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Mary Lou Lyon Library Dedication

As we reported in the March 2017 issue of the Trailblazer, Mary Lou Lyon left her library of books, slides and research materials to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County.



Her collection was vast enough that she had added a large room onto her home in Cupertino to house it. She also left to the Pioneers all of her bookcases to hold the library. We have combined her wonderful gift with the library of materials we previously owned, so our library now has quadrupled in size.

All of the items have been moved into an upstairs room in the Roberto Adobe and Suñol House. On the wall is a

portrait of Mary Lou in one of her signature hats. Next to her photo is a California Bear Flag created by one of her high school students. Various awards and plaques of Mary Lou's are displayed throughout the room.

There is also a binder of material on Mary Lou herself: a brief history of her life, photos, newspaper articles about her and her accomplishments, and examples of her writings. *(Continued page 2)*



Mike Lyon, Mary Lou's grandson, and Tudy Johnson, Pioneers Librarian, cut the ribbon on Sept. 9th at the Docent Appreciation Barbeque.

Mary Lou Lyon Library (Continued)

On September 9th, at our Docent Appreciation Barbeque, the "Mary Lou Lyon Library" was officially dedicated. Some of Mary Lou's grandchildren and great-grandchildren were able to be there for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

We are currently in the process of cataloging all of these materials. When this huge task is completed we want to make the materials in the library available to our Pioneers members for their research and enjoyment. Stay tuned for the opening announcement. ❖

—Tudy Johnson



Just some of the books in the new Mary Lou Lyon Library at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House.



Picture of Mary Lou Lyon in one of her famous hats on the wall in the Mary Lou Lyon Library.

Trailblazer

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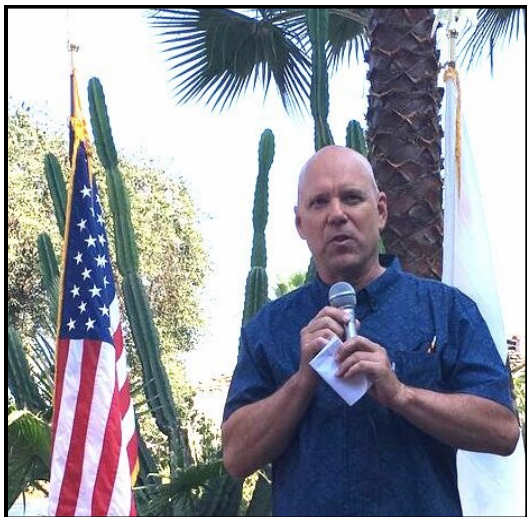
The California Pioneers of
Santa Clara County
is a 501(c)3 non-profit
organization

*California Bear Flag,
made by one of Mary Lou's
students years ago,
on the wall next
to Mary Lou's picture.*

(Photos by Bill Foley and Tim Peddy)



President's Message



Jim Zetterquist, speaking at Docent Appreciation Barbeque

(Photo: Bill Foley)

When the board recently approached me to serve as president I was both surprised and honored. The invitation reminded me of the old saying, "What was once old is new again." It has been more than ten years since the Pioneers first asked me to serve as president. The organization has come a long way since that day, due largely to the efforts of our Immediate Past-President, Ken Machado, and many hard working volunteers.

My first of four action items in office was to honor Melita Kelly with our outstanding service award for tirelessly serving in multiple board positions over the past two decades, including membership chair and parliamentarian. Her pluck and attention to detail have been an inspiration; she will be sorely missed on our board. My second order of business was to recruit Bill Foley back to our board after his being on a five-year hiatus from California. Third, was to appoint a blue-ribbon-committee to put on an Admission Day BBQ at the Roberto Adobe and Suñol House where we could

dedicate our new members—only Mary Lou Lyon Library and thank all our docents for their hard work. These dedicated individuals are the face of our organization and without their tireless efforts the public would be unable to enjoy our exhibits at the Paulson House and at the Adobe. The event was a smashing success; we are much indebted to the Clampers for barbecuing and donating over \$600 worth of food.

My fourth, and perhaps most important, action item was to appoint a committee to consider Ken Machado's nomination to receive the Austin Warburton Award, the Pioneers' highest honor. Since Ken joined our board almost two decades ago, he has served, pro-bono, as our legal counsel, guiding us through the sale of the Jackson Ranch, overseeing the contract with History San Jose to operate the Paulson House in Kelley Park, handling the acquisition of the Stevens estate and the gifting of the Roberto Adobe and Suñol House to the Pioneers.

Most recently, Ken orchestrated the transfer of Mary Lou Lyon's library to the Pioneers. Leading up to Ken's four-year term as president, he held multiple offices, including serving as Vice-president, all the while working as our liaison to our financial advisor, who manages the Pioneers' investment. Ken has been an inspiration to all of us who have been fortunate enough to work with him and I know I will continue to look to Ken to guide me while I am in office. I am now pleased to

formally announce that Ken will be receiving the Warburton award at this December's luncheon. I hope you all will attend and help us express our gratitude to Ken for his selfless service to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County.

There is not enough room in my first President's message to share all my thoughts and enthusiasm for the bright future of our organization so I will just extend a big thank you to all of you who have worked so hard to make the Pioneers what it is today. And for all of you out there who are in search of finding new friends or wanting to do something meaningful, I personally invite you to get involved in one of the many Pioneer activities, including serving as a docent or on the board, working with the "In Grave Danger Gang" to restore our Hacienda Cemetery in New Almaden, working at or at least attending our quarterly luncheons, writing articles for the Trailblazer, becoming part of the Film Restoration Team or helping with our social media to name just a few! There is so much out there waiting for you. ❖

—Happy Trails, Jim Zetterquist



Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 2017

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT

Banquet Room—1547 Meridian Ave. in San Jose

Luncheon Presentation

**Joseph D. Grant and
Grant Ranch Park**

presented by

Lisa Pappanastos

Make Reservations by Wednesday, Nov. 29th

Email to 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 cost is now \$35*

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

Breast of Chicken Sauté

Boneless breast with white wine & mushroom sauce

[Both above served with red potatoes & fresh vegetables]

Grilled Salmon with Lemon Dill Sauce

Pasta Primavera

Penne Pasta, fresh sautéed vegetables, 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.*

Luncheon Presentation

Lisa Pappanastos will discuss Grant Park, why Joseph D. Grant is an important figure in America's history and what makes the Mount Hamilton area's history unique. She will also present background on the rancho days of Cañada de Pala and the early settlers to the region.

Lisa holds a BA degree in Recreation Management and has worked for the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department since 1995. She has done extensive research, along with Ron Bricmont, on the history of Grant Ranch Park and the Grant Family, inspired by working there for 18 years. Lisa presently works at Martial Cottle Park.

At the same time Lisa and Ron were searching for history, they also repaired the interior of the Grant Ranch

House and transformed it into a museum. In 2001, Lisa met Elspeth Grant Bobbs, Joseph D. Grant's granddaughter, at her vacation home in Carmel.

Through Lisa's relationship with Elspeth and her family, actual family artifacts and photographs were loaned for display in the house. The house has received an interior facelift and all of the rooms have been redecorated to give the feel of a home in the 1930s.

The Grant Ranch House still needs some major repairs that are planned for next spring, but funding could be an obstacle. The house and complex of buildings are quite spectacular.

Don't miss this excellent presentation. RSVP now!

***Lunch costs have risen. Pioneers do not make any profit from these charges.**

“When San Jose Was Young—Law and Order in the Pueblo”

This is a reprint of a 1916 series about local history written for San Jose’s *Evening News* and attributed to Cora Older.

Part I

“History is often but scandal grown old. Now that the youth of San Jose is a molding beneath a hundred years,¹ it is safe to say that the youth of San Jose was shocking, scandalous. The Pueblo people were indolent, shiftless, and addicted to vice. But the Spanish governors at Monterey ruled like Puritans and like Sultans.

Not only the shiftlessness of San Jose troubled the governor, but [so did] the morals. In 1786, Governor Fages denounced the people of San Jose for their immorality, but first the Governor reprovved Alcalde Vallejo² for his own shortcoming. Not only were the Alcalde’s private morals



*Pedro Fages
Spanish Governor of Alta
California from 1782 to 1791*



Rendering of San Jose Juzgado

Courtesy of History San Jose

undesirable, and an evil example in the community, but the governor reproached the Alcalde for allowing people to murmur [gossip] against those in authority at Monterey. He ordered an espionage system to punish murmurers.

In 1799, Governor Borica wrote a stern letter to the San Jose colonists reproaching them because they tilled their lands so badly. He told them they were lazy, and if they didn’t have better crops next year he would fine them.

Evidently the scolding did the colonists good. In 1800 there was a splendid crop, and the governor in order to show that he could be gracious as well as stern, wrote congratulating

the citizens. However, he told Alcalde Vallejo that he was ashamed of the poor hemp shipped to Mexico from San Jose.

Vallejo was evidently a very unsatisfactory Alcalde, for later in 1799, Governor Borica rebuked him for gambling. The Alcalde of San Jose was even worse than the Alcalde of Los Angeles. Vallejo of San Jose gambled. He won ten dollars from a convict. The governor was so shocked that the Alcalde of the oldest Pueblo of California should have such a passion for gambling that he would even gamble with a criminal in the jail, that he compelled the Alcalde to return the \$10.00.

(Continued page 8)

The 1929 'Around Pacific Cruise' By Rick Helin

As we all know, the Mission Statement for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County calls on us “to preserve, promote and celebrate the history of Santa Clara County.” One of the many ways we accomplish this is through our historic Film Preservation Program. In early 2014, we received a contribution of family films from the 1920s from Santa Clara County's own Normandin Family. These films totally amazed us. Inside a large cardboard box, among many films of local interest, we also discovered ten reels of vintage 16mm film tucked neatly inside a gallon can, a hold-over from the valley's once-thriving fruit canning operations.

These specific film canisters were labeled "MALOLO." A quick search of the Internet and we soon discovered this reference was to the "STEAMSHIP MALOLO", credited by many to be the first modern ocean liner specifically designed with 'leisure cruising' in mind. We became mesmerized by these never-before-viewed moving images.

This is also when our own personal journey began. We discovered these wonderful moving images had been taken in late 1929 by the donor's great-grandfather, Louis O. Normandin, while traveling with his wife, Estelle, aboard the SS MALOLO on the ship's first “Around Pacific Cruise.” This epic journey consisted of an extensive ninety day, twenty-four thousand mile voyage that called on nineteen ports in fourteen countries.

Due to the enormous price for a single ticket, the press quickly dubbed this one-of-a-kind journey, “The Millionaires Cruise.”

As historians, it was only natural we wanted to know more. Although it didn't take long to confirm suspicions regarding the importance of these films, unfortunately, we also discovered there was very little online information about this historic moment in time. It just seemed appropriate to begin researching the various back-stories hiding silently behind these rare moving images.

Our initial inquiry sent us to online

genealogical websites where we discovered a copy of the ship's passenger list. It contained the names and birth dates for the three hundred and fifty-six passengers on board. This document became our 'Rosetta Stone' as we set-out to contact as many of the passengers' living descendants as possible.

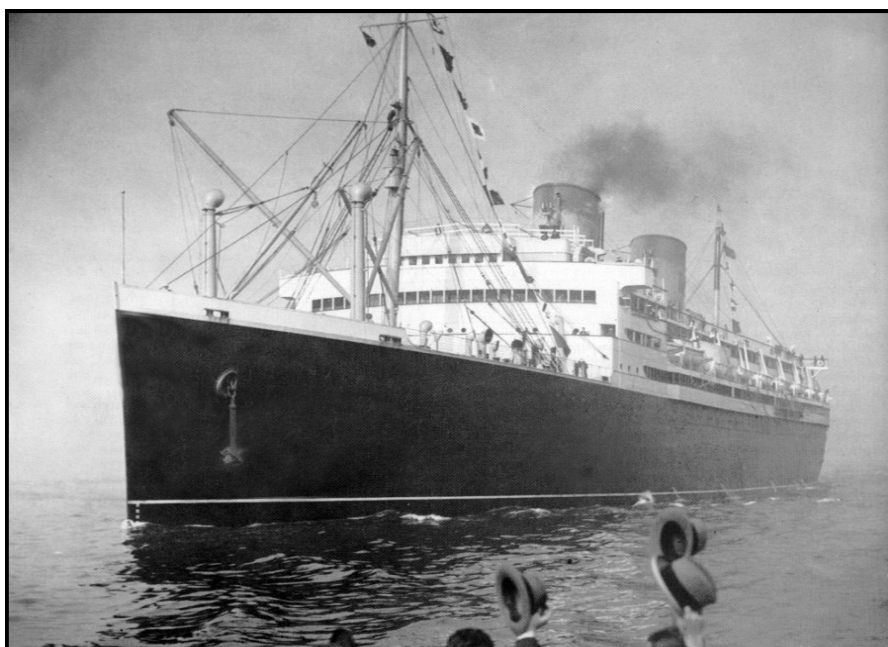
After three years of research, we've successfully increased our original treasury of resource material. We almost tripled the amount of 16mm film footage to 5.5 hours, received more than one thousand snapshots, and obtained seven journals and eight diaries. We even have a stateroom key.

The latest donation of movie film came from the grandchildren of passenger Dr. Ormond Wall of Hawaii. During our digital transfer of Dr. Wall's footage, we amazingly discovered he shot the ship's first two ports-of-call (Japan and China) using Kodak's newly introduced “Kodacolor” film. After making multiple inquiries with experts, we've determined these specific films are quite possibly the earliest known full color moving images of Japan and China.

It is through these family resources we have been able to determine the identity of passengers viewed on film and photos. We have also ascertained the passengers' daily itineraries and personal thoughts throughout the cruise. We are recreating the trip as it was lived by these travelers in 1929 in a documentary that assembles these collected fragments of passenger experiences

We dedicate this documentary to those families who thoughtfully preserved these many fascinating narratives and incredible images from this historic trip—then enthusiastically shared them

(Continued pg. 7)



SS MALOLO leaving San Francisco in 1929, the first known luxury cruise.

Cruise (Continued)

with us so we may all be able to revisit this historic lost moment in time. We would especially like to acknowledge and thank the Louis O. Normandin Family—more specifically, grandson, Lon Normandin, and great-grandson, Paul Normandin, whose films originally sparked our own long, personal journey.

So what will this documentary really be about, and what is our intention? Well, it's about September, 1929. The jazz was hot and the "Twenties" were in full roar. The nation's wealth had more than doubled since the end of "The Great War to End All Wars." Economic growth had swept many Americans into an affluent, but unfamiliar, consumer society.

This was the moment America declared her days of self-imposed isolation were over. Our national anthem played more frequently overseas as her citizens stepped forward to assume increasingly greater roles on the world's stage. The word was out...Americans showed they could play just as hard as they could fight.



1929 cruise passengers, the Louis O. Normandins of San Jose.

At this time, passengers traveling between continents by ocean liners were routinely treated not all that different than 'cargo.' Regardless of the ship's utilitarian purpose, passenger liners were still perceived to be mere ocean-crossing ferries.

But, William P. Roth, president of Matson Navigation Company, put forth a different point-of-view.

His vision of passengers being "tourists with money" would soon become an industry-transforming paradigm. Roth enticed the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce to organize an "Around Pacific Cruise" aboard the SS MALOLO, his company's newly constructed, luxury ocean liner.

This unique 'stay-on-board' tour became an instant sell-out. On September 21, 1929, three hundred and fifty-six millionaires set sail from San Francisco on an ambitious ninety-day, twenty-four thousand mile odyssey aboard the fastest and most luxurious ship in the Pacific.

Thirty-eight days into the tour, somewhere between the American-governed Philippines and French Colonial Saigon, passengers received news about stock markets crashing all around the globe. Quite understandably, this face-slapping news dramatically impacted many of the passengers' financial portfolios.



1929 cruise passengers, Barbara Avrill and Eva Grossman.

Nearly ninety years have passed since this first "Around Pacific Cruise" in 1929. Since then, this little known pioneering journey continues to gain worldwide recognition as the inspiration for a whole new industry. In the last ten years alone, demand for cruising has increased sixty-eight percent. This modern, ocean-going pastime now captures the attention of twenty-four million passengers annually to the tune of forty-billion dollars in direct revenues—perhaps as much as one hundred and twenty billion dollars overall when one considers the impact upon local economies.

When the documentary is completed, our goal is to submit our work to PBS station WGBH Boston for broadcast consideration on their nationwide "The American Experience" series. If rejected, we feel our Film Preservation Team has still come out ahead of the game having learned so much during our own journey.

If you like, you can learn more about the cruise and view the photos and films taken during the tour, by going online to www.SSMALOLO.com. ❖

To view the cruise logo/itinerary, see pg. 8

Melita Kelly Receives Award



Melita Kelly with Jim Zetterquist at the September 2017 Pioneers Luncheon.

(Photo: Bill Foley/Tim Peddy)

Melita Kelly, long time Board member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, received an Outstanding Service Award at our September 9th luncheon.

Melita, a Pioneers Life Member, joined the Pioneers in 1997 and became a Board member soon after. Melita has served as the Pioneers Membership Chair and Financial Secretary from 1999-

2009. She then was recording secretary followed by parliamentarian, retiring in 2017. Congratulations Melita!

Law and Order (Continued)

He told him that if he didn't behave better, he would compel him to resign. Later this was what Vallejo did.

So incorrigible was San Jose that it built a jail even before San Francisco felt the need of one. In 1822, the governor ordered that one-third of all the tallow [income] be used for the building of a jail in San Jose. San Francisco had no jail, and often borrowed the one in San Jose for the use of her prisoners who were sent here. However, by 1836, law and order had so subdued crime that there was only one prisoner in the San Jose jail." ...To be continued In March, 2018 Trailblazer.

—San Jose Evening News, 9/28/1916

¹ Youth have been shaped or guided for a hundred years since.

² Ignacio Vallejo, father of General Mariano G. Vallejo.

³ Diego de Borica, Alta California governor 1794-1800

Santa Clara Historic Home Tour

Dec. 1, 6-10 pm & Dec. 2, 12-5 pm, 2017

The 39-year tradition of the Santa Clara Historic Home Tour continues this year with tours of three private residences and the Madison Street Inn that feature architectural styles such as Queen Anne Cottage, American Foursquare and Greek Revival. One of the private homes was once owned by Alice Hare, a renowned late 19th and early 20th century female photographer of the Santa Clara Valley. A bonus venue on this year's tour will be the Ricard Memorial Observatory, rarely open to the public, constructed in 1928 and located on the Santa Clara University campus.

Tickets are \$30, \$25 for seniors/youth, \$35 at door. Order online at sc-hometour.com/tickets.html or purchase at City Lights Espresso, Antiques Colony, or Triton Museum Gift Shop. For information call 408-249-7905 or go to sc-hometour.com.

1929 Cruise Logo

showing all the ports of call



Pioneers Celebrate Docents & Mary Lou Lyon Library

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County were pleased to hold a Docent Appreciation Barbeque on Saturday, September 9th at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House. The event also celebrated the dedication of the Mary Lou Lyon Library and was held on the patio surrounded by our lovely heritage garden and fountain. Board members, docents and their families, and relatives of Mary Lou Lyon were in attendance.

The barbeque was set up at the south end of the parking yard and the Clampers (members of E Clampus Vitus) cooked ribs, chicken and hot dogs that were accompanied by salads, beans, garlic bread and dessert. The food was delicious and the Pioneers thank the Clampers for their cooking expertise. Toward the end of the event, the Clampers announced that they were donating the food for the event.



Docent Chairs, Sylvia Hew and Jonna Baker

The Pioneers took the opportunity to dedicate the Mary Lou Lyon Library that is now installed on the second floor of the Suñol House. The room holds the large collection of local history books from Mary Lou Lyon's extensive library that were left to the Pioneers. ❖

(More photos on page 10)

Left, Clampers who cooked the delicious luncheon meal, Chris Costanzo (NGH #44) and Mike Eckley (XNGH #19).

THANK YOU CLAMPERS FOR THE LUNCH!!!



Left, Tim and Barbara Peddy and Mary Berger.

Right, Christopher and Rachel Fischer, Lu Ane Behringer behind.



Photos: Gayle Frank

Docent Celebration (Continued)



Top left, Laverne Aguirre Parmly.

Top right, Judie Mabie and Melissa Winter.



Mid left, Doug and Fran Allen.

Lower Left, Past President Ken Machado and Bill Foley.

Lower right, Mike Lyon and Tudy Johnson cutting the ribbon for the dedication of the Mary Lou Lyon Library on the second floor.



Our Docents—Thank You!

Paulson House, History San Jose
Docent Coordinator: **Jonna Baker**

Diane Alves
Carol Arnoldy
Linda Avignon-Wikke
Jonna Baker
Joe Coughlin
Sylvia Hew
Judie Mabie
Milt Peddy
Barbara Peddy
Joanne Souza
Madeline Streight
Melissa Winter
Rosaleen Zisch

Roberto Adobe/Suñol House
Docent Coordinator: **Sylvia Hew**

Fran Allen
Jonna Baker (back-up)
Lu Ane Behringer
Mary Berger
Paul Bernal
Paul (Pablo) Boehm
Joe Coughlin
Rachel Fischer
Gayle Frank
Mary Hanel
Phil Johnson
Laverne Aguirre Parmly
Tim Peddy (back-up)
Jenny Walicek (back-up)
Rosaleen Zisch (back-up)

Docent Opportunity for Roberto Adobe & Suñol House Museum

For more information or to
volunteer, contact Sylvia Hew at
408-265-5371 or
hewmum@gmail.com

Docent Opportunity for Paulson House at History San Jose

For more information or to
volunteer, contact Jonna Baker at
(408) 533-3256 or
J234belle@yahoo.com

Roberto Adobe & Suñol House

770 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose

FREE TOURS
Saturdays 12 to 2

Not open on major holiday weekends

Gratis tours en Español con cita previa

CaliforniaPioneers.com



Member Spotlight—Paul Boehm

Paul (also known as Pablo as a docent at the Roberto Adobe) Boehm is the new teacher for Santa Clara Valley History (SCVH), a class for adults sponsored by Campbell Adult and Community Education. For those who are not enrolled in SCVH, who is Paul Boehm?

First, to clarify, “Boehm” is pronounced “Bame” which rhymes with game, fame, and tame. The Boehm family moved from Ann Arbor, Michigan to San Jose in 1961, when Paul (Pablo) was six. Except for approximately a year of living in Latin America, he has remained in the South Bay for his entire life. Paul says, "I love the South Bay, history is my passion, and teaching is in my blood." Paul's grandmother, father and his mother were teachers, so maybe it is part of his DNA.

Paul's career began in 1980, when he was hired to teach bilingual third grade at Washington School in a part of San Jose that used to be called "Goose-town." Teaching at Markham Middle School (now Willow Glen Middle School), Pioneer High School as an ESL teacher, and then at local community

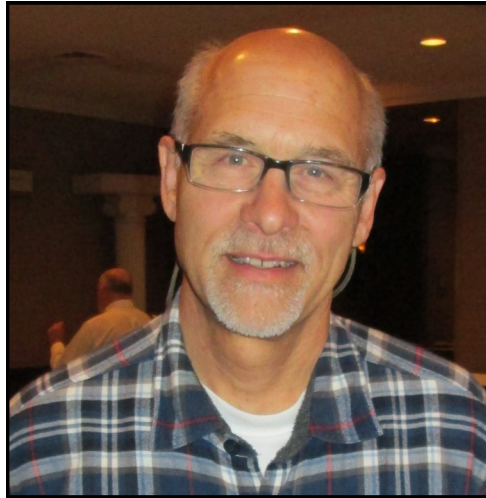


Photo: Gayle Frank

Paul Boehm

colleges brought new challenges and satisfaction. Paul says his favorite teaching subject is Santa Clara Valley History and has told us, "Teaching Santa Clara Valley History (SCVH) is an honor and a pleasure. It's been a dream come true."

Since Paul retired in 2013, he has pursued a number of projects. In 2014, he traveled to Germany and Poland. He taught ESL for adult education, and worked as a Tour Guide at the Winchester House. Paul was enrolled for one quarter in the

SCVH class taught by Mary Lou Lyon. He has been a docent for the Roberto Adobe/Sunol House since it opened a year ago.

In September, Paul's SCVH class theme began in the year 1845, and is progressing in a more or less chronological fashion to modern times. Eventually the class topics will return to the earlier Native American period followed by the Spanish and Mexican periods. "Our classes entail some reading and some activities so that I hope it is both informative and engaging. I want students to leave class saying, 'I learned something' and 'that was enjoyable!'"

The class will begin the Winter Quarter on January 17, 2018. Classes are on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 PM at the Blackford Learning Center on Blackford Avenue in San Jose. The cost is \$60 per quarter. Registration is now available for the Winter Quarter online at <http://cace.cuhsd.org/>, by phone, and by walk-in. All are welcome to enroll at any time. Any questions, please feel free to contact Paul at (408) 893-1903 or paulboehm25@gmail.com.



Our Newest Pioneer

**William
(Liam)
David
Foley,
Born
September
28th, 2017.**

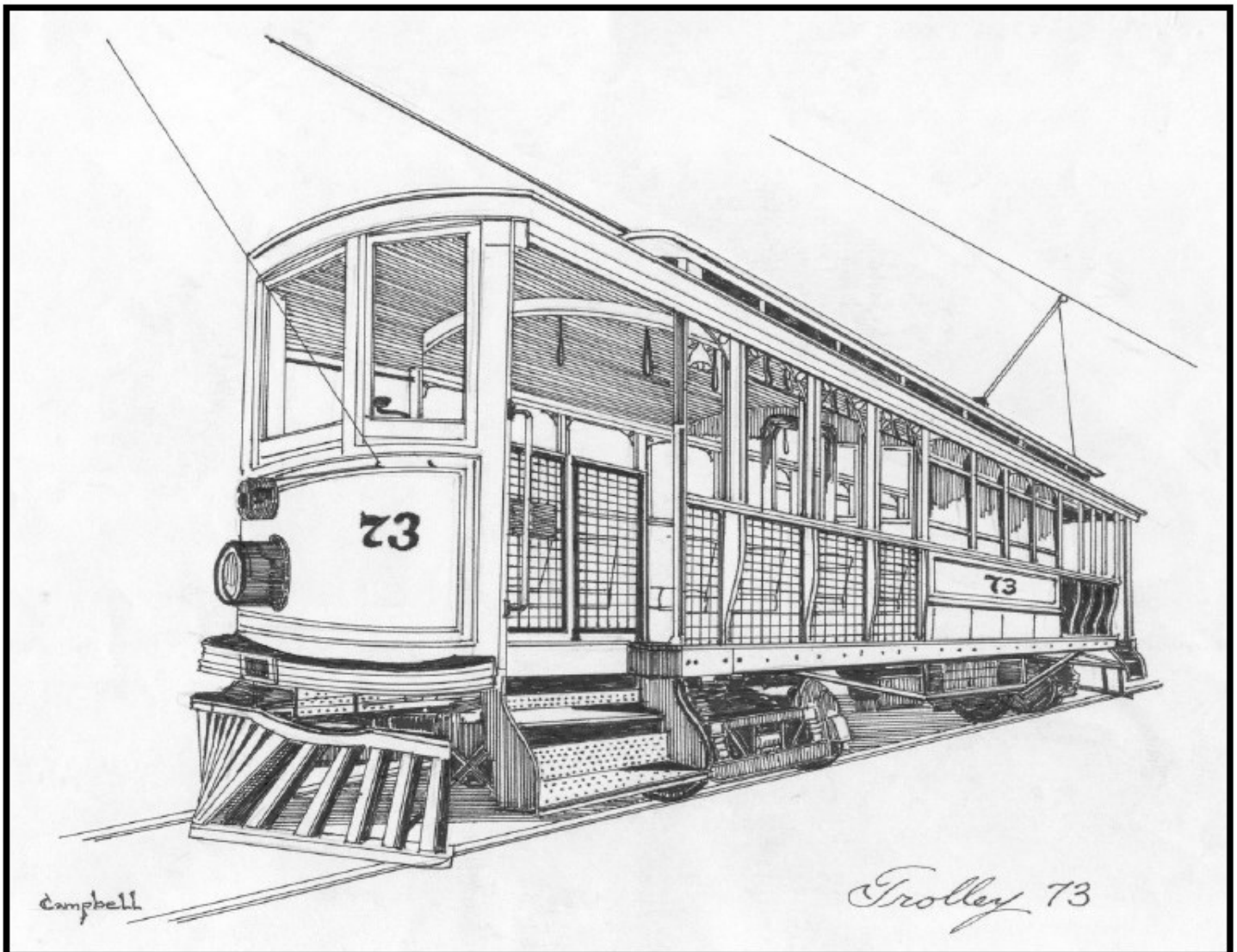


Introducing—William (Liam for short) David Foley, born on Sept. 28th, 2017 to Bill and Alana Foley. Congratulations!!!

Daddy Bill has recently rejoined our Board of Directors and is the driving force behind our Film Archive Program and is instrumental to our social media activities. Bill, Alana and Liam now live in Santa Clara County.

Liam is the sixth generation of this line of Foleys in San Jose. The family emigrated from Cahersiveen, Kerry, Ireland in the 1840s. ❖

Trolley Car 73—A Sketch By Jim Campbell



Trolley car 73 was used by the San Jose Railroad from 1913 to 1934. Car 73 was manufactured by the Jewett Car Company in Newark, Ohio, in 1912. It was purchased by the San Jose Railroad for about \$5,700.

This was a time when trolleys were state-of-the-art transit, with nearly 130 miles of track at the peak of the period. Travel by trolley ended when automobiles became a more popular form of transportation.

When Trolley Car 73 was retired from service, it marked the end of

a 50 year era of electric trolley operation in Santa Clara County.

The California Trolley and Railroad Corporation (CTRC) was founded in 1982 to fund the restoration of six trolleys. Some of the restored trolleys were purchased by the Valley Transportation Agency with plans to run on Light Rail tracks in downtown San Jose, while CTRC volunteers regularly operate restored trolleys on display at History San Jose. ❖

Source: "Down Memory Lane," by J. Howard Campbell, 2015.

San Jose's 240th Birthday

A big party is planned for November 18th at the Peralta Adobe-Fallon House Historic Site in downtown San Jose where you can meet descendants of the founders. Highlights include dancers, guitar music, a singing cowboy, birthday cake, games and Fallon House tours. The event hours are 11 am until 4 pm at 175 West Saint John Street.

In addition, on Wednesday, Nov. 29th, a Peralta Adobe Open House will welcome visitors between 11 am until 2 pm to explore one of San Jose's oldest houses.

Pioneers June Luncheon Presentation—Cottle Park

Eric Goodrich, a Santa Clara County Park Ranger and Cottle Park Manager, provided Pioneers members and guests an interesting talk on Martial Cottle Park at our September luncheon. He has a passion for sense of place and the importance of our connection to the land. The good news is that free field trips are available at the relatively new Martial Cottle Park, open to the public for just over two years. The land is part of the original Rancho Santa Theresa.

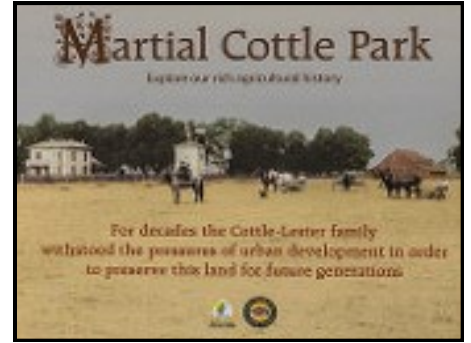


Eric Goodrich, Park Manager, with Pioneers Board member Mary Berger. (Photo: Bill Foley)

After arriving in the Santa Clara Valley in 1854, Edward Cottle worked hard and finally purchased land by 1864. Edward had two sons, Warren and Martial (1833-1909), who helped farm wheat, manage livestock and a dairy, each son eventually inheriting half the ranch. The land was later transformed from growing grain and raising livestock to leasing the land to Japanese and then Philippine tenant farmers for planting row crops. During WWII, sugar beets were grown to supply industrial alcohol for the war effort.

After WWII, Walter Cottle Lester (1925-2014), Edward's great-grandson and Martial's grandson, took over the 350 acre ranch at the young age of 18. His Uncle Monte was instrumental in teaching Walter how to farm. Walter's mother, Ethel Cottle Lester (daughter of Martial Cottle), had the foresight to predict, in 1965, that agricultural endeavors were doomed in Santa Clara Valley and stressed that the ranch must be saved for its educational value to future generations. By 1978, the steep property taxes necessitated the sale of some of their ranch; acres of farmland were transformed into developments.

In 1999, Walter's sister Edith, half-owner of the ranch, died, resulting in a huge estate tax bill. In order to save the land for a park and prevent selling it, Walter Cottle Lester negotiated with the County and State to transfer 287.5 acres for a public park in lieu of paying the total tax bill. The agreement, finalized in 2003, included his living on 31 acres until his death. The transfer committed the land to be used for the public and to share the agricultural history of the Valley. He could have sold the land and made millions but he was



adamant that he abide by his mother's wishes to save the acreage for posterity, considering it his "life-long duty."

The Park Services has partnered with Jacobs Farm, UCCE (University of California Cooperative Extension), Santa Clara Master Gardeners, 4H programs and Our City Forest. A community garden is planned and two big events are held each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Much of the old (1855 to 1910) farm equipment, the farmhouse (built in 1883, but not open to the public yet), and other side buildings from the early Cottle ranch days have been saved to use in educational programs, including a wagon brought from Missouri in 1868. ❖



Visitor Center at Martial Cottle Park.

Membership

The membership dues for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are **due on January 1st every year.**

So, please think about renewing your membership for 2018 at the December luncheon or mail it in to CA Pioneers of SCC, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA, 95155 by the end of the year. Basic dues are \$35.

Check your mailing label on the Trailblazer and it will indicate when your dues have expired. For example, if after your name it says, Dec-17, your Pioneers membership is up-to-date until the end of 2017.

Additional donations or higher membership levels are always appreciated.

Visit www.CaliforniaPioneers.com for more details. Please don't forget the Pioneers in your estate planning and consider donating from your IRA's required minimum distribution.

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

Time Travel *(Past News from Newspaper Archives)*

San Francisco, 1862-63: Leland Stanford, when governor of California, was sporting a private railroad car costing over \$30,000—a birthday gift from Mrs. Stanford.

San Jose, 1876: Publishers, Thompson and West, had just completed their Santa Clara County Atlas, a task that began the year before. The superb 115 page edition measuring 15" x 18" was selling for \$15. Every boundary line was shown on maps and the names of owners in full. All roads, streams, mountains, schools, churches and post offices made a flourish. The handsome issue contained vivid inscriptions throughout. *(By the 1980s, one Bay Area book seller asked \$800 for a copy of this early printing. Today, you can view many of the maps and drawings online.)*

San Jose, 1881: The Board of Supervisors had set the water rates charged and

collected by water companies within the county: 15¢ per month for each person above five for families and private boarding houses; 40¢ per month for private water closets; 50¢ per month for omnibus and stage stables including water to wash each horse; 75¢ per month for hack stables, including water to wash each horse; \$1.25 per month for each water trough on the sidewalk.

San Jose 1912: Sir Thomas Lipton, tea magnate and noted yachtsman, accepted an invitation to attend the Port of San Jose Dinner as a guest. Sir Thomas was on his way to Vancouver, B.C. by railroad.

Santa Clara, January 1927: "Official recognition was given Santa Clara as a city when the state legislature ratified the new city charter, adopted by a vote of 627 to 150 by the local citizens on April 5, 1926."



Santa Clara, March 1939: "Glass milk bottles were soon to be displaced by paper containers according to the State Department of Dairy Service." ❖

Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills



Fern Wright McLaggan



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Good Wishes for Thanksgiving Day!

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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.