

THE

TRAILBLAZER

QUARTERLY BULLETIN
OF THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

INCORPORATED 1875

Vol. 15

Winter 1975

Number 1



This colorful stamp introduces our Centennial Year while paying tribute to one of California's oldest Historical Societies.

WHALE BLAZERS

1915....You just could not overlook the Blossom Loop Trolley Special. Interurban cars departed from the Bassett St. Depot. Here began a 65-mile moving picture whirl through the heart of the valley -- all for one dollar. Ads proclaimed, "It's like going through heaven without dying."

1906...Plans were made to plant the Penitencia Creek at Alum Rock Park with 50,000 hatchery fish for the benefit of the excursionists according to Game Warden Koppel.

Spanish explorers in 1770 called the nearby Santa Cruz Range "Sierra Azule" or Blue Mountains. By 1908 when additional Interurban stops were needed, the Peninsular Railway insisted on "Blue Hills" for a station name. Hopping mad residents, snapped, "NO!" They later turned a willing ear to Congress Springs and Vasona as way stations.

Alum Rock Ave. was established by the County Supervisors in June 1866. A. J. Fowler, an Evergreen rancher, contributed the seedling eucalyptus in 1884 which sky-scaped and double-rowed the avenue until the 1950's.

Heroic William Lewis Manly, the man who named Death Valley, was a charter member of our Society.

The Pioneer, our Trailblazer ancestor, quoted, Jan. 13, 1877...."San Jose is well-governed, is out of debt, and has a population of 17,500. The pioneers in our midst who were here in '49, when the population was less than 1000 and a collection of adobes stood where models of architectural beauty now stand, may be pardoned for exclaiming,

'Can such things be

And overcome us like a summer cloud?'"

THE FORGOTTEN PADRE

HENRY CALLOWAY



It appears as though the zealous Father Fermin Francisco de Lasuen has somehow been overlooked. Ask a Californian who established the missions and you are apt to get a quick reply, "Father Serra." Right, for the first nine of the twenty-one missions, that is!

After Father Junipero Serra's passing in 1784, Lasuen was elected Father Mission President in 1785. During his 18 year administration the number of missions doubled from nine to eighteen while the Indian converts more than doubled. This little-known Franciscan had eagerly undertaken the task of completing the gap in the mission chain between Monterey and Santa Clara. In our immediate area, Lasuen established Mission Soledad, Mission Santa Cruz, Mission San Juan Bautista, and Mission San Jose.

He also supervised the reconstruction of Serra's nine original missions. Lasuen, too, inaugurated a number of mission industries. With mission life on the increase, he recruited from Mexico skilled craftsmen and artisans. Blacksmithing, masonry and carpentry plus a more diversified agricultural program were introduced.

It has been said Lasuen achieved a more harmonious relationship with civil authorities. In 1793 George Vancouver, the English navigator thought enough of the beloved padre to name two prominent points near San Pedro Bay, Point Fermin and Point Lasuen.

Serra's successor and one-time assistant was an exceptional director who greatly advanced the cause of the missions. His death in 1803 terminated the golden years to a golden chain. Successors failed, averaging short troublesome years as mission leaders. Like Junipero Serra we hope Father Lasuen, the unremembered one, is given his proper niche in the "hall of names."

A Ride On The Skunk

Curt Bailey

To many who are not taking advantage of the trips being offered by The Californians, I would like to tell about one Mrs. Bailey and I enjoyed. It was a trip on the "Super Skunk" from Willits to Ft. Bragg. The original diesel rail cars were nicknamed skunks because "you could smell them before you saw them."

Dependable Greyhound driver Taylor Comer stopped at The Italian Swiss Colony Winery for us to sample their products before our satisfying lunch in Ukiah.

Arriving at Willits we were greeted by a Pioneer couple who had recently moved there, then boarded the 5-car Super Skunk for our 40 mile (an air line distance of only $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles) and $2\frac{1}{2}$ hour trip to Ft. Bragg. Throughout the distance your route gently curves and turns like a serpent. You pass from shadows of majestic towering redwoods to the sleepy Noyo River. The scenery changes as you climb 1,700 feet to sunlit fields of wildflowers, grazing cattle and apple orchards.

Originally a logging railroad, the California Western dates back to 1885 with the self-powered yellow railcars ("skunks") being inaugurated in 1925. Georgia-Pacific, operators of the railroad, manage more than 180,000 acres of prime timberland in Mendocino County, much of it is visible from the train. Vigorous young growth redwood and Douglas Fir have grown to maturity since loggers first harvested the area in the 1890's. To meet the growth potential of the local forest, a new G-P tree nursery in Fr. Bragg now annually grows 1.4 million seedlings for outplanting.

Our bus met us at our destination, Fort Bragg which is the largest city on the coast between San Francisco and Eureka and was settled as an Army post in 1857. The fort was abandoned in 1867 to be resettled with the construction of the first sawmill in 1885.

After dinner overlooking the Noyo River with a beautiful view of the fishing village, we were taken to the Ft. Bragg Footlighter's Little Theatre to see the production of "The Gay 90's Review." With a 3 piece band furnishing the music, the cancan dancers did their thing, with the bartender, Gay Ladies, W.C.T.U. and the ever present villain giving us an opportunity to hiss him, we

were well entertained.

Sunday morning gave us time to attend the Gem Show or simply roam the town before the bus arrived to take us to the Fair Grounds for the Paul Bunyon Day activities. The legendary Paul Bunyon, portrayed by a 6'6", 310 lb. character with his six-foot axe, crowned the Belle of the Redwoods before the loggers participated in chain saw, hand saw, hand-axe throwing and pole chopping. The finale was a water fight between Ft. Bragg and Willits fire departments.

On our homeward journey was a stop at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, forty-seven acres developed by a retired landscape nurseryman. A tour by the founder proved to be one of the high-lights of our trip.

A delightful stop was Mendocino City, south of Ft. Bragg, which is a Cape-Cod style village originally known as "Big River" and settled in 1852. As Mendocino has remained unspoiled by the 20th century, it has great appeal to artists.

We traveled via Hwy #1 along the rugged and scenic coast of northern Calif. passing Sea Ranch, an area of thousands of acres of bare land between the sea and the highway, with very few houses located in this large development.

We enjoyed Ft. Ross founded by the Russians in 1812 and made a Historical Landmark by California in 1906.

At a Coast Guard Station we were given a conducted tour and information on rescue operations.

We next traveled inland along the Russian River to Occidental where a scrumptious and leisurely Italian dinner was enjoyed at the Union Hotel, a fitting end for our pleasant journey.





CENTENNIAL PROJECT '75'

Austen D. Warburton

As Pioneers, we have an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the story of our Valley. Each member, and each member's family has contributed to the history of the state. As one of our society's major bi-centennial projects, we are asking every member to prepare and to submit a written report, which would include the history of the member's family, telling where they came from, when and how, what they did after arriving here including as much personal and historical material as is possible, and also to include pictures, maps, newspaper clippings, etc. to augment the story.

We are hoping to have an envelope to contain the story of each of our members, which will thereafter be available for research to accredited students of California History. This material will be available through the California Room at the San Jose Library, and should also be of great help in future genealogical work for members of everyone's family. The more information we gather, the more effective this project will be.

There is no other organization in this area which has more potential in this field than ours. We urge everyone to get this material together as promptly as possible, and to send it or bring it to our next quarterly meeting. If you are unable to do that, please send it to either LYNN VERMILLION, C/O-California Room, San Jose Public Library, 180 West San Carlos Street, San Jose, CA 95113 or to AUSTEN D. Warburton, 790 Locust Street, Santa Clara, CA 95050. If you would like to have some help in putting the material together, let either of those persons know, and they will endeavor to have help provided for you in putting the story together.

Would it not be a great thing for our Society of California Pioneers in tribute to the heritage and ancestry which we have, to be able to present to the community this compilation of historical information in usable fashion for future generations to appreciate and enjoy? It is up to each of us to make this project work and succeed. We ask everyone to do his part.

IT'S OUR YEAR: LET'S PARTICIPATE

ESSAY MATCH OPEN TO ALL

Again this spring, the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are offering two cash scholarships to anyone who submits the best essay on any subject, person or place concerning the history of Santa Clara County. A first prize of \$150 and a \$50 second prize will be awarded along with publicity in connection with the achievement. The papers will be filed with the collection of papers maintained by the Society in the California Room of the San Jose Public Library so as to be available for future research purposes.

The Society is also embarking upon a program of publication of selected papers and the winner's material will be considered for possible use in that regard. Since we are well over 1,300 members and one of the oldest organizations in California, such recognition can be meaningful to the winners.

Any additional information and the rules and regulations for the SANTA CLARA COUNTY HISTORICAL ESSAY can be obtained from Miss Lynn Vermillion, California Room, San Jose Public Library, San Jose, CA 95113 or Mr. Austen D. Warburton, 790 Locust Street, Santa Clara, CA 95050 or Mr. O. I. Schmaelzle, 14401 Nutwood Lane, Saratoga, CA



The Society's Centennial stamp as represented on the cover of this publication is available for purchase by the membership and friends. A single sheet (12 stamps) sells for 50¢ or three sheets (36 stamps) for \$1.00. The stamps may be purchased at the luncheon meeting or from your editors at 1899 McDaniel Ave., San Jose, CA 95126 or any member of your Board of Directors.

This red, white, and blue seal, with the approval of the Board of Directors, was designed by your editor and marshal, Henry Calloway, to publicize the 100th anniversary of The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County.

IT'S OUR YEAR: LET'S PARTICIPATE



Orlando Barton was beyond a doubt California's most incredible geologist to ever probe her throbbing oil belt. "The oil belt of the west Joaquin was belched from the bowels of the earth," he wrote in 1898, "because hell itself refused to live with it."

This oil buff baffled his contemporaries with his exploations, aboard, of all things, a bicycle! Strapped down with data, foul water, dried beef and biscuits, he pried almost every acre of the torrid valley floor and foothills west of the San Joaquin River. There was never another oil geologist like him. When the going became rough for biking, he tossed a supply of water over his shoulder and set off on foot. Lacking human companionship, buzzards, coyotes and jack rabbits became pathway companions.

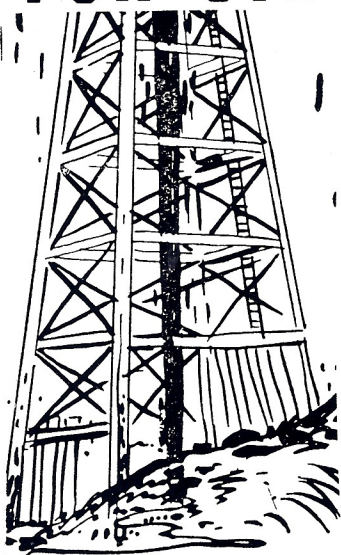
Years later Orlando Barton recalled how in meager shade he retreaded exhausted bicycle tires from a discarded cowhide cut to narrow strips and laced to battered rims. The job proved adequate, providing him with the necessary mileage to Maricopa, 80 miles distant.

As early as 1864 California crude was basically limited to two products, grease for wagons and kerosene for lamps. Near the turn of the century our cyclist sensed the destiny of the horse and carriage with the rapid advent of the internal combustion engine. A waste product called gasoline now found broad use.

Thanks to Orlando Barton's bicycle, he helped prove to the oil pioneers that California crude had more to offer than just oiling dusty roads.

H.C.

PUMPING FOR OIL





O. I. Schmaelzle

Greetings:

At the December membership luncheon we broke the attendance record! 462 members and guests attended the meeting and by all reports enjoyed the affair. We continue to plan to work with the management at Lou's Village to improve and to speed up the serving service. But it must be remembered when there are 450 or more persons to feed it takes time.

The directors did appreciate your full cooperation in canceling reservations by those who were unable to attend. We are happy that we do not have to request payment of the luncheon in advance. Please carefully notice elsewhere in this issue concerning canceling and holding places for late-comers.

We have a treat in store for the March meeting. Mr. Ralph Hansen, chief librarian at Stanford University has made an in-depth research in the early days at Stanford and his talk should be interesting and historical.

BRING A FRIEND!

LOOK FOR IT HERE

Our December luncheon collection for the children of the Pediatrics Ward at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center netted \$220. Mrs. Evelyn Ucovich, hospital auxiliary president, extends her staff's gratitude with "Bless you all!"

The high, wide and handsome Dashaway Stables at the Kelly Park Museum complex is nearing completion. It will become the showcase for buckboards, sulkies, stagecoaches saddles, branding irons and buggy whips. An added feature attraction will be a working blacksmith shop. THE MUSEUM IS OPEN WEEK DAYS 10 to 4:30; SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AND HOLIDAYS 12 to 5. No charge to Senior Citizens.

If you make a reservation for the March meeting and find that you have to cancel, PLEASE phone either: ----- 243-5752, or 241-4436, or 244-1360. Thank you.

Look For It Here

"Mr. Americanism" Henry Stout was recently honored with the Freedom Foundation Award for his patriotic commitments to our city, state and nation. Well done, Henry! Comrade Stout served on our Board of Directors from 1967 to 1973.

Miss Virginia H. Williams proudly displayed a silver medallion at the Dec. luncheon, presented to her father, Andrew W. Williams by the S. C. County Pioneers in 1877.

TV Channels 36 and 54 rekindle our past with timely progress reports on the Peralta Adobe restoration. Archaeological diggings by West Valley College have exposed a porch floor secured by hand-forged square nails, utensils, tile, keys, coins, a toy brass cannon, marbles and china doll fragments. These finds indicate life styles of the 1850's.

Laura Calloway, our associate editor, learns her former pig-tail-pulling Athboy, South Dakota schoolmate, Donald Osby is mayor of historic Deadwood, So. Dakota.

Our SOCIAL CLUB now meets at the Town Park Towers at 60 North Third Street, on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. A 50¢ luncheon is provided at 1 PM followed by social activities. Remember, gentlemen are welcome too. Call Lovene Lührman, 292-0070.

TOURS: For reservations call Mrs. Ruth Gross, 379-4877, from 9 AM to noon, Monday through Friday. Mail to The Californians 2150-97 Almaden Rd., San Jose, CA 95125.

"DUES shall be payable annually in advance in January of each year." Please remit to Curt Bailey, 390 N. Winchester Blvd., 3-3G, Santa Clara, CA 95050.



Beyond the sunset

Jan. 3, 1875 -	Embert M. Brown	- Oct. 4, 1974
Sept. 9, 1887 -	Leola A. Forward	- Oct. 16, 1974
Oct. 6, 1926 -	Roberta R. Lanley	- Nov. 18, 1974
June 5, 1915 -	Emma J. Keener	- Nov. 23, 1974
Feb. 22, 1903 -	May C. Hilton	- Dec. 3, 1974
- - - 1891 -	Hazel M. Magneson	- Dec. 4, 1974

Welcome New Members

Arthur A. Allen	Mary Lewis
Mrs. C. J. Anderson	Virginia L. Lord
Edgar M. Anderson	Chester L. Maccono
Esther Anderson	Victoria Julia Malatesta
Myrtle Anderson	Emilia Mandere
James M. Arbuckle	John E. Mandere
Marie Baker	Ardelle Manning
Melvin E. Bigham	Marie McKelvey
Ruth E. Bigham	Walter T. McKelvey
Eva Bonacorso	Bud Morgan
Frank Monacorso	Marjorie Morgan
Betsy Bryant	Margaret O'Brien
Charles Burdick	Mabel C. O'Connor'
Frank S. Burgess	Ruth S. Owen
Christine Burgess	Helen J. Peters
Adele Charlson	George C. Praisewater
Bertha Clampitt	Grace W. Praisewater
Wilma K. Clark	Cleone A. Riley
Merline J. Daveggio	Emmy M. Robeck
Mary A. Dinapoli	Marie C. Rylander
Eleanor H. Disher	Valerie Y. Smales
Alice E. Doherty	Jacinth Soares
Marge Dugdale	Margaret Soares
Nancy Ellis	Ethel E. Sumner
Cleo Lenore Frost	William G. Sweeney
Early L. Frost	Adelyn F. Szukalski
Erma Frost	Julietta del Castillo Tarot
Helene P. Hayes	Mathews T. Terras
Evelyn V. Howard	Viola Thornton
Lee Hutchison	Nancy Tyson
Marie M. Jacklin	Anona K. Vertin
Bartley Kilgallin	Leslie L. Watkins
Catharine Kilgallin	Catherine White
Mary A. Kluge	Olive Whitmire
Esther Knabke	Mary T. Wise
Elsie V. Krause	Jewel A. Wyman
Edith Kurrell	Hazel E. Zarccone

The Pioneer Board of Directors have ruled that at the membership luncheons no seats can be held or reserved after 11:50 AM. The directors are certain the membership will understand the purpose for this action. Thank you for your cooperation.

P. O. BOX 8208
SAN JOSE, CALIF. 95155

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* * *

DUES: \$3 per year (tax exempt) To Curtis S. Bailey,
390 N. Winchester Blvd. 9C, Santa Clara, CA 95050

Phone: 244-1360

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - ADDRESS CHANGE: To Bernice
Van Gundy, 561 Fuller Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125

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