making your reservation. With your cooperation this system should work entirely satisfactorily.

Look For It Here

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

(This will be presented to the membership at that March 6th Quarterly Meeting for approval.)

New active members upon payment of \$1.00 initiation fee will have the option of paying the \$3.00 dues or purchasing a \$45.00 life membership (\$75.00 for husband and wife subscribing at the same time).

The same life membership privileges are extended to present members, with the unused '76 dues being deducted.

An all out search is in full swing for all 1926 San Jose High graduates. A 50-year reunion is tentatively slated for May. Call 266-8289 or 295-0622

An overdue courtesy is extended to Kathryn Monague and Helen Haug, who without fanfare do such a grand job decorating the tables for our quarterly luncheons -- to Lois Ralston on being selected as one of the five outstanding seniors by the Volunteer Action Center. She gives heaps of time to the Odd Fellow's Home in Saratoga. Lois was an English language consultant for the public schools of Okayama, Japan.

Former Yeoman Ora (Hirsch) Merritt recently donated her rare naval uniform to the Navy Marine Corps Bicentennial Museum on Treasure Island. Ora was an enlistee in 1917, serving with the U.S. Naval Intelligence in S.F. This bustling non-stop retired school teacher is a life member of San Jose Memory Post 399 American Legion, Past Commander of the once all woman Calara D. Noyes Post. She was State Vice Commander for American Legion Women in 1947-48. Ora is currently service officer for Memory Post. Hospital visits and keeping alert to a forlorn comrade's needs is this Pioneer's tireless way of serving society.

LUNCHEON CANCELLATION: If you must cancel your luncheon reservation, phone 241-4436 or 294-1786

TRAVEL FUN --- Our "Californians" tour director continually taps out-of-the-way air-cruise destinations or closer-to-home bus trips including special events. For exciting details write for the current brochure. THE CALIFORNIANS, 100 Serena Way, Santa Clara, CA 95051.

FOR TRAVEL RESERVATIONS call Ruth Gross, 294-9830 from 9 AM to noon, Monday through Friday.

LUIS MARIA PERALTA AND HIS ADOBE is a superb bicentennial contribution to local history and is just off the press. Author Frances Fox gives a rewarding account on Peralta who was "Mr. San Jose" under four flags. Ralph Rambo mixes his talents in making this a historical nugget.

Another delight is SAN JOSE'S ST. JOSEPHS, An absorbing 80-page history on the first church of California's first civil settlement - soft cover - well illustrated, by Agnes Solari and Margaret Zaro.

Outlined as a Bicentennial Project is the refurbishing of the Robert Bulmore House in New Almaden. This once semi-ghostly remnant of the quicksilver days will be converted to a research library.

Come March 30, 1976 some 20 leather-jacketed saddle sore horsemen are scheduled to encamp at S.C. University. The group is re-enacting the De Anza venture of 200 years ago. "We're going to be 100 per cent authentic," says Joseph Adamo of Cupertino.

Oh, by the way, the proud custodian of the once dreaded 1860-66 Henry rifle is County Service Officer Dick Cox. "Belonged to my great grandfather, William Cox who ox-wagoned across the Plains, settling in Saratoga in 1852. The 16 shot .44 rim fire lever action weapon picked up quite a reputation." cracked Dick. "The Confederates called it, 'that damned Yankee rifle that is loaded on Sunday and fires all week.'" Dick's dazzling relic, with only a few minor changes went on to become the famous Winchester.

"DUES shall be payable annually in advance in January of each year." Please remit to Donald Tustin, Fin. Sec., P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155.
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Welcome New Members

Albert J. Bassoni
 Bette Bassoni
 Millie Battaglia
 George E. Brackett
 Sara H. Belmonte
 Edward L. Briggs
 Hazel Buchheister
 Alfred Casaletto
 Mildred Casaletto
 Baldassare Cefalu
 Frances Cefalu
 Joseph Cirigliano
 Lena Cirigliano
 E. James Corbin
 Pearl E. Corbin
 John N. De Rose
 Sue De Rose
 Anthony P. De Vito
 Augustine De Vito
 Lucille E. Druesne
 Arlene Ficke
 Harold Ficke
 Edna Gertrude Freed
 Mettalee F. Geesa
 Arthur P. Grevstad
 Fred J. Grevstad
 Helen Grevstad
 Maxine Grevstad
 Josephine Hermle

Hiro Honda
 Carolyn D. Jensen
 Esther M. Johnson
 Irene B. Jones
 B. Jean Kuhns
 Louise Lyda
 Lucy C. Lyons
 Ardeth Montesano
 Charles Montesano
 Florette Muzzio
 Marie Muzzio
 Genevieve Navarra
 Salvador Navarra
 June L. Oxford
 Janice Paull
 Eleanor Phay
 Pat Ivan Phay
 Ann Robbins
 Frank J. Saia
 Lena Saia
 Dorothy Simmons
 Gladys L. Small
 Bernice Smith
 Josephine Spatafore
 Dolores F. Spurgeon
 Dorothy Stawetski
 Miriam Alice Stewart
 Gloria Wendlandt
 Mary E. West

Our Social Club meets at the TOWN PARK TOWERS, at 60 North 3rd St., on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. For further information call Lovene LUHRMAN, 292-0070.



Beyond the sunset

Dec. 24, 1904 -
 Nov. 5, 1891 -
 May 21, 1894 -
 July 25, 1886 -

Esther M. Cooper
 Ethel G. Lester
 Jewel A. Wyman
 Oressa Anderson

- Oct. 29, 1975
 - Dec. 4, 1975
 - Dec. 5, 1975
 - Dec. 21, 1975

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SAN JOSE, CALIF. 95155

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Gene E. Vennum, Austen B. Warburton.

DUES: \$3 per year (tax exempt) To Donald Tustin, Financial Secretary, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP - ADDRESS CHANGE: To Rupert Moore, 1530 Emory Ave., San Jose, CA 95126

SICKNESS and DEATHS: Please notify Ruth M. Heath, 390 N. Winchester Blvd., 3-3G, Santa Clara, CA 95050
Phone 241-4436

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Please reserve places for me at the Pioneers' Quarterly Luncheon which will be held at Lou's Village on Saturday, March 6, 1976, at 12 Noon. **Price: \$3.50 per person** to be paid at Lou's Village.

Signed

No seats may be held after 11:45 A.M.

Please mail this reservation card before February 28th.
