

THE

TRAILBLAZER

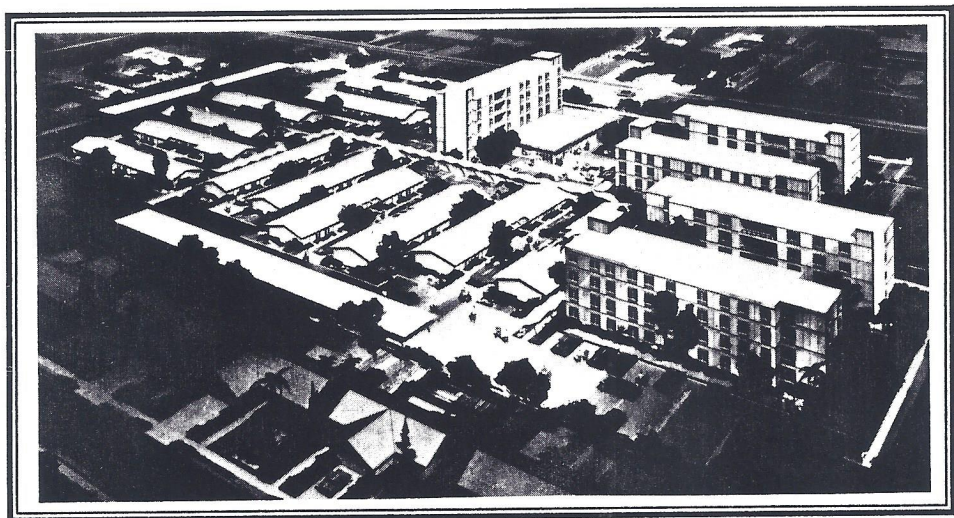
QUARTERLY BULLETIN
OF THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

INCORPORATED 1875

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This picture is taken from the title page of the booklet written by Arthur M. Fisk and published by Valley Village. The author of that booklet was also the first Editor of *THE TRAILBLAZER*.

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

Four years ago –

DOW FALLS 508 – \$500 BILLION LOSS

Tuesday, October 20, 1987

Eight years ago –

U.S. INVADES GRENADA

Wednesday, October 26, 1983

Twelve years ago –

IRANIAN STUDENTS SEIZE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEHRAN

Vow to hold hostages until U.S. returns Shah

Monday, November 5, 1979

Sixteen years ago –

PATTY HEARST FOUND

Friday, September 19, 1975

Twenty years ago –

U.N. VOTES TO ADMIT PEKING

Nationalist China Ousted

October 20, 1971

Twenty-four years ago –

EGYPT AND SYRIA ACCEPT CEASE FIRE

Friday, June 9, 1967

Twenty-eight years ago –

OSWALD IS SLAIN IN TEXAS JAIL

Monday, November 25, 1963

Thirty-two years ago –

HAWAII STATEHOOD WINS FINAL VOTE

Friday, March 13, 1959

Thirty-six years ago –

DREAM REALIZED – DISNEYLAND OPENS

Monday, July 18, 1955

From: *HEADLINES—Front Page News From The San Francisco Chronicle 1865-1988*, Chronicle Books, 1988



President's Message

Bryan Millar

My report to you this time begins on a very sad note.

Nestor V. (Wally) Wahlberg, editor of *THE TRAILBLAZER*, and husband of board member Mary Wahlberg, died suddenly on March 28th. The news of his passing came as a great shock to us all, especially since he seemed to be so well and in such good spirits. Our deepest sympathy goes to Mary and their family.

Now, of course, we are still looking for a person (or persons) to edit *THE TRAILBLAZER* on a permanent basis. I ask you to *please* contact me or one of the directors if you or any Pioneer member you know of can help us fill this important position. This job is not as difficult as one might suppose and anyone who has had experience editing a newsletter for their church, lodge or any other organization could do this task. I would appreciate hearing from any of you who are interested and would be glad to answer your questions. My phone number is (408) 377-2001.

Committee members Richard Hill and Robert Oliver have been working on plans to properly fence and otherwise improve our Hacienda Cemetery property in New Almaden. Before going ahead, we need to have a detailed survey made to determine boundary lines, etc. To this end, we have signed an agreement with Mr. Kevin Fisher. Actual restoration should begin soon after his work is completed.

Our annual Essay Contest is now underway, and the judges are very busy deciding which entries are best. The winners will be presented with their prizes at our June 1 luncheon meeting.

See you there!



HISTORY OF VALLEY VILLAGE

Nestor V. Wahlberg

A good many of you are acquainted with Valley Village as the starting point of many Californian Tours. This 300 apartment complex is located at North Winchester and Dolores Avenue in Santa Clara.

The first American landowner of this property on record in Santa Clara County is John Knowles. In 1860 he purchased a ranch south of Santa Clara on the west side of Santa Clara and Santa Cruz State Road (Winchester Boulevard). On January 24, 1871 he obtained a patent from the United States of America.

The ranch was sold to a Mr. Wood, Sept. 17, 1878, from Wood to Donovan 1879, Donovan to Richards in 1887, Richards to Titus in 1887, Titus to H.M. Leonard in 1889. The ranch was then subdivided by Mr. Leonard in 1890 and became known as the Prune Ridge Tract.

On December 12, 1894 H.S. Berry comes into the picture by acquiring lots 1 through 7 January 14, 1895. H.S. Berry conveys lots 1 and 2 to A.G. Berry and on March 23, 1911 the property was conveyed to Mary E. Berry. On February 20, 1952 Mary E. Berry deeded lots 1 and 2 to her children, Raymond, Blanch, Beulah, Chester, Amy and Mildred. This group sold the property to Bohannon on September 24, 1952 and on the same date the lots were conveyed to the Kaiser Groups, which in turn conveyed the property to the Kaiser Foundation Hospital March 1, 1954. They contemplated using the grounds for a hospital but changed their minds and sold it to Valley Retirement Homes, Inc. on November 15, 1963. In December 1964 Retirement Homes, Inc. was granted permission for use of a fictitious name, Valley Village.

Valley Village was conceived during the year 1961. The senior citizens community was spearheaded by Dr. John C. Carroll at the time, Minister of the Church of the Valley. Two men supporting him were Mr. Austen D. Warburton and Mr. Richard L. Davis. Reverend Carroll presented the idea to the Board of Deacons in 1961 and they took it under consideration. Things moved fast in 1961 – contact was made to the Kaiser Foundation Hospitals for purchase of a 10 acre parcel adjacent to the Church of the Valley. The Board of Deacons approved and voted for sponsorship of the community. On November 7, 1961 Church of the Valley Homes, Inc. was chartered by the State, a board of directors organized, elected and by laws approved. Vincent E. Linquist was retained as Administrator for the project in December 1961 and an office opened in January 2, 1962. Mr. Linquist organized and made contacts. O.E. Anderson, a local contractor, was retained. A seven month option was taken on the acreage in May. In August preliminary architectural drawings were made, a financial study, and rent

schedules. These were presented to FHA in San Francisco. The City of Santa Clara gave their approval on September 15, 1962. A fund drive was made at the Church in 1963 and \$46,000 was raised. In November 1963 FHA committed \$4,195,800 and the land purchase was completed. In February 1964 the Board selected Williams & Burrows of Belmont, California as general contractors. On November 8, 1964 a ground breaking ceremony was held on the site and construction stated on November 16th. The project was completed January 21, 1966.

The courts in Valley Village were opened for occupancy on July 1, 1965. The first high rise building to open was #5 in November 1965, then Buildings 4, 3, and 2. Building #1 and the dining room were opened January 3, 1966.

The material for this article was taken from a booklet written by Arthur M. Fisk and published by Valley Village. The author of that booklet was also the first Editor of *The Trailblazer*. The present editor had the pleasure of doing the printing for this booklet and *The Trailblazer*. Mr. Fisk traded with the author's print shop in the early 1960's and 70's. He dedicated the booklet to Reverend John C. Carroll. Arthur Fisk acknowledged that Vernon Askine provided the inspiration for this venture. The writer had failed to preserve any of his printings and obtained a copy of this booklet from Mrs. Askine a few years ago. She recently moved out of Valley Village and settled in Sacramento.

Many Pioneers still reside here and over the years many of our society presidents and officers called this place home.

THE PIONEER PRAYER

Almighty God, may the torch of endurance, truth and valor borne in the western wilderness by the early Pioneers ever be upheld and cherished by the members of this organization. May we profit by the experiences of the founders of this great State and may we dedicate our lives to the establishment and continuance of the principles of Justice, Liberty and Equality. May "Eureka" ever be the response of those who here seek freedom and opportunity. May righteous and everlasting peace and prosperity be assured to this Golden Land. Amen.

PABST CAFE

Leo Sullivan

(Reprint from *Trailblazer*, Vol. 8, No. 1, Winter 1968)

The Pabst Cafe, located on the ground floor of the New York Exchange Hotel, 69 North First St., was owned and operated by Henry L. Hirsch.

An early attraction at Hirsch's Cafe was an orchestra composed entirely of young women, a rare novelty at the turn of the century.

Paul Egry, a later feature, was a Hungarian violin virtuoso, possibly the greatest Gypsy musician ever to appear in San Jose. Hungarian fiddlers differ from the regular run of violinists. Playing their Magyar airs, the Gypsy improvises embellishments on the theme, casually interpolating turns and trills, never playing composition twice the same way. In other words, Romany musicians rarely follow the text, but interpret scores according to the mood of the solist.

Egry, of swarthy complexion and medium build although a likable man, was by no means a prepossessing individual in appearance. But looks and pockmarks became of minor importance when the Hungarian started playing his native airs. Egry had the style, dash, vibrancy and brilliance of tone for which Gypsy violinists were noted.

Paul, while a great artist, had a besetting weakness, whisky, commonly known as "John Barleycorn."

When Paul was on a "spree," owner Hirsch had an employee chaperone the violinist to Alum Rock Park, where George Alexander and his wife, caretakers of the resort, did their best to keep Paul "off the bottle" so he'd be in shape for the evening performance.

Egry's parents sent their son an extra fine violin from Hungary, hoping the instrument might help Paul overcome his abnormal desire for "Demon Rum." The gift failed to achieve its purpose; in a month's time the Guaneri violin was in "hock."

Egry, thru overindulgence, gradually lost his rich lustrous tonal quality and flashy technique on the violin and became so slovenly in appearance and dissolute in his habits, owner Hirsch was compelled to cancel his star attraction's engagement. Ere long, Egry received his two weeks notice.

Now desperate, Egry found a job working nights as a "swamper" at the old Tower Saloon, then located at the South-west corner of Santa Clara and Market Streets opposite Hart's Department Store.

Egry often regaled the "bar flies" of the Tower Saloon with tales of his past glory and triumphs, while continually harping on the idea of suicide.

Late one rainy night when customers were scarce, the drunks told Egry they would help him "take the fatal step." Seating the swamper on a chair, one of the conspirators fired a blank cartridge close to the victim's head, while a confederate poured a bottle of catsup over Paul's shoulder. Egry fainted when he saw the amount of blood he had lost and was "out" for almost two hours. Escorting the "corpse" to his room in a nearby cheap hotel, the bar flies left Paul to "sleep it off."

As a finale to our story, Paul Egry disappeared from his usual haunts and was never seen again in San Jose.

EPILOGUE

After the 1906 earthquake, Henry L. Hirsch moved to San Francisco and opened the "Heidelberg Inn" on Ellis just off Market street.

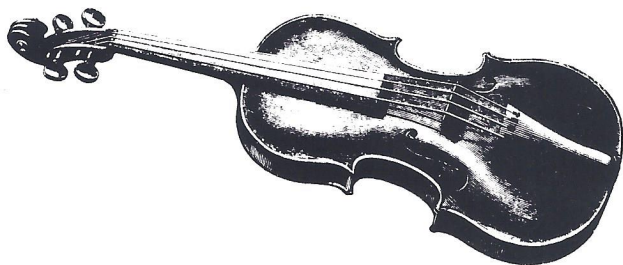
Hirsch prospered and widened the scope of his activities in 1913 by purchasing the Muller Brothers "Bismark Cafe," located in the basement of the Pacific Building at Fourth and Market streets.

"Henry L." transformed his new acquisition into one of the gayest and most popular restaurants in San Francisco, meanwhile changing its name to the "Hof Brau Cafe" and featuring Waldemar Lind, a top-flight violinist, as conductor of the orchestra.

Another earth shaking event was to change the destinies of the "Hof Brau Cafe" and its owner, Henry L. Hirsch – The assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria June 28, 1914 at San Jedo, lit the torch of greater warfare. With the sinking of the Lusitania May 15, 1915 the American public began to look with suspicion at anything pertaining to Germanic culture, or having a Teutonic flavor.

Hirsch then decided to remodel the "Hof Brau" in 1917 and called it "The States Cafe." Naming the boxes or stalls of the Cafe after the 48 American states, brought Hirsch rich returns in trade and good will.

"The States Cafe" was a success and proved to be a mecca for travelers witnessing San Francisco rise Phoenix-like from the chaos, ashes and rubble of the disastrous fire and seismic upheaval of 1906.



HISTORIC CHURCH STILL ACTIVE PARISH

Sara Powell Millar

When the Rev. R.M. Chapman D.D. came to Los Gatos in May of 1882, he found that there was no Episcopal Church. He immediately started gathering a group together and the first service was held in the local Presbyterian Church on May 21, 1882. Dr. Chapman continued to hold services and Sunday School throughout the summer of that year. His great desire was to build a church in Los Gatos. Soon a building lot on University Avenue was given by Mrs. John W. Lyndon. The mother of Mrs. F.H. McCullagh, who was visiting from Germantown, Pennsylvania, was so interested in the building of the church that on her return home, she began to raise funds. The people of her home parish in Germantown, which is called "St. Luke's," sent a full communion service, chancel furniture and other things to help the Los Gatos group get started. When the church was built it was named "St. Luke's" in appreciation.

Dr. Chapman died on April 8, 1883 before the church could be built. He is buried under the present church building. Following his death, a building committee was organized and on August 26, 1883 a meeting was held in the new church and the Mission was organized with F.H. McCullagh, Warden; J.W. Lyndon, Treasurer and J.M. Reynolds, Clerk. On September 9, 1883 the new church was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. William Ingraham Kipp, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of California. He was assisted by the vicar, the Rev. F.B.A. Lewis, M.D. and the Rev. Edward Pidsley of Trinity, San Jose. Shortly after the consecration, the group decided they should become a parish. The proper "delaration" was signed by John W. Lyndon, James C. Moody, Will S. Mansell, Frank Hansen, H.F. Smith and Dr. S. Grant Moore. There were at that time 82 communicants, of whom 18 were males. Many of the names found in the early history of Los Gatos were also founders of St. Luke's. They included John Weldon Lyndon, John Cilker, A.E. Wilder and N.E. Beckwith.

On Sunday morning, October 13, 1901, fire destroyed St. Luke's Church and much of Los Gatos. Thanks to the quick work of the then Rector, the Rev. J. Clarke Robbins, many items were saved from the church. In less than 3 months after the fire, the foundation was laid for the new church (the present building) on December 16, 1901. On Ascension Day, May 23, 1903, the new St. Luke's was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. William Ford Nichols, D.D., Bishop of California.

Nine years later, the women of the parish were able to build and pay for a much dreamed of Parish House and it is still in use today. Although it has been remodeled several times, the basic building is still there.

During its 109 year history, St. Luke's Church has had 18 rectors. The present one is the Rev. Stuart A. Schlegel, Ph.D. Though the church has been remodeled several times, it is still basically the same. Most of the original stained glass windows are still in use. Historic Los Gatos names on some of them are Theresa Lyndon, Alice S. Moore, J. Clarke Robbins, Robert Morgan Becker and May C.W. Hostetter.

A glance through the baptismal records show many old family names. All of the children of John and Mary Jane Cilker were baptized in 1883 and 1886; the Lyndon children, and John Weldon himself (age 50) in 1884; the children of Richard R. and Mary E. Bell in 1894, 1897 and 1899; and the two children of James and Henrietta Pearce in 1887 and 1893. The same is true of confirmations. Laurence Bulmore, son of Robert R. Bulmore was confirmed in 1906; Dr. Robert F. Gober (age 48) in 1907. Among the early marriages at St. Luke's were Irma L. Lyndon and James D. Farwell on April 30, 1902 and Sue Bell and Sewall Solon Brown on October 14, 1916.

St. Luke's parish has started its second century with the church still located in the heart of downtown Los Gatos where it began. It is still a very active parish. Because of its convenient location, the Parish Hall continues to be used by many organizations each week. This is an important part of the parish outreach program.

Sara Powell Millar, History of St. Luke's Episcopal Church 1882-1982





Welcome New Members

Jean R. Boyce	Wilbur L. Fellows
Lucy M. Cinelli	Margaret Heath
Susanna W. Crosby	Verona Kinser
James P. Crosby	Cumorah M. Lovoi
Elizabeth Ross DiVita	Anna M. Olson
Sclavo J. DiVita	Frances J. Olson
Lois C. English	Paul R. Vezinaw
Norma R. Wlastelica	

Beyond The Sunset



Madeline Anet	Eugene Jung
Anne Borzone	Mary Kain
Nestor V. Wahlberg	

HELP! Anyone with information concerning the death or illness of a Pioneer member should call Leah Warren, Sunshine Chairperson at (408) 241-8942.



Touring With The Californians

NEW ! INTERESTING! DIFFERENT! One day trips in August and September. Sign up at luncheon – June 1, 1991.

OCTOBER 9-20, 1991 – APPALACHIA, featuring the most visited National Park in America, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and Shenandoah National Park connected by the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway. We will criss-cross Tennessee from Memphis to Nashville to Chattanooga. See the fabulous Biltmore Mansion in Asheville, North Carolina; the homes of five of our earliest Presidents; Harper's Ferry National Historical Park and feast our eyes on gorgeous scenery for twelve days. Call **NANCY HILL** (408) 258-3449 NOW for your reservation.

COMING! Spring 1992 – THE NETHERLANDS at tulip time.

MEMBERSHIP SHARE IT!

If every current member brought in just one new person, we could boast a membership of over 2,000. Every member is encouraged to bring in new people, relatives, friends or neighbors who are interested in history and who qualify. Requirements for membership are as follows:

ACTIVE: Residents of California for 50 years or more; or descendant of California resident of 50 years or more. (Shall be 18 years of age or more.)

ASSOCIATE: Anyone whose spouse is a member. (May become Active upon attaining 50 year residence in California.)

The application process is an easy one. Fill out an application, have an endorsement and send it along with \$11.00. (\$4.00 admission fee and \$7.00 annual dues) to California Pioneers of Santa Clara County Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155.

Application forms are always available at the luncheons or may be obtained by mail from the above address. If you need questions answered, please call Membership Chairperson, Tommy Warren at (408) 241-8942.

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JUNE 1st LUNCHEON

Please call 554-7587 for Reservations by Wednesday preceding the LUNCHEON DATE.

MENU

Chicken Doré Rice Pilaf Vegetable Spring Jello Salad
Dessert Sherbet Beverage

Lou's Village \$10.00

Doors open 10:30 A.M. Luncheon 12:00 NOON

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