

Volume 13

Fall 1973

Number 4

VIGILANCE COMMITTEE

Clyde Arbuckle

At 5:12 a.m. April 18, 1906 the earth shook and the sky burned. It was along the San Andreas Fault where the earthquake precipitated the worst wave of destruction and death that Santa Clara County had ever known.

Following quote from "Early Day San Jose": "The great complex of brick buildings at Agnews Insane Asylum collapsed into a heap that cost the lives of more than 120 patients and attendants.

Downtown San Jose became a mass of rubble. The brand new sandstone Hall of Justice at Market and St. James streets lost most of its cornice and architectural adornment. Four blocks to the south, the relatively new Post Office, built of the same material, dropped its spire and tower clock. The First Presbyterian Church's spire, steeple and bell crashed to the ground, blocking Second Street between Santa Clara and St. John. St. Patrick's Gothic-windowed brick edifice at Ninth and Santa Clara streets collapsed into little more than mounds of brick and mortar. San Jose High School's four - storied building on Washington Square lost its roof, top floor and west side. Among other demolished structures about town were the City Market Building, Hobson's Clothing Store, Mayer Bros. Clothing Store, Native Sons of the Golden West Hall, Hotel Vendome Annex and the Russ House Annex.

Devastation such as this made honest people jittery and looters covetous. An honest citizen of uncertain identity somehow got the idea that looters were on their way from San Francisco to "take" San Jose. He accordingly had a large number of the here shown warning cards

struck off by the painting firm of Muirson & Wright, and nailed them up in public places."

WARNING!

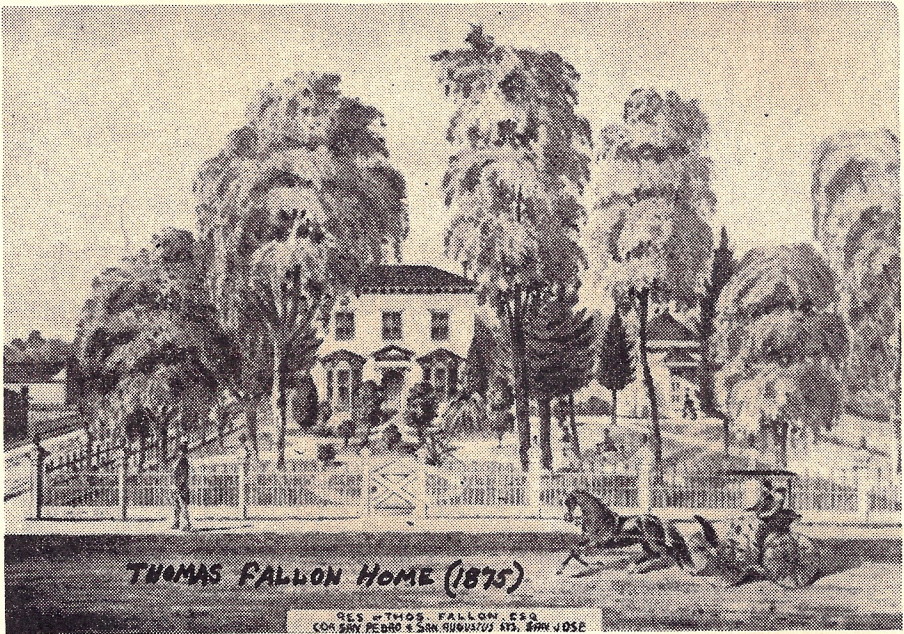
Notice is given that any person found pilfering, Stealing, Robbing, or committing a n y act of Lawless Violence will be summarily

HANGED!

Vigilance Committee.

(Copied by permission from "Early Day San Jose")

* * *



CAPTAIN THOMAS FALLON

Arthur M. Fisk

The first man to raise the United States Flag in San Jose was Thomas Fallon, born in Ireland in 1818, and as a small boy went to Canada with his parents, where he grew up in London, Ontario. In his youth he was "bound out" as an apprentice and learned the saddlers trade. While still in his teens he joined the army and fought under Sam Houston in Texas against Mexico. In 1844 he came to California and joined Captain Fremont's exploring party, which included Kit Carson.

Fallon eventually found his way to Santa Cruz where he established a saddlery business. While in Santa Cruz he met and married Carmelita Lodge, a half-Irish and

half-Spanish daughter of Michael Lodge and Martina Castro Lodge.

The ever restless Fallon ventured north in 1846 and helped to recruit men for the Bear Flag Revolt, which took place in Sonoma on June 14, 1846. July 1, he started for San Jose with 22 volunteers from the Santa Cruz area. He set up camp along Los Gatos creek in the mountains and recruited 9 more volunteers, which gave him 31 men.

General Castro was holding San Jose, but things moved swiftly. On July 7, 1846 Commodore Sloat raised the Stars and Stripes in Monterey and on July 9, Lieutenant Joseph W. Revere lowered the Bear Flag and raised the United States flag in Sonoma. Meantime Captain Fallon was advancing toward San Jose. He entered San Jose July 11, and to his amazement not a shot was fired. He seized the Juzgado, which was the Town Hall and jail, and obtained the keys from Alcaldo, Delores Pacheco. The United States flag did not arrive from Commodore Sloat until July 14, and Fallon promptly and proudly raised it on a pole near the Juzgado. In due time, James Stokes was appointed the first American Alcaldede or Magistrate for San Jose.

Captain Fallon, the hero of the town, moved to San Jose and established a saddlery shop on Pacheco Street. He was elected Mayor of San Jose in 1859, but due to his wife's intense jealousy of his popularity he had to retire from any further activities in the political field.

Fallon's home still standing at San Pedro and San Augustine streets is on its original foundation, but many changes have been made to the building. The ornate trim, the Corinthian columns and the wide doorway symbolize the generous hospitality of this beloved pioneer.

Captain Fallon's wife divorced him in later years, and after closing his home in San Jose he moved to the Russ House in San Francisco where he died October 26, 1885.

* * *

MEXICAN BAND-AIDS FOR CHARLEY

Henry Calloway

Charles Henry (Mountain Charley) McKiernan, truly a son of Ireland, was born in 1825. In his late teens he joined the British army serving in Australia and New Zealand. When his enlistment expired in 1848, the California gold strike lured McKiernan. Like hundreds of others he toiled as a miner for wages. With his meager savings Charley began a pack train operation carrying supplies to

the Trinity County mines. This worked out rather profitably and he soon increased his equipment to 45 pack animals and three helpers. The business was going rather well when his party was attacked by Indians and the entire outfit lost, the men miraculously escaping with their lives after the violent skirmish. McKiernan returned to the mines to accumulate a small stake and make his way to Santa Clara Valley. By early 1850 Mountain Charley McKiernan found the home site for which he had been searching and there he settled. He whipsawed and built his home close to the present Redwood Estates and Summit Road. Our mountain man is judged to be the first white settler in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

This rancher, teamster, road builder and trail blazer was a crack marksman. The hazards of his day made it so because of the grizzly bear, coyote, lions and eagles that continually made short work of his sheep and other live stock, along with the countless deer that invaded his orchards and garden areas. This endless hunting for survival kept Charley so well supplied with edible meat that it became rather productive. McKiernan made two trips a week to Alviso with a pack train of deer and grizzly bear meat for the San Francisco market. It was always Charley's crude muzzle loading blunderbuss that helped keep order in this, his wild kingdom.

Santa Cruz County court house records reveal that McKiernan and four companions filed a gold mining claim on December 1, 1864 claiming an 1800 foot ledge on his property near the summit. Their brute effort proved disappointing and the venturesome group were soon back devoting full time to their ranching pursuits.

However, the most amazing account is of McKiernan's overmatched encounter with a grizzly. Meeting the bear head on, Charley had time only to club the furious animal with the stock of his gun. McKiernan was no match for this huge shaggy creature weighing from 800 to 1000 pounds. The raging mother grizzly seized him, crushed the front of his skull and tossed him aside for dead. Only the quick action of his hunting partner, John Taylor, saved McKiernan from further assault by deploying the animal with his gun and dog. A San Jose physician amazingly fashioned a silver plate of two Mexican half dollars to fit the damaged portion of his skull that the bear had bitten out. Within a short time the plate began to deteriorate and had to be taken out and replaced---all without the use of an anesthetic. McKiernan went through

the entire ordeal without complaint. Shortly after the wound healed he became subject to severe headaches, they continued for two years. Specialists from San Francisco decided to again open and probe his skull and found a lock of hair. This final operation was with the aid of an anesthetic which was then new to medicine. This stalwart and most colorful personality, a friend and counselor to all who knew him, remained in excellent health until 1890 when he became ill and died from a vague stomach disorder.

A giant redwood over 260 feet to its tip and 63 feet in circumference, together with a toll road he built are present day memorials still harboring this peerless pioneer's name.

* * *

LETTERS

Dear Arthur: The following facts were taken from an old membership roster and may be of interest to our members.

"Our Society was organized June 22, 1875. At that time Judge A. L. Rhodes was elected President, John M. Murphy and Peter O. Minor, vice presidents; Alexander P. Murgotten, secretary and Judge John H. Moore, treasurer.

One of the earliest social events which the Society held was the celebration of Admission Day, September 8, 1877 with a grand parade and barbeque. Uncle Ike Branham and Henry Lux had charge of the barbeque.

When Mrs. Lovene Lührman was president (1953-1957) she and Clyde Arbuckle began the bus trips. These were one day trips. After Mrs. Lührman, Gertrude Bernhardt took over the trips and they became one day trips and longer.

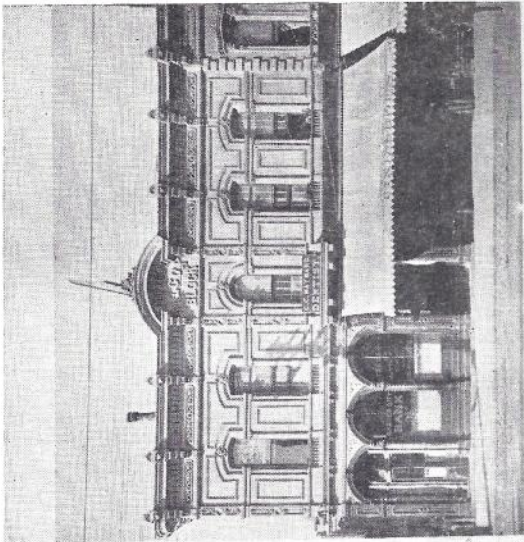
While Percy H. Thompson was president (1957-1960) the Society began its sponsorship of our annual scholarships in the Social Sciences Department at San Jose State College.

When Austen D. Warburton was president (1960-1962) The Trailblazer was inaugurated. Arthur M. Fisk has been the editor since its inception, assisted by his wife, Marjorie. Marjorie has left us but was faithful to the last.

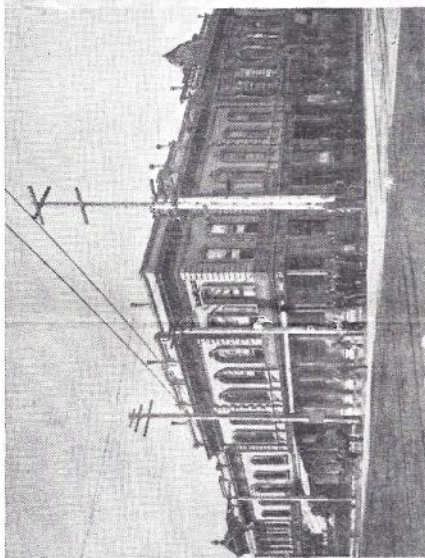
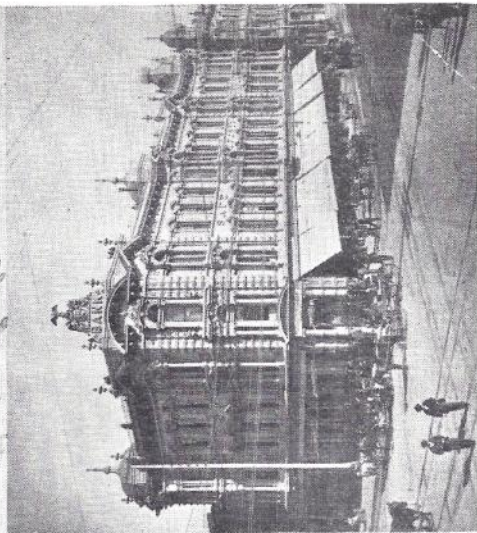
While Minnie L. Clark was president (1962-1963) and again in (1965-1966) the Pioneer Society sponsored a Pioneer Town in San Jose. The Pioneer Town and Museum now has a good start at Kelley Park."

Sincerely, Inez Green Getchell

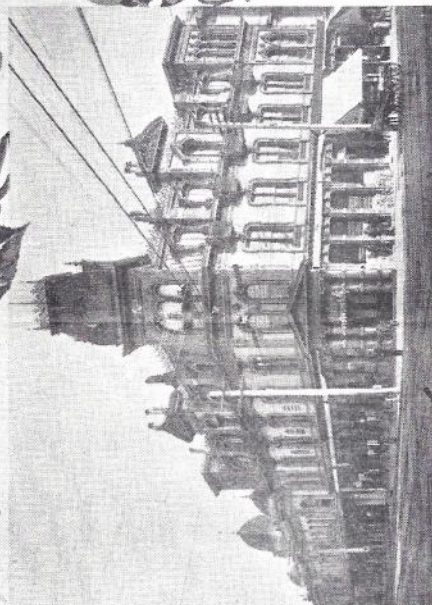
* * *



*Garden City Bank.
Safe Deposit Bank of Savings.*

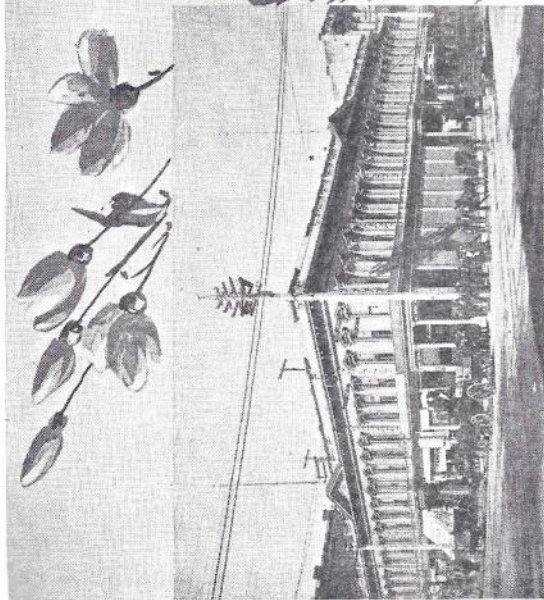


*Commercial and Savings Bank
Union Savings Bank.*

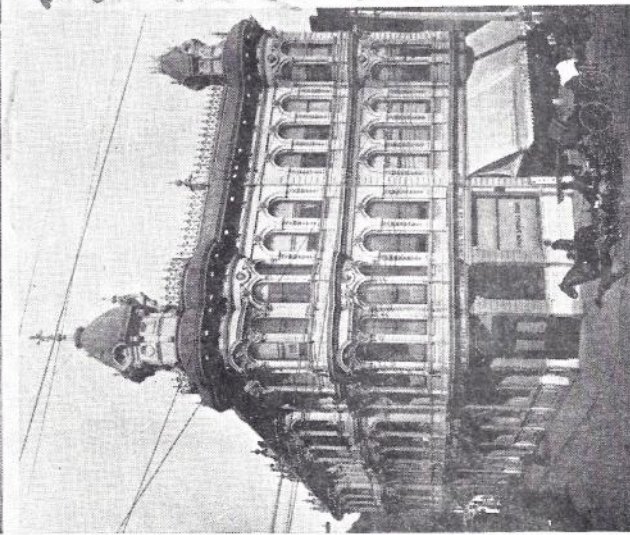


(CIRCA 1894)

SAN JOSE BANKING INSTITUTIONS.
*The First National Bank and Security Savings Bank.
The Bank of San Jose.*



*Commercial and Savings Bank
Union Savings Bank.*



EARLY SAN JOSE BANKS

Eighty years ago San Jose had seven sound banking institutions to take care of the financial needs of Santa Clara Valley as shown in the pictures on pages 6 and 7.

In the upper left hand corner is shown the Commercial and Savings Bank located on the northwest corner of First and Santa Clara streets. It was the second banking institution in San Jose and was the outgrowth of the firm of McLaughlin and Ryland since 1869 and incorporated in 1874. B. D. Murphy was president; James W. Findley, vice president; John T. McGeoghegan, cashier and Henry Phillip secretary.

Lower left hand picture is the Union Savings Bank located at First and Fountain streets. Incorporated in 1889. H. Ward Wright, president; Henry W. Edwards, vice president; A. Friant, cashier and F.V. Wright, assistant.

The First National Bank shown in the upper center picture was on the northeast corner of First and Santa Clara streets. It was incorporated in July 1874 as the Farmers National Gold Bank until 1879 when the distinction between gold and currency was abolished the name was changed to the First National Bank. James A. Clayton, president; A. King, vice president; L. G. Nesmith, cashier. James D. Phelan was a member of the Board of Directors.

The Security Savings Bank was located next to the First National on First Street and was incorporated in January 1891. President, A. King; secretary, L. G. Nesmith; J. A. Clayton, Booksin, Curtner, Hobson and Stock were members of the Board of Directors.

Lower center picture is the Bank of San Jose on the northeast corner of First and Santa Clara Streets. President, T. E. Beans; vice president, W. K. Beans; cashier, C. T. Park and assistant cashier, J. T. Colahan.

The Garden City Bank shown in the upper right hand picture was located on the corner of First and San Fernando streets and was incorporated in 1887. President, C. W. Breyfogle; cashier, Thos. F. Morrison. Among the Board of Directors were C.C. Morse and T.S. Montgomery.

In the lower right hand picture is shown the Safe Deposit Bank located on the southeast corner of First and Santa Clara streets which was incorporated in 1885. President, E. McLaughlin; vice president, A. E. Wilder and cashier, J. E. Auzeais. The bank provided a complete outfit of steel safe deposit boxes.

A.M.F.

* * *

FROM THE PRESIDENT
C. Kelly Canelo, M.D.

Many thanks for sending in your reservations for the September meeting. Lou's Village was able to arrange for the proper number of guests -- as a result they were able to give us excellent service.

Christmas Program -- Our Christmas program will be held at Lou's Village on Saturday, December 1st at 12 noon. We will again be entertained by the San Jose Boys Chorus, under the direction of Ray Nigretti. Those of you who were at our Christmas meeting last year know that this is an outstanding musical group.

Again, we will honor those Pioneers who have reached their 85th birthday. If you are over 85 or if you will be 85 by December 1st, and plan to attend, please call Ruth Heath 241-4436 and let her know so she can reserve enough places at that special table.

Reservations for the Christmas Meeting -- You will find a Business Reply Card stapled to this issue of the Trailblazer. Please fill it out and return it to us before November 25th so we can make proper preparations for all who wish to attend. No postage is needed for this card as we will pay the postage. Many thanks for your cooperation.

DUES -- Because of ever increasing costs, we are forced to raise our dues. Beginning January 1, 1974 dues will be \$3.00 for the calendar year; the initiation fee remains at \$1.00. You can pay your 1974 dues at the Christmas Meeting.

Our Book -- The Effie Hawkins Memorial Edition of the Santa Clara County Pioneer Papers may be purchased at our December meeting.

May you be blessed with all the Joys of the Christmas Season.

* * *

LOOK FOR IT HERE

Our next quarterly meeting will be Saturday, December 1st, 12 o'clock noon at Lou's Village. Our program chairman promises a fine Christmas program. All members 85 years of age or older will be honored on this occasion. If you have reached the 85 year mark please notify Mrs. Ruth M. Heath, 390 N. Winchester Blvd. 3-3G, Santa Clara, California 95050. Phone 241-4436.

THE SOCIAL CLUB of our society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. For further information call Mrs. Frances Grant, 292-3852.

1974 DUES have been increased to \$3 per year and may be paid to our financial secretary, Curtis S. Bailey at our quarterly meeting December 1st or mailed to him at 390 N. Winchester Blvd. 9C, Santa Clara, CA 95050. ***

FOR TOUR INFORMATION call Mrs. Esther Adams, 264-8119 or Miss Alice Vetterle, 294-7510 between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Monday thru Thursday. Address: 2150-97 Almaden Road, San Jose, CA 95125. If you need a tour brochure, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to above address.

Pioneer Tour Feb. 18-22 to Date Festival, Disneyland and the much requested Green Acres, the luxurious Harold Lloyd estate. Details and sign up for this trip will be available at the December luncheon. ***

EFFIE HAWKINS MEMORIAL EDITION of the Santa Clara County Pioneer Papers, a handsome hardbound volume of good history regarding this area with illustrations is now on sale and may be sold out by our next meeting. ***

San Jose scores a first in radio broadcasting for away back in January 1909, Charles Herrold a scientist and inventor at San Jose became the world's first radio broadcaster from a little 15 watt station, simply identifying it as "This is San Jose calling." In 1921 when licenses were issued, Dr. Herrold was assigned the call letters KQW. In 1949 the station was purchased by CBS and it adopted the call letters KCBS. ***

Saratogans have a right to feel proud of their long hoped for museum. The McWilliams cottage has been relocated next to the Village Library and will afford a home for at least some of the artifacts, pictures and documents in their collection. ***

* * *

WELCOME

Congratulations to our new members: Antone L. Amaral, Gladys Ashcraft, Virginia H. Autra, Louise Baille, Dorothy L. Bedwell, Richard Bosshard, Helen Bosshard, Lauretta M. Brewer, Irene L. Burns, Ben Camicia, Vanda Camicia, Fred Campagna, Frances Campagna, Alma A. Campbell, Muriel Carson, Grace B. Chiri, Anne V. Christierson, Rita H. Coates, Charles Conniff, Edith Cooper, Esther B. Culbertson, Elizabeth DeMarco, Eugene L. DeMarco, Clarence P. Dunstan, Elva V. Dunstan, Frieda M. Duss, Nellie M. Edmiston, Emma H. Fernandes, Edna May Gifford, Mildred E. Goodsell, Edna L. Grinter, Kay E. Hamp, Edythe King, Vera M. King, Margaret E. Knacke, Roberta R. Langley, Dorothy P. Leahy, Eva B. Lee, Tony Lovoi, Hazel Magneson,

Adolph C. Marty, Stella C. McClintock, Elva L. McPherson, Angela A. Minietta, Norma H. Miller, Eva Mitchell, Harry B. Mitchell, John J. Musladin, Mrs. John J. Musladin, Neva Cameron O'Donnell, Doris W. Randall, Doris M. Rendlar, John J. Reynolds, Eugenia M. Rogers, Freeman M. Rogers, Margaret I. Russo, Mrs. C. B. Scholes, Lillian E. Schwartz, Allene H. Seese, Gerda E. Skidmore, Beulah K. Slack, Herbert C. Smiley, Zelma Smiley, Lola Spink, Sara J. Spires, Josephine Walters, George E. P. Walton, Jess O. Winn, Melba Winn and Gertrude A. Wright.

UNDER THE WEATHER

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. Ruth M. Heath, 390 N. Winchester Blvd. 3-3G, Santa Clara, Calif. 95050. Phone 241-4436.

* * *

BEYOND THE SUNSET

When separations come to bring us bitter loss
Our memories are precious gifts help us bear the cross.

Verna May Rothe

October 16, 1895 - July 21, 1973

Ethel McNamara

August 12, 1901 - July 23, 1973

Howard L. Worcester

September 7, 1892 - July 30, 1973

Mary Woodfint

April 19, 1899 - August 6, 1973

Marie Mace Gard

August 30, 1895 - August 11, 1973

Harry F. Rediker

March 31, 1888 - September 3, 1973

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

P. O. BOX 8208
SAN JOSE, CA 95155

~~777 COASTLAND AVENUE~~
SAN JOSE, CALIF. 95123

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Return Postage Guaranteed

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. P O S T A G E
P A I D
San Jose, California
Permit No. 1234

THE TRAILBLAZER

Issued in February, May, August and November
Editor, Arthur M. Fisk, 390 N. Winchester Bv., Santa Clara
Assistant Editor, Henry J. Calloway
Staff Artist, Ralph Rambo
Subscription rates to non-members \$1.00 per year. Single
copies 25 cents each.

Officers for 1973-74

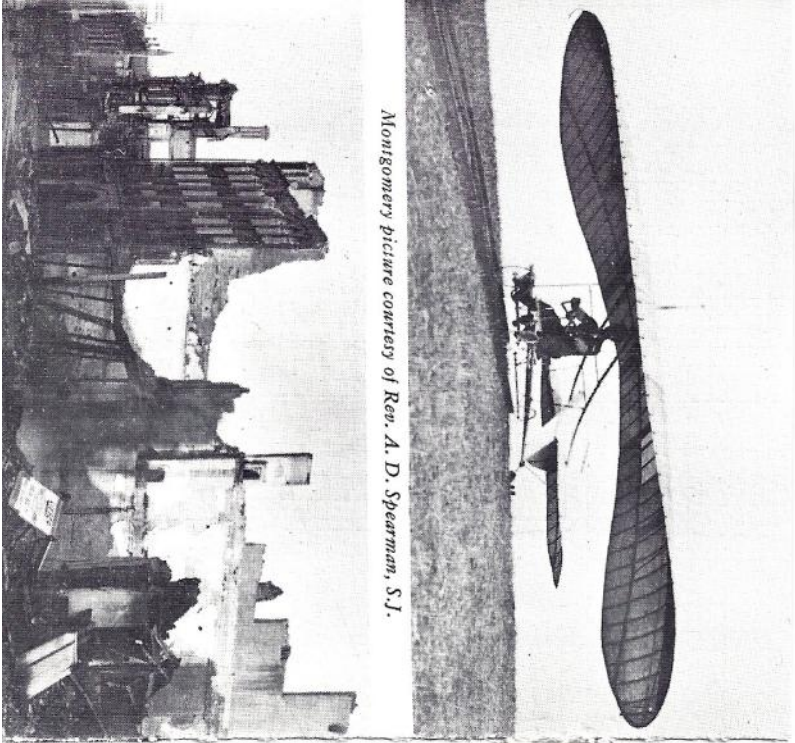
President C. Kelly Canelo, M.D.
1st Vice President. O. J. Schmaelzle
2nd Vice President. Anthony R. Sapena
Recording Secretary Byron K. Bullard
Corresponding Secretary Lynn L. Vermillion
Financial Secretary Curtis S. Bailey
Treasurer Donald E. Tustin
Directors: Clyde Arbuckle, Henry J. Calloway, Arthur M.
Fisk, Marjorie Rusht, Madeline Smalley, A. Bernice Van
Gundy, Gene E. Vennum and Austen D. Warburton.

* * *

PLEASE SEND DUES to Curtis S. Bailey, 390 N. Winchester
Blvd. 9C, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Phone 244-1360. T a x
exempt dues are \$3 per year.

SEND APPLICATIONS for membership and address changes to
Bernice Van Gundy, 561 Fuller Ave., San Jose, CA 95125.
SICKENESS and DEATHS please notify Mrs. Ruth M. Heath
390 N. Winchester Blvd., 3-3G, Santa Clara, CA 95050.
Phone 241-4436.

**INSERT 1
SIDE 1**



Montgomery picture courtesy of Rev. A. D. Spearman, S.J.

Order Form

ANNOUNCING:

THE EFFIE HAWKINS MEMORIAL EDITION

of the

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

PIONEER PAPERS

The Santa Clara County *Pioneer Papers*, a publication of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, Inc. will contain the fascinating story of the golden years of the Port of Alviso, the valley's early involvement with aviation through John J. Montgomery, and the dramatic events surrounding the earthquake of 1906 in San Jose. This is good history, a handsome hard-bound volume with illustrations, and a perfect gift. This card is your order form.

Gentlemen: Please send me as soon as ready _____ copies of the Santa Clara County Pioneer Papers. I enclose my check for \$7.50 to cover the book at \$7.00 (tax included) and 50c for postage and handling.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

FIRST CLASS
Permit No. 5217
San Jose, Ca.

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

NO POSTAGE STAMP NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

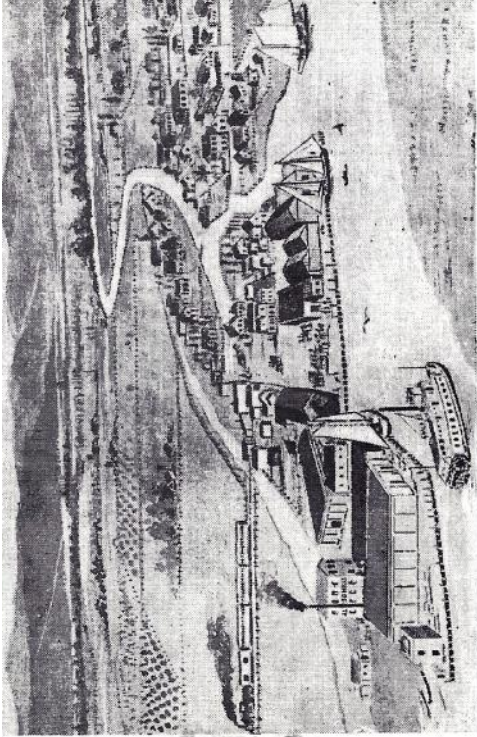
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

% Smith & McKay Printing Co.

180 West St. James Street

San Jose, California 95110



Alviso San Jose Mercury-News Photo

The Santa Clara County Pioneer Papers tell the interesting story of Early Day Alviso, the 1906 Earthquake and the flights of John J. Montgomery in both words and pictures.

**INSERT 1
SIDE 2**

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, Inc.

390 N. Winchester Blvd. #13-D

Santa Clara, California 95050

Please reserve _____ places for me at the Pioneers' Christmas Luncheon which will be held at Lou's Village on Saturday, December 1, 1973 at 12 Noon.

Signed _____

P.S.: **Do not** send payment with this reservation. Pay for your lunch at Lou's Village on December 1, 1973 **as usual**.

**INSERT 2
SIDE 1**

**INSERT 2
SIDE 2**

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

NO POSTAGE STAMP NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

390 N. Winchester Blvd. # 13-D

Santa Clara, California 95050

FIRST CLASS
Permit No. 820
Santa Clara, Ca.

