



Volume 9

Summer 1969

Number 3

THE CHAUTAUQUA

Arthur M. Fisk

The Chautauqua was inaugurated in New York State in 1874. The original chautauqua (Indian word meaning child) was an assembly lasting several days, for educational and recreational purposes. The program included lectures, concerts etc.

Chautauqua associations flourished throughout the United States in the early 1900's, especially in the West and Middlewest. They bring back many happy memories to the old timers whose thoughts go back to those wonderful days when the world was brought right to their door.

At almost all the Chautauquas there were morning sessions for children. A Junior Supervisor planned the play hours, staged relays and races, supervised nature hikes, arranged story hours and trained the youngsters in one of the popular Indian pageants which was staged on the final evening of the session. The most eloquent orators and lecturers of that day spoke from the Chautauqua platform.

The children's work at the Chautauqua was the forerunner of the cub scouts, boy scouts, girl scouts, camp-fire girls and 4-H clubs. The Chautauqua emphasized honor, fairness, courage, clean living and physical fitness just as do these more recent organizations.

With access to electric power came slides and moving pictures as special features of the evening programs. The movies in those days were crude and the characters moved too fast and jerky for good vision.

On closing night of every Chautauqua session the audience sang "God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again" as the Grand Finale.

* * *

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE OF 1911

Franklin Hichborn (deceased)

January 3, 1911, Hiram W. Johnson was inaugurated Governor of California. There was no gilt braid, no military gentlemen on difficult horses--and above all there was no giggling from small boys or anybody else.

Governor-elect Johnson, earnest of purpose, resolute and with a definite policy--as a plain American gentleman--walked to the Capitol unattended by military escort; entered the Assembly chamber with the retiring Governor, and took the oath of office.

In his inaugural address Governor Johnson said, "Before the best development of the State can be realized, California must be politically and industrially free." To this live issue--Johnson devoted his inaugural address.

Johnson also stated, "That the purpose of The People shall be given its freest expression, he held that the government of the State must be made responsive to The People. The first step toward this desired end he held was to eliminate every private interest from the government, and to make the public service of the State responsive to The People alone. He held that the imperfections of the Direct Primary Law of 1909 be corrected; that The People be given the machinery to compel from the Legislature recognition of their selections, by popular vote, to represent the State in the Federal Senate."

Progressives in the 1911 legislature regardless of Party Affiliations joined in electing to the United States Senate, Judge John D. Works, who had at the primaries, received the highest popular vote. When the issue finally came to vote, Works received 62 votes in the Assembly, one more than was necessary. In the Senate, Works received 30 votes, opposing 9.

For the first time in the political history of California the anti-machine element of both parties had united in the election of a United States Senator, and had come within 28 votes of making him the unanimous choice of the Legislature.

Governor Johnson Suggested that, "the logical result of a desire to elect United States Senators by direct vote of The People is that, that election shall be of any person who may be a candidate, no matter what party he may be affiliated with, and by which the candidate receiving the highest number of votes may be ultimately selected."

The Amendment of the Direct Primary Law was passed in the Assembly and not one adverse vote being recorded against it in the Senate the bill to allow direct vote for United States Senators was passed.

In February 1911 the Initiative and Referendum Amendment came up for adoption. In the Senate the amendment was adopted by a vote of 35 to 1 and in the Assembly it was adopted by a vote of 71 to 0.

* * *

HOTELS and RESTAURANTS of EARLY SAN JOSE

Leo Sullivan

Frederick Kayser, a newcomer from San Francisco, leased the 40 room "RUSS HOUSE", a hotel on the N.W. corner of 1st and San Antonio streets from O. A. Hale, of "Hale's Inc.", in 1898. Kayser prospered while establishing the reputation of the "Russ House" on the excellence of his table, having accommodations for serving as many as 100 diners at one time. Meals cost 25¢, Sunday chicken dinner 35¢ and if a customer happened to feel flush, a book of 5 meal tickets cost him \$1.00.

The Russ House was the scene of innumerable wedding ceremonies, nuptial parties and birthday celebrations.

Like all hotels of prominence, the Russ House had its own Bus or Carryall meet trains for the convenience of travelers and their luggage. (A Carryall was a two-horse rig, seating passengers on parallel seats running the length of the vehicle, entrance was at the rear.)

Scores of linemen and technicians made the "Russ House" their headquarters while preparing for the advent of the new miracle--the TELEPHONE to Santa Clara Valley. It will be recalled the home telephone did not come into general use until after the turn of the century. San Jose became doubly phone conscious in 1898 when it was plagued with two telephone systems, The Sunset which later became the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. at 13 South 1st Street and the People's Telephone Co. at 65 South 1st Street. The resulting confusion was dispelled in 1900, when The Sunset asorbed The People's system, leaving the parent American Telephone and Telegraph Company, master of all it surveyed.

When the elder Kayser retired, William and Herman Kayser, his sons, took charge of the hotel and moved a block south to the "New Russ House" in 1910. Located at 237 South 1st Street, it is now known as the "California Hotel:. William Kayser sold his interest to Herman in

1915 and the latter passed on his share to James McHenry, proprietor of the "Montgomery Hotel", a few years later.

(According to City Historian Clyde Arbuckle, the Russ House was conducted by one John Barry as early as 1881, whose rates added up to \$5.00 and \$7.00 weekly.)

William Kayser later ran the "Douglas Hotel" on South 1st Street for over 30 years, and with his wife, Phoebe is now retired.

The original Russ House stands today; the writer recalls "Golden and Boomer", "Eiler's Piano House" and "Stackpole's Fancy Jewelry Shop", occupying the corner of 1st and San Antonio streets in days long past. ***

About 1899, Lorenzo Slavich opened a 24 hour restaurant at 38 West San Fernando (East of present Crystal Cafe) that proved extremely popular with the night trade and was known simply as "Slavich's". The restaurant consisted of two sections, one side for public tables, and the other was a series of boxes where groups could dine in private. Slavich enjoyed a lucrative merchant trade, but it was in the "Bonanza Years", 1903-1910 when Lorenzo hit the jackpot.

The "Webster-Ross" and "Del Lawrence Stock Company" stood 'em in the aisles nightly at the Garden Theatre--turning West San Fernando Street after sundown into a miniature Broadway. Members of the Garden theatrical troupes frequented Slavich's following the show, resulting in it becoming overly popular, reserving a Box after 11:00 p.m. was out of the question. Saturday nights' steady barrage of champagne corks meant a rich harvest for the House.

Mae Keane, the flamboyant, flaming-haired leading lady, proved the great attraction and the idol of the gallery gods--becoming Mrs. Joseph Edmundson, wife of the local seed grower.

The Garden Theatre, located at 128 W. San Fernando Street, was owned by local merchants, the largest stockholders being August McCabe "The Hatter" and his son Jay. (Jay McCabe started his theatrical career in the Garden City Box Office.) (The writer started his in the Garden City orchestra pit.) Slavich's night trade was handled by Kidward Hacks.

The friendly klop-klop of horses hoof-beats transporting diners homeward in the wee small hours assured tiplers the world was still on an even keel.

Slavich's closed in 1918. The Garden Theatre was destroyed by fire in 1916.

* * *

(Predecessor of The Trailblazer)

The quarterly meeting and banquet of the Santa Clara County Pioneer Society, was held in A.O.U.W. Hall, March 27, 1897, and was an occasion of much enjoyment to the large number of members of the Society and invited guests who were present.

The session was presided over by J. Coykendall, the President of the Society, and A. P. Murgotten, the Secretary, acted as Master of Ceremonies.

The election of G. Brohaska, who came to California in 1850, and who was well known to the musicians and lovers of amusement in early days, and the founder of the old Armory Hall, afterwards the San Jose Opera House; and of J. H. Scull, whose residence in the State dated back to 1849, as members of the Society, was accompanied with marked demonstrations of delight.

During the business meeting a resolution was adopted to hold the next quarterly meeting in Alum Rock Park and make the occasion an old-fashioned pioneer picnic. A committee consisting of Page Hollister, A. P. Murgotten, J. E. Gordon, Mrs. Phil Herold, Mrs. R. T. O'Hanlon and Mrs. W. M. Williamson was appointed by the President to arrange for the picnic and prepare the program.

During the progress of the banquet J. E. Gordon was called upon for a reminiscence. Mr. Gordon related incidents upon his trip from Panama to San Francisco upon the Alexander von Humboldt in 1849, which trip occupied three and one-half months. The vessel, he said, "landed where Montgomery Street now was in San Francisco." Among his fellow passengers was Collis P. Huntington. When the boat landed a passenger asked Mr. Huntington; "Collis, what will you take for your chances for a fortune in California!" "Give me \$10,000 and I will return by the next steamer," replied Mr. Huntington. This was the feeling of the man who has accumulated \$50,000,000 in California.

The venerable pioneer, Samuel Kyburz, for many years past a resident of Clarksville, is visiting Placerville, where he will remain several days. He was the confidential messenger sent by Sutter to turn Marshall and his outfit back from the Feather to the South Fork of the American River, where gold was discovered. Mr. Kyburz is now 87 years of age. He has a cane from Sutter's Mill, silver mounted and properly inscribed to the Native Sons, who are to be its eventual custodians.



The sketch on the preceding pages is an Artist's 1891 bird's-eye view of San Jose and surrounding countryside, then real country! As far as man-made landmarks are concerned--few remain--but the topographical skeleton of streets, waterways and railroads afford visual clues that link the past with the present. This map appeared in the San Jose Mercury, January 1, 1892.

Except that they flowed in year round volume, the courses of the waterways are little changed. However, the Southern Pacific tracks southward show drastic alteration. The main depot (left center) was then located at the dead end of Market Street where trains left for Gilroy and south. Trains left the Market Street station and curved into Fourth Street with a stop in front of State Normal School, (Fourth and San Antonio). The course of the City's street car lines are easily followed and with close scrutiny we can spot a horse-car on Fifth Street.

The famous ELECTRIC TOWER (1881-1915) is in the upper center at Market and Santa Clara streets. The City Hall, now razed and the Eagle Brewery was on present Ste. Claire Hotel site. The large group of center buildings was Notre Dame Convent School--now De Anza Hotel site. Saint James Park is shown and also State Normal, now San Jose State College. Lower left, the magnificent Hotel Vendome, entertaining scores of the Nation's notables, including President McKinley. Upper left, the magnificent estate of General Naglee, Civil War Hero, covering 140 landscaped acres bounded by Santa Clara St., Coyote Creek, 11th St. and William St. Prominent, ornate buildings scattered throughout the suburbs were schools. San Jose Canning Company located on Fifth Street. Lower left the seldom remembered San Jose Woolen Mills. Lower right but not shown here was the old Fair Grounds. The race track where we saw Barney Oldfield speed 60 miles an hour and Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Today--new scenery, new actors on this old stage. Ralph Rambo 1969.

(Population of the City and suburbs, about 20,000.)

(The pen and ink sketch of old San Jose on pages 6 and 7 was prepared for and contributed to The Trailblazer by our staff artist Ralph Rambo. The original is about four times this size and is on sale at most book stores.)

(Ralph Rambo's new multi-colored historical and amusing cartoon map of Santa Clara Valley is a beauty and is now on sale at The Emporium, Powell's, S. J. Book Shop, Warburton's in Santa Clara and others for \$2.00. It is 18"x23" and printed in a Limited Edition.) ***

By-lines from the President
Leland M. Boruck

The hydra-headed specter called "inflation" has appeared upon the horizon to the grave concern of this administration. Your Board of Directors believe that any effects of the increase in the cost of operating the organization can be controlled at the present income through the full cooperation of each individual member of the Pioneers by a very simple effort.

On July 1st of this year postal rates became effective which slightly raise the cost of mailing notices of meetings, mailing the Trailblazer and other matters requiring postage.

To eliminate all unnecessary expense we request that each member make it a point to notify us of any change of address, being certain to include the Zip Code Number. Eighty per cent of all mail handled by the San Jose Post Office is routed entirely by zip code. To insure prompt delivery as well as to avoid us from paying for the return of the Trailblazers that are undeliverable - please drop a card to 2221 Coastland Avenue, San Jose, California 95125, it only takes a minute and will save the organization money.

Our membership list has been checked recently and brought up-to-date through considerable volunteer work and effort and should remain so by prompt notification of address changes. Thank you for your help.

We are looking forward to seeing a good attendance at our September meeting. Plans are under way for an interesting program following the noon luncheon. Don't miss it.

Also take advantage of the trips by Effie Hawkins and Jessie Black. Much time and effort is put into the preparation of these trips and it is a shame when they sometimes have to be cancelled due to an insufficient number of passengers.

* * *

LOOK FOR IT HERE

Believe it or not, our former treasurer Howard Worcester and his good wife Edna drove their honeymoon car from Valley Village to the Congregational Church at Leigh and Hamilton avenues for their golden wedding celebration on June 8th. It was a 1915 model T Ford which they drove from Angels Camp, where they were married in 1919, to the family ranch near Morgan Hill in 10 hours.

The Curtis Baileys celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 22nd, highlighted by a party at Lyons Restaurant in Santa Clara. ***

Your new officers for 1969-70 were duly installed at the Board of Directors meeting July 14th. ***

Our program chairman, Dr. O. S. Hubbard informs us that, "at our next quarterly meeting on September 6th we will have as our speaker Mr. Kenneth Chow from Foothill Junior College, one of our scholarship recipients. His subject will be: "History of the Chinese in San Jose."

When you submit application for membership forms to your friends for membership, be sure the ladies include their maiden names in their signature. Mrs. Virginia Simard Callsen had such rewarding experiences by doing this, that it should be an incentive to others. ***

A note from Ernest T. Childs says he enjoyed reading Mrs. Owen's "Certificate of Promotion", and has located his own certificate of promotion from the High 1st Grade, dated June 27, 1902. Lola Balis, Teacher. Mrs. S. B. Olinder, Principal. East San Jose School. ***

Saratoga Historical Foundation will have a historical museum! When current plans materialize for an expanded library building on Oak Street the present library will become the Saratoga Historical Museum. ***

The following letter is from the Foothill Junior College District, Los Altos Hills, California:

Dear Mr. Bulmore:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Foothill College District, I want to thank you and the members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County for awarding three \$50 scholarships to local history students in the Foothill District for 1969-70.

The support of organizations such as yours is an inspiration to all of us, and especially to Dr. Warren and the history students who are developing the California History Center for the Foothill District.

Again, thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely, Calvin C. Flint, District Superintendent

The first 20 years of this century has been virtually overlooked by historians. Many of our members have pleasant memories of this period. If you can recall any interesting incidents of 50 or 60 years ago in Santa Clara County please put it on paper and mail to The Trailblazer editor. "Lest this period be forgotten." ***

Please mail all applications for membership and changes of address in the Pioneer Society to Miss Bernice Van Gundy, 561 Fuller Ave., San Jose, Calif. 95125 ***

WELCOME

Congratulations to our new members: George L. Bergst, Maude J. Bergst, Joseph H. Canepa, Pearl George Castle, Alice E. Connor, Elizabeth M. Edwards, Lourine Erickson, Zipporah N. Kaye, Marian S. Minninger, Gladys Norris, George W. Olesen, Fanny Zwaal.

* * *

UNDER THE WEATHER

There are no members reported seriously ill at this time.

Kindly keep your officers informed as to the condition of any ill member, and report any sickness or death to the chairman of our Sunshine Committee, Mrs. Martha L. Bulmore. Phone 264-2104.

* * *

BEYOND THE SUNSET

Emma J. Rutan

October 8, 1875 - June 15, 1969

Gertrude V. Pozzo

August 6, 1887 - June 12, 1969

Ivo J. Vollmer

February 23, 1896 - June 7, 1969

Margaret Shadduk

- April 1, 1969

Ralph L. Young

February 10, 1902 - April 25, 1969

Edward L. Gross

May 6, 1899 - May 8, 1969

Mabel C. Walter

June 23, 1882 - May 19, 1969

Elena B. McCormick

- June 21, 1969

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

Issued in February, May, August and November.

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

Associate Editor: Marjorie B. Fisk

Staff Artist: Ralph Rambo

Subscription rates to non-members \$1.00 per year. Single copies 25 cents each.

Officers for 1969-70

President..... Leland M. Boruck
 1st Vice President..... Dr. O. S. Hubbard
 2nd Vice President..... Fred R. Menzel
 Recording Secretary..... Eveleen C. Duff
 Corresponding Secretary..... Esther Adams
 Financial Secretary..... Madeline Smalley
 Treasurer..... Curtis Bailey
 Directors: Clyde Arbuckle, Jessie E. Black, Laurence E. Bulmore, Martha L. Bulmore, Barbara Spedding, Henry Clyde Stout, A. Bernice Van Gundy and Austen D. Warburton.

* * *

THE SOCIAL CLUB of our society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday afternoon of each month. Card playing and various activities highlight each meeting. For further information call Mrs. Kate L. Owen, 295-1153.

BUS TOUR information for members of the Pioneer Society may be obtained from Mrs. Effie M. Hawkins, phone 295-2868 or Mrs. Jessie Black, 295-2987, 9 a.m. 'till 12.

* * *

2221 COASTLAND AVENUE
 SAN JOSE, CALIF. 95125

ADDRESS CORRECTION
 REQUESTED

Return Postage Guaranteed

Non-Profit Organization U. S. POSTAGE PAID San Jose, California Permit No. 1234

Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Bailey
 41 Rennie Ave.
 San Jose, Calif. 95127