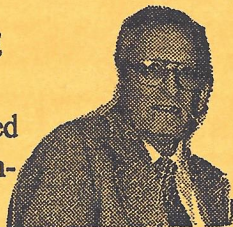


VOLUME 37 DECEMBER, 1996 NUMBER 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Pioneers:

Several months ago the Board received a manuscript of the Quicksilver Mining Company of New Almaden from Mrs. Connie Perham. This document, written by A.C. Innes, an employee of the mine, was given to Connie's Father, James E. Healy, in 1925.



Mr. Innes wrote about the New Almaden Mine, and in particular, the people who administered its daily activities during the period 1870-1920. He gives insight to the decisions that were made during these years by different managers in their attempts to make the mine successful for many years. He describes the mistakes made by men who didn't understand the mining process and which ultimately led to the mine closing. The manuscript is full of descriptions of life and insight into the characters of people of those years that is rich in history of the New Almaden area.

The manuscript is now in the process of preparing it for possible publication by the Pioneers. If you are interested in seeing it published, let our Board know.

I hope you will attend the Saturday, December 7, 1996 meeting at Lou's Village. This is our holiday meeting which is always special. See you there.

Bob

The 54 day 1996 ANZA TRAIL COMMEMORATIVE RELAY left Horcasitas, Sonora, Mexico on October 11, 1996. Santa Clara County teams will cover 80 miles of trail November 25, 26 and December 2. They will stop at Rancho Santa Teresa where poblador Jose Joaquin Bernal was given a land grant in return for his service to Spain.

His descendant, and member of the Pioneers, Paul Bernal will be present and on a horse. They will arrive at the Presidio of San Francisco on November 30 and continue on around the East Bay. (842-4139)

MIMI WELLS-TREASURER

I was born in 1920 at O'Connor Sanitarium on Race Street. My Dad, Ben Fowler, was employed by Standard Oil in Los Angeles, but transferred to Northern California. My Mom, May Canelo Fowler had been teaching eight grades in a one room school near Mount Hamilton, but in those days, once a woman married, she could no longer teach. I was an only child but had a cousin a few months younger with whom I spent a great deal of time.

Our Grandfather, Adolph B. Canelo, his brother Ferdinand and John Stackhouse had a dry goods store called the Arcade at 83-91 South First Street. We visited there frequently, enjoying it immensely since everyone treated us royally. I have some copies of advertisements from newspapers in 1925 showing dresses and coats for \$16.75 to \$34.75. Considering present day prices, it is difficult to believe that.

I attended school at St. Mary's Elementary at Third and Reed Streets which has since been demolished, then Notre Dame High School, graduating in 1937. I enrolled at San Jose State College where I was affiliated with Beta Gamma Chi Sorority. Not being career oriented, I changed my objectives a few times and did not finish. However, I did finish an Associate of Arts Degree from San Mateo Junior College, which I attended briefly. Then I went to Heald's Business College to prepare for a career in the business world.

I was married in 1942 and have one son, Richard. World War II took its toll and the marriage ended in divorce in 1948.

I went to work for Borchers Bothers Building Materials in 1948, starting at an entry level position in the office and advancing to higher levels during my fourteen years there.

In 1962, I was employed by the City of San Jose in the

finance Department. During my twenty three years there, I was in both the Treasury and Accounting Divisions. I retired in 1985.

I have done some traveling during my working years and since. I am enjoying having time to get together with family and friends. My family now includes a daughter-in-law, Ann, that I am very fond of and two adult grandsons, Rick and Shannon. I also play a little golf and do some volunteer work.

REPORT FROM THE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Pauline Hawkins and Ruth Savage

The Following Members have Gone to the Golden Hills

Marjorie Larsen-March 1995

Hazel Gerds-October 9, 1996

Barbara Conyers-October 21, 1996

Victoria Malatesta-October 21, 1996

George M. Bogdam-October 25, 1996

Florence Lee Hawley-October 26, 1996

MINNIE YEAGER HALL 1903-1996

by Helen Arbuckle

Another link with Santa Clara Valley's past has faded with the death of Minnie Yeager Hall on October 10. A lifetime member of the California Pioneers, she marks her friendship with Mrs. Sarah Winchester, former owner of San Jose's major tourist attraction.

Although she was a little girl, Winnie's memories went back to a time when she played in Mrs. Winchester's yard and was a playmate of the caretaker's son. She thoroughly resented the cruel remarks being broadcast concerning Mrs. Winchester's life style and behavior when they had no basis in fact.

Minnie Yeager was born in Denver, Colorado in October of 1903 and came to California as an infant with her brother and parents, Jacob and Caroline Yeager. Mr. Yeager was a cabinet maker. He built a fine home on San Jose-Los Gatos road across from the Winchester property where Minnie lived almost her entire life before the construction of Highway 880.

She married twice, the first ending tragically. Three years later, she married her late husband's friend, Homer Hall, who preceded her in death. She is survived by her

daughter, Betty Classman.

Mrs. Hall was a life member of the Starlight Chapter, Order of Eastern Star and an avid grower of African violets.

VICTORIA MALATESTA

by Mary Lou Lyon

Victoria Malatesta was the 51st President of the Pioneers of Santa Clara County from 1984 to 1986. She came onto the Pioneer Board in 1978, serving in different capacities. A Native Daughter of California, she was born in San Francisco, November 5, 1918 as Victoria O'Donnell, and died in San Jose, October 21, 1996, a few weeks shy of 78. She was always proud of her Irish heritage and her flaming red hair.

She worked for a time in the San Francisco Parks and Recreation Department, then at the library at the University of San Francisco before moving to Bluett Street, San Jose with her hus-band, Joseph, who preceeded her in death. She was a Documents Clerk in the Library at Santa Clara University from the early 1960's to mid 1980's.

She donated a prized family heirloom to the Calvin Presbyterian Church many years ago. That beautiful old piano had come around the Horn from Ireland and had belonged to an aunt who was a concert pianist in Los Angeles.

Although she had not attended meetings in the last few years because of declining health, she is remembered as being a woman of conviction, with a well developed sense of humor. Both James P. Walsh and Mary Lou Lyon were honored by the Pioneers during her term of office with Honorary Memberships at the close of their programs.

She fell on a trip to Tahoe with the Pioneers and broke some bones, then later some more were broken. She has been housebound for some years. Any donations in her memory should be sent to the Diabetes Society.

GARDEN CITY

The name Garden City for San Jose was coined by the Garden City Lodge No. 142, I.O.O.F. on March 18, 1869. It was suggested by C.W. Pomeroy. Pomeroy, a native of New York, had come to Santa Clara County in 1854. He acquired extensive acreage and was also prominent in financial circles, as Secretary of the Bank of San Jose.

Was he from Garden City, New York or did he think the beautiful gardens and parks of San Jose made it a good name? We will never know. San Jose is referred to by that

name in Munro-Fraser's *History of Santa Clara County* in 1881 and H.L. Foote's, *Pen Pictures from the Garden of the World* in 1887 and the San Jose Mercury's tome of 1895, *Santa Clara County and its Resources*. In 1939, an explanation finally appeared in William F. James and George McMurry's *History of San Jose, California*. according to an article written by Laurence E. Bulmore for the August, 1976 *Trailblazer*.

The 1878 Directory listed the Garden City Chop House; the 1876, the Garden City Oyster and Chop House. 1878 finds 3 listings, 1885, 6; 1890, 14; 1900, 11; which were The Garden City Bank & Trust Co., a Brewery, a creamery, the Garden City Cyclers, a drug store, a floral company, a fruit store, a hotel, a sanitarium, transfer company and wood yard. By 1915, there were 22 listings and in 1960, 30. In 1996, there are still 12.

I just counted 100 Silicon Valley listings in the phone book of 1996 but did not stop to count all of the 'Silicons'. I object, but it makes no difference. Names, people and times change.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Another year is closing and dues of \$7 are payable by December 31st for 1997. For your convenience, Bob & Irene Johnson will have a table set up at the December 7th luncheon to collect the dues. If you do not attend, please send your check together with a stamped, self addressed envelope for the card to return to you. Address: R. A. Johnson, 445 North 15th St., San José, CA 95112. As of this writing, we still have 40 persons who have neglected to pay for 1996! Check your mailing label to see if you are current. We hate to discontinue your *Trailblazer*, but will be culling the mailing list.

From Whaleblazers, (Trailblazer, Aug, 1979)

San Jose-July, 1892-Police Officer Reed said a horse without a driver found untied downtown would be conducted to the nearest livery stable, where, on payment of 25¢, the owner could recover his rig.

Morgan Hill, 1909-(August, 1987) Motorists passing this way had looked upon the community as a 20th Century Robber Baron who kept up the roads only to levy tribute on the unfortunate owners of automobiles. Iried motorists made known their feelings throughout the Central Coast. In good time, however, Morgan Hill upped the speed limit from 8 miles and hour to 17!



Touring With The Californians

THE CALIFORNIANS TOUR COMMITTEE

Rose Crimi --Tour Director

Nancy Hill-Phone Reservations (258-3449) before noon

Fern McIaggan-Treasurer, 60 Palomar Real,
Campbell, Ca 95008-4207

Helen Brooks & Pauline Hawkins-Luncheon sign Up



Register for our winter trips at the Dec. 7 Luncheon or call Nancy Hill beginning Dec. 9. before noon. Guests and non-members may register beginning Dec. 16.

THURS. Dec 12, 1996 THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS ICE SHOW this trip is filled, but you may place your name on the waiting list.

Leave 11:30 a.m. Return 7 p.m. Price \$42

THURS., JAN. 9, 1997 OAKLAND MUSEUM AND OLD OAKLAND The Oakland Museum has the finest California History collection in the state. We will have a docent tour in small groups of Cowell Hall of California History presenting artifacts from the stone age to modern times. Our included lunch will be at the Museum Cafe. We will also tour Old Oakland around Broadway and Ninth St. This area is listed on the National Register, has restored Victorian buildings housing restaurants, galleries and shops, including the old Arlington Hotel, now a shopping arcade.

Leave 9:30 am Return 4 pm Price \$30

TUES FEB 11, 1997 VISITING OUR NEIGHBORS- SUNNYVALE AND MOUNTAIN VIEW

Let's get better acquainted with the history of our neighboring cities. We will tour the Sunnyvale History Museum at Martin Murphy Park including the 20 ft tall stamp mill from the old Hendy Iron Works. Built in 1918, the stamp mill was used to crush raw ore from which gold was extracted. We will also tour Sunnyvale's unique Lace Museum. Lunch at a historic building will be included, then we will tour Mountain View's Rengstorff House and Gardens, a family home built for pioneer rancher Henry Rengstorff in 1867. We round out the day with a visit to

the Pioneer Room in the new Mountain View City Hall and a walk along Castro St. to see some restored historic buildings.

Leave 9:30 am Return 5pm Price \$33.

SPRING PILGRIMAGE ON THE AMERICAN QUEEN

MARCH 14-21, 1997 Natchez, Mississippi opens its historic homes and plantations every spring to the delight of river travelers. Our riverboat will be the new, *American Queen* on a 5 day cruise from New Orleans, also stopping at Louisiana's capital, Baton Rouge and Oak Alley plantation, framed by an avenue of 28 live oak trees over 250 years old. Our stay in New Orleans will include historic tours and meals at celebrated restaurants. Brochures will be available at the Dec. 7 luncheon. Call Denny Huff at Travel Advisors of Los Gatos (354-6531) if you want to book a cabin in advance. Cost is between \$2090 and \$2985 depending on cabin selection. Cost includes airfare, tours and cruises, tour driver gratuities and trip insurance.

1997 TRIP SURVEY Thanks to all who participated. We received about 70 responses. The two most requested long trips were the Spring Pilgrimage Cruise, already scheduled for March and the Caribbean & Panama Canal Cruise which we will try to schedule in late fall. Tours to Italy, France and Ireland received moderate interest. We can perhaps consider them for 1998. For overnight trips in California, high interest was shown in the Woodland Opera House & Gladding-McBean Ceramic Exhibit in Yolo County in June, St Helena and the Culinary Institute and the San Juan Bautista Christmas Pageant in December which we will attempt to schedule. Interest was also shown in Jack London Country, Sonoma County, Fort Bragg and rail ride and the Ramona Pageant, which we may leave for 1998.

ARGONAUTS-MARCH 3-5, 1997 Amtrak to Reno-2 nights \$160. Call Fern McLaggan 371-9169

NEW MEMBERS SINCE JUNE, 1996

Josephine Brown
Deane Evans
Sarah Evans
Leota Kuzma
Judith Mordecai
Madeleine Morse

Patricia Packard
Alice Reynolds
Dorothy Shelton
Bernadette Ulrich
Maurine Wycoff

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE PRUNE EMPIRE

Caroline Knapp, continued from September...

The expansion of the orchards was aided by the establishment of several nurseries to provide farmers with the seeds and equipment they needed to start their own orchards. Fox, Pellier, Prevost, Daniels and Antoine Delmas were all active in this branch of the horticulture business. These men did not simply sell fruit trees to the people of the county, they sold the *idea* of fruit trees. Their work in the Pioneer Horticultural Society helped to popularize the growing of fruit, and orchard products more than doubled between 1860 and 1870.¹ Many of these men were also active in experimenting with imported fruit to make it better adapted to the local climate. F.C. Wilson created the Wilson's Wonder Walnut, Abraham King created King's Soft Shell Almonds and Sylvester Newhall, another nurseryman, created the Newhall Peach.²

The second step on the prune's path to greatness was J.Q.A. Ballou's cultivation of the fruit, beginning in 1861, after grafting it to a domestic prune stem. In 1867, he received 500 pounds of fruit from only 50 trees, dried the fruit, and sold it at great profit in San Francisco. The very next year, he shipped the dried fruit around the Horn to New York, with even better results.³ Ballou's success set off a huge movement with the valley's grain farmers to set out orchards, though few used the prune. The resulting bumper crop glutted the market, making the fruit almost worthless, and scaring many of the normally wary farmers out of the fruit market. The farmers of Santa Clara Valley could not be convinced to risk fruit again on a large scale until several years later in the early 1870's when farmers again began to set out orchards, aided by the development of two new outlets for their crop.

The first and least popular of these markets was the fresh fruit market, which sprang into existence after the opening of the transcontinental railroad to the East from San Francisco in 1869. Starting in 1869, with the innovation of Levi Ames Gould, a refrigerated car of fresh fruit was sent weekly during the fruit season. The second method proved to be much less risky and more popular. In 1871, Dr. James Dawson and his

¹William James & George McMurry, *History of San Jose, CA*, p.79

²*Scrapbook of Santa Clara County History, Part III*, California Room, Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

³Arbuckle, Clyde, *The History of San Jose, San Jose*, 1986, p206.

wife Eloise started a small canning business in the backyard of their home on the Alameda. (now marked by a plaque) At first, they canned only their own fruit, but soon branched out into commercial canning, starting the J.W. Dawson Canning Company.⁴ The success of the first cannery led to the establishment of dozens more within the next twenty years, until canning was the major industry of the valley.

The Rise of Orchards

Despite all these major advances in the craft of fruit trees, orchards would not become truly important to the economy of the valley until the 1880's. Until this time, the majority of the land was still in grains, which required less knowledge and labor and still fetched high prices. In the 1870's and 1880's, the frontier of the Midwest was being settled and as these settlers established themselves and began to farm, it was discovered that the Midwest was ideal for the growth of grain crops. Also, the Midwest had the major advantage of being closer to the key Eastern markets. This increased competition combined with the new advances in fruit preservation to make orchards seem more and more attractive to the grain farmer.⁵

These early orchards were set out largely in apples, with an occasional foray into peaches or pears. In 1868, this proportion changed drastically, after a huge surplus of apples and pears was created, and a large part of the crop rotted under the trees before it could be taken to market.⁶ After this sobering experience, many orchards were converted into fruits which could be dried or canned like apricots, peaches and prunes. The switch to preserved allowed for further growth in the fruit market, by eliminating part of the orchardists' fear of over-expansion. Fresh fruit has an extremely limited time in which it must be picked, shipped and sold, but dried or canned fruit could be stored until a market was available. For the rest of the valley's orchard days, the emphasis would remain upon these preserved fruits.

The center of the early growth of orchards was the area then called The Willows, now known as Willow Glen. The rich soil found near the meeting of Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River was perfectly adapted to the cultivation of fruit, after the thick underbrush was grubbed out. Into the

⁴Scrapbook, p.246

⁵Janet Humphrey, *From Blossoms to the World*, (Foothill Community College Press, 1970), p. 15.

⁶Humphrey, p.20.

1880's, The Willows remained the center for the valley's agriculture, and the place where most innovation within the industry began. For some time, it was believed that The Willows was the only part of the valley truly suited for orchards, but the Berryessa region began to be developed in the mid-1880's, and it was soon discovered that almost all of the valley land and much of the foothill land could easily support fruit trees.⁷

One of the most important developments in the growth of orchards was the discovery of the prune as the most profitable crop. Though Pellier had experimented with the prune, and J.Q.A. Ballou had shown it to be profitable, orchardists needed more concrete proof before converting their orchards to the new fruit. This proof came in 1881, with the incredible success of the Bradley orchard. Starting in this year, E.L. Bradley's Steven's Creek Road property, realized \$2,500 to \$4,000 a season, a fantastic price, and entirely in prunes.⁸ This success started a movement to set out prunes among local growers. This time, over-expansion of production capacity was avoided because of the already established canneries and dryers, which could absorb much of the excess crop. The prune market was extremely strong because few places in the world are suited to its production, and the only prunes available to the United States' market at the time were inferior and expensive European imports.

By the 1880's, orchards were firmly established as the primary form of agriculture in Santa Clara Valley. The number of fruit trees grown in the county increased wildly during the 1880's, and doubled to 4.4 million between 1890 and 1895.⁹ From this time until after the First World War, orchard production would continue to increase, producing a prosperous and growing society, proud to call itself the Prune Capital of the World.

⁷Sawyer, Eugene, *The History of Santa Clara County*, Los Angeles, 1922, p.209

⁸Stephen Payne, *Santa Clara County, Harvest of Change*, (San Jose, 1987), p.113.

⁹Payne, p. 120

OFFICERS - CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Robert G. Fisher-- President

3435 Yuba Av. San Jose, CA
95117-2966 408-241-0224

David McKinney, 1st V.P.

P.O. Box 6772, San Jose CA
95150-6772 408-732-1946

Jim Arbuckle, 2nd V.P.

988 Franquette Av San Jose
95125-2619 408-265-9722

Jane Brown-ton-Corresponding Sec

10 Kirk Av, San Jose CA
95127-2214 408-929-7591

Doris Herschbach-Recording Sec

Telfer Av, San Jose CA
95125-3346 408-294-1509

Mimi Wells-Treasurer

16 Ayer Ave, San Jose, CA
95110-2201 408-293-0134

Robert & Irene Johnson

Financial Secretary & Membership

445 North 1st St, San Jose, CA
95112-1726 408-275-1389

Clyde Arbuckle-Historian

--& President Emeritus

988 Franquette Ave,
San Jose, CA 95125-2619
408-269-5324

Helen MacCarthy-Archivist

270 Umbarger Road #123
San Jose, CA 95111-2032
408-578-4485

Paul R. Bernal-Legal Advisor

365 Flamingo Dr.,
Campbell, CA 95008-3625
408-299-7400

Californians-Tours

Rose Crimi

1289 Martin St, San Jose 95126-2628
408-293-0896

Submissions to the Trailblazer For the March Issue must be received by

Feb. 1 Mary Lou Lyon-Ed 879 Lily Ave, Cupertino, CA 95014-4261

Audit Committee

Fred Gardner-Chair

2276 Shibley Av San Jose,
95125-4065 408-269-4241

Joseph (Bud) & Marie Amaral

6001 Vera Cruz Av
San Jose, 95120-4864
408-268-4078

Sunshine Committee

Ruth Savage

3195 Calaveras Road,
Milpitas, CA 95035-7207
408-262-4245

Pauline Hawkins

1223 Redcliff Drive,
San Jose, CA 95118-1228
408-269-6730

Betty Nygren-Marshall

23500 Cristo Rey Dr,
Cupertino CA 95014-6532
415-964-8828

Evelyn Ucovich

Parliamentarian

416 Millpond Dr, San Jose,
95125-1431 408-287-8413

Hacienda Cemetery

Richard Hill

10393 Doris Court,
San Jose CA 95127-3449
408-258-3449

Bud & Marie Amaral

6001 Vera Cruz Av,
San Jose CA 95120-4864
408-268-4078

Californians Reservations

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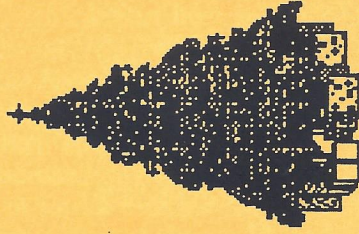
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