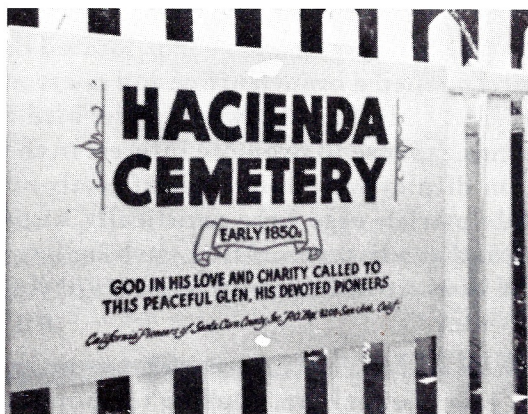


QUARTERLY BULLETIN
OF THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY
INCORPORATED 1875

Volume 21

Number 3

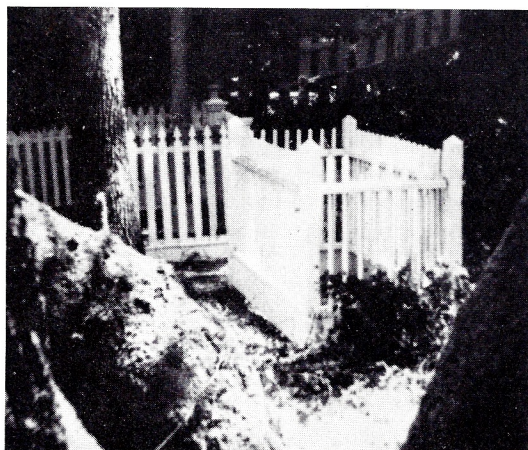


EARLY 1850.

**GOD IN HIS LOVE AND CHARITY CALLED TO
THIS PEACEFUL GLEN, HIS DEVOTED PIONEERS**

THIS PEACEFUL GLEN, THE
California Pioneer of Santa Clara County, No. 102, May 12, 1908, San Jose, Calif.

**STATE TO MARK OUR CEMETERY
"POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST"**



▼ ▼ ▼ **WHALE BLAZERS** ▼ ▼ ▼

SAN JOSE, August 1893: - The Council allowed the \$10 for the installation of two telephones in the City Justice's and City Attorney's offices. The Finance Committee reported that on July 1st there was \$86,580.50 in the city treasury.

June 1907: - The San Jose Ostrich Farm, located in the eastern part of the city, opened a branch office and salesroom in the St. James Hotel. Mr. C. P. Leitch, owner of the bird farm spared neither time nor expense to promote interest in the sales office operation. On display were hundreds of costly multi-colored feathers, while ostrich eggs were artistically suspended from electric light and gas fixtures. Mr. Leitch believed that tourists, as well as local citizens, should be aware of the wonders of Santa Clara Valley.

SANTA CLARA, June 21, 1919: - The annual Portuguese Fiesta was in gala session here. During the popular auction at Espirito Santo Hall donations were being auctioned off at a rapid pace. When it came time for a plump turkey to be featured, it had just laid an egg. The auctioneer held the turkey in one hand and the egg in the other. The turkey sold for five dollars and the egg brought the church society \$30.65.

SAN JOSE, August 1925: - A half million dollar program of a supposed oil dome in the Lone Hill District, covering 10,000 acres, was assured by an organization from Los Angeles. Oil bearing shale and sand said to be of superior grade and equal to Pennsylvania crude was being found in the area.

SAN JOSE, June 1931: - Again for the last time, a machine destined to revolutionize one of the valley's top industries, prune picking, made its appearance by a local inventor. It can go without saying, it somehow failed to impress prune growers as hands and knees continued to outwit mechanical claims "hands down."

H. J. C.

HACIENDA CEMETERY HONORED

Joining with the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County on October 10, 1981 at 11:00 a.m. at the Hacienda Cemetery in New Almaden will be San Jose Parlor 22 of the Native Sons of the Golden West and Mountain Charlie Chapter 1850 of E Clampus Vitus in the dedication of this site as a California Registered Point of Historical Interest—S.C.052.

This little creek-side cemetery on Bertrum Road has been the resting place for many quicksilver miners and their families since the early 1850's. Wooden and stone slabs, some in Spanish, still mark the site.

Desecrated by vandals and neglect through the years, our Society took possession of the old cemetery in 1974 in an effort to launch a restoration program.

Thanks to a superb Boy Scout task, many of the grave sites and picket cribs have been restored. This August a massive cemetery clean-up was propelled by the local Zeta Lambda Tau, a youth group associated with the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. To them we are grateful.

As a memorial to those who rest here a number of our Pioneers have contributed financially in assisting in this restoration effort. Also, contributions to any amount of hours by our members or friends to cemetery tidy-up would be greatly appreciated. Call Hank Calloway—294-1786.

Remember October 10 at 11:00 a.m. Like to see you there. Tell a friend.



THE LENZEN - DREW FEUD



By HELEN ARBUCKLE

Biographical accounts of our early day citizens often portrayed them as kind and generous and exemplifying all the attributes of integrity, but contemporary newspaper articles sometimes revealed traits that were contrary to popular belief.

Beginning with the May 29, 1863 issue, the *San Jose Tribune* carried a running feud between Theodore Lenzen, prominent pioneer architect, and John Drew, member of a well-known local family.

Lenzen designed the unforgettable 1887 City Hall, Santa Clara College, the Auzeais House, the San Jose Sanitarium (old O'Connor Hospital), and many other public and private buildings.

Drew was one of the carpenters employed during construction of Santa Clara College.

In a lengthy article the editor described in glowing terms the design and construction plus the courses of study and faculty of the Santa Clara College. He wrote, "Great credit is due to Mr. Theodore Lenzen, the architect, who superintended the construction of the large new building . . . and the two stories on the adobe buildings that run south from the church. Some of the workmen engaged upon them also deserve special mention. Mr. John Drew, the carpenter, has achieved for himself a most enviable fame for the masterly and workmanlike manner in which he built the stairs and executed other portions of the work entrusted to him."

Lenzen took offense and wrote a blistering letter to the editor for commending Drew on his fine workmanship. Under (Advertisement) San Francisco, June 15, 1863, Lenzen replied. "Editor of the *Tribune*, You do me injustice in giving credit to those that are not in justice entitled to it. In speaking of Mr. John Drew, who (you say) has achieved for himself a most enviable fame for the masterly and workmanlike manner in which he built the stairs and executed other portions of the work instructed to him—you have not been correctly

informed. I have bent my mind to the different branches of building for years, night and day, and the hard earned knowledge I have been rewarded with, I wish to keep for my benefit, and not for Mr. John Drew's enviable fame. While I was employed at the Santa Clara College, I sat up until eleven and twelve o'clock, for months, making the necessary drawings, while the work was progressing, and consider that I worked too hard to give the name of it to other men."

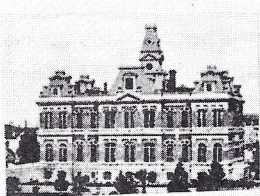
In a separate article, same date, the editor chided Lenzen for his umbrage. "We don't see it, Mr. Lenzen; on the contrary, we think that you do US, and indeed yourself, a very great injustice by your complaint. Why, then, should you get your 'dander' up because we say a good word for one of your workmen? Surely, a good workman has as good a right to be well-spoken of as a good architect."

On July 17, 1863, the *Tribune* carried Drew's reply. "Sir, I notice an advertisement in your issue of the 26th ult., signed Theodore Lenzen, in which he seems to be very much hurt, by a reference made to myself, in your description of Santa Clara College. The malicious envy which impels him to try to arrogate to himself the skill and reputation, which rightfully belong to me, is contemptible. I was two or three days occupied in making the drawings, and getting out the patterns for the handrailings, the whole of the stairs and rail passed through my hands, from the ruff to the finish. Mr. Lenzen may have all the glory of the design of the stairs, and I am sure it will immortalize his name. The design of the building, especially the tower, is a fine one. But his claim to it is a very silly pretense, for the world is conversant with it, since Sloan's *Rural and Suburban Architecture* was published, as it can be found in it page 105, design 22. Mr. Lenzen is a pretty good copiest, and nothing more." Signed, John Drew.

Still angry at the imaginary challenge to his professional honor, Lenzen replied at length (here abbreviated). "Editor *Tribune*: 'In your issue of the 17th ult., I noted a card from Mr. John Drew, in which he spits forth his venomous spleen like the scorpion, and it all amounts to nothing.

"If I had been John Drew, I would not have made such an ignorant remark as to say, 'the world is conversant with it, since Sloan's *Rural and Suburban Architecture* was published,' and all get our theoretical knowledge from the minds of others, while we work assiduously for our practical knowledge. But when the phrenology of a person is so formed as to defy the assiduity of men, then he will not get that practical knowledge. Fortunately, I have overcome those obstacles . . ." Theodore Lenzen

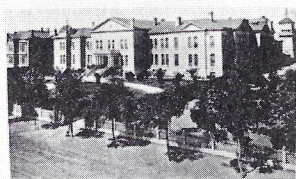
Further research failed to turn up additional material. The feud apparently did not impair either's ability to get jobs. On October 21 the paper announced that Mr. Lenzen was the architect for new buildings on Santa Clara Street, and Mr. Drew was the carpenter for a row of brick buildings on the west side of Market Street.



CITY HALL



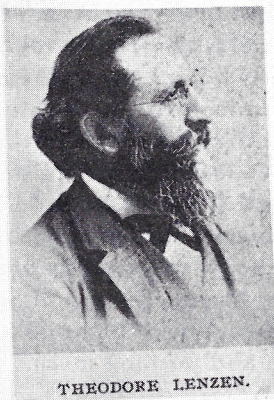
FREDERICKSBURG BREWERY



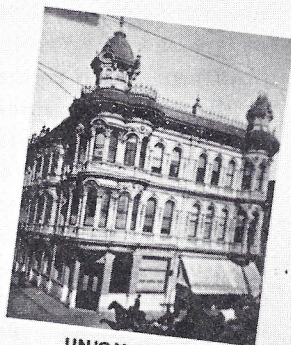
O'CONNOR SANITARIUM



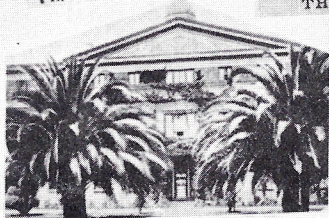
FRANKLIN FIRE HOUSE



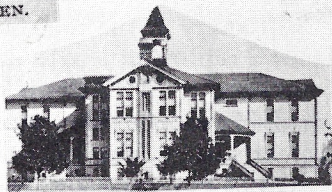
THEODORE LENZEN.



UNION BANK

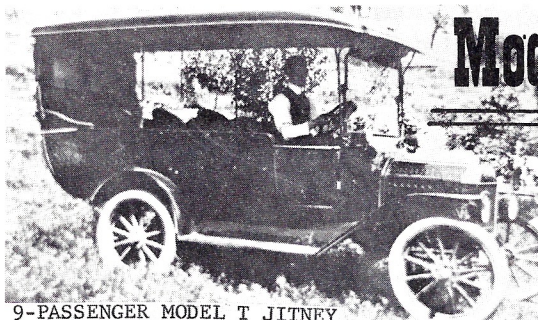


NOTRE DAME COLLEGE



WASHINGTON SCHOOL

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THEODORE LENZEN



Model T Jitney

9-PASSENGER MODEL T JITNEY

When hustling Floyd Curtis graduated from Los Gatos High School in 1913, he was already building a clientele for a wholesale hardware firm serving communities along the route of the Southern Pacific from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

It was in the southern city where the enterprising Curtis became attracted to Model T Fords operating as jitneys and taxi cabs. Curtis knew then that such a service could be adopted in his own home area.

In short order he was negotiating for a \$400 loan from an older brother, Paul, for his first "Tin Lizzie" jitney-taxi. By 1915 Curtis was operating a regular passenger run between Los Gatos and San Jose with a stop over in Campbell. Business flourished and debts were paid.

About this time Curtis was bent on getting married to his Los Gatos High School classmate, Edna Roberts. Before long Edna became quite adept in jitney handling after serving her apprenticeship under Floyd.

Shortly, the jitney service demanded an auto-stage built to accomodate more passengers. It was then that George Curtis, brother of Floyd, was ushered in as a partner to help operate and maintain their new nine-passenger Model T Jitney, a marvel of its day.

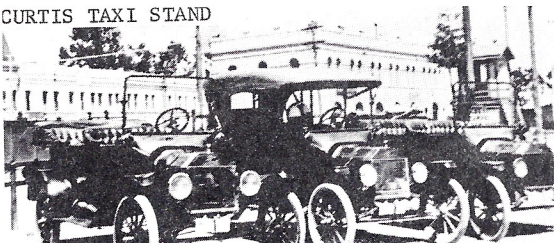
According to newspaper accounts in 1918 the Curtis brothers were seeking permission to establish a line between Los Gatos and Santa Cruz. The Los Gatos Town Board did grant them permission for a five year period.

Schedules indicated a daily service started from their garage on Front Street across from the Southern Pacific depot where they also operated a taxi service.

With the coming of 1920 the Curtis boys disposed of their pioneer jitney line that went on to merge with the Peerless Auto Stage Co.

by Eleanor Curtis Robison (daughter of Edna & Floyd Curtis)

CURTIS TAXI STAND



When **Christopher A. Shelton** introduced the honey bee into California in March 1853, little did he know the site would eventually become the locale for other flying things, namely the San José Airport.

A California Registered Landmark is slated at this location for Shelton's deed. Look for it at the front entrance.

"Mountain Charlie" McKernan was an Irish quartermaster, who did a hitch or two with the British Army, arrived here during the Gold Rush. With his wages as a miner he took up residence in the Santa Cruz Mountains in 1850 becoming the first white settler in that region.

An attack by a wounded bear just about terminated Charlie, and for the rest of his life his skull wore a silver plate.

"Mountain Charlie" will be remembered with a Calif. Reg. Point of Interest marker at his grave site at Oak Hill Memorial Park this year by none other than Mountain Charlie Chapter 1850 of E Clampus Vitus.

Dr. Henry Daniel Cogswell, a dentist and prohibitionist, was a '49er arrival when he set up a dentist's chair in a tent on a San Francisco street. Miners flocked to him by the score to get their molars plugged with their own gold.

He is credited as being the first California dentist to utilize chloroform as an anesthetic in dental surgery.

He made a fortune not as a dentist but in real estate and retired early thus giving him time to crusade on the evils of drink. His sonorous lectures were free. The man believed himself to be a patriot in ridding mankind of drink.

Cogswell wanted to be remembered; so he scattered statues of his likeness all over America—a project that cost him \$1,500,000. San José was a recipient of a Cogswell fountain that dispensed water to man and beast for over 45 years on the grounds of the old City Hall Park (Plaza.)

Jim Arbuckle, our history tipster, states a long sought Cogswell has been located in Washington, D.C. by Rep. Norman Mineta. It is hoped that a casting will be made from this nostalgic statuary aimed for the San José Historical Museum Plaza.

HISTORICAL ESSAY WINNERS CLAIM CASH AWARDS!

Prizes of \$200 each were awarded to the winners of our annual Historical Essay Contest at the June Luncheon. Out front were **Lynn Vermillion**, retired San Jose City Librarian, in the general category division and **Alisa Horine**, a student at Homestead High School, in the high school division.

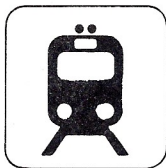
Vermillion's essay, "The Explosion of the Jenny Lind" was an in-depth account of the tragedy that befell the sixty-one ton side-wheeling steamboat when it took too much liberty with steam and exploded out of Alviso on its way to San Francisco on April 11, 1853. Of her one hundred fifty passengers, many of them prominent San Joseans, a large number perished.

Alisa Horine's essay, "The History of the Los Altos Area," relates to the early exploration of the district by Don Gaspar de Portola in 1769 and Juan Bautista de Anza in 1776, and the two Indians who were issued land grants. Near the turn of the century only Mountain View was the hub of the area. Los Altos and Sunnyvale were yet to be heard from. Alisa writes how Mrs. Winchester (widow of the son of the Winchester rifle manufacturer) acquired the present townsite in 1906, then known as the Winchester Ranch.

Second prize of \$50 in the general category went to **Joe Jenkins** for "Z. O. Field, A Carpenter from Maine." Jenkins traced the career of this renowned craftsman, who built the 1891 Victorian house at 1051 Harrison Street in Santa Clara where Jenkins makes his home today. After he purchased it in 1974, he and his partner followed with an extensive beautification effort. It was subsequently awarded a marker as a point of Historical Interest by the City of Santa Clara in 1976.

Gordon Force, a student at Leland High School, claimed the \$50 award in the high school category with "La Rinconada Country Club, 1929-1981."

Certificates of Merit were presented to **Glory Anne Laffey** for her "The Chinatown of San Jose," and to **Debbie Deal** for her "Salute to Sunnyvale."



TOURING WITH THE CALIFORNIANS

RESERVATIONS for trips will begin at the Pioneer Luncheon Saturday, September 5. Beginning Monday, September 7, for reservations call Ruth Gross at 294-9830 between 9 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday. After Ruth confirms your reservation, make your check payable to "The Californians" and mail to P.O. Box 2007, Los Gatos, CA 95031.

Due to popular interest in one-day outings, a number of them are scheduled for October and November. Sign up at the Luncheon.

RENO - November 5-6: The fabulous MGM Grand Hotel wants to pamper us again. Here's your opportunity to rapture over the stage extravaganza, "HELLO HOLLYWOOD, HELLO!"

"A DICKENS CHRISTMAS" in Santa Barbara - December 9-10-11: This popular holiday theme has few spaces available. Hurry for this one. Call now.

TAHITI - MOOREA - February 4-11, 1982: Say! Catch the special brochure on this South Sea Venture at the September 5th Luncheon or send a stamped, legal size envelope to "The Californians," P.O. Box 2007, Los Gatos, CA 95031.

THE PICNIC for our members and friends is approaching. **AN OLD FASHION CHUCK WAGON BARBEQUE PICNIC** is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 19 at the San José Historical Museum from 12 noon until 3 p.m. The price is \$6.00

Welcome New Members

Theo Adrian
Flora Boccaccini
Victor J. Boccaccini
Connie Cancilla
Willis S. Clayton III
Lowell A. D'Arcy

Bess Frankel
E. Brewster Hillard
Helen Hillard
Edith Johnson
Esther T. Lowrey
Arlene Maddux
Donald W. Maddux

Mary E. Mark
Florence Maskoff
Ann McMillin
Bernadine Noren
Aline R. Ortega
Roberta Shields



Beyond the sunset

Helen Andrade
Ada Antine
Charles J. Archambeault
Elmer L. Christian
Florence Christian

Minnie Creighton
Henry Eitzert
William Jacke
Vivian F. Johnson

Eleanora Giannotti
Tony Lovoi
Beatrice Roberts
Dr. George E. P. Walton
Matthew G. Willoughby

ATTENTION!

Members, please be more conscientious about sending in a change of address. We are charged 25¢ for each RETURNED TRAILBLAZER.






SEPT. 5th. IS...

Luncheon

Time

Please Call 247-6606

SO WE CAN PROPERLY PREPARE

MENU

CROSS RIBS OF BEEF
AU GRATIN POTATOES
FRUIT-COTTAGE CHEESE
SALAD - UELLO DESSERT

BARTON COLLINS
RETIRED CHIEF OF
DETECTIVES
WILL BE OUR GUEST
SPEAKER.

LOU'S VILLAGE...DOORS OPEN 10:30...LUNCHEON 12:15.

DUES: Please check your membership card. Does it have 1981 on it? If not, send your three dollars (\$3) to the Financial Secretary, Bob Armstrong, 751 So. 12th St., San José, CA 95112.

P. O. BOX 8208
SAN JOSE, CA 95155

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Staff Artist: Ralph Rambo

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SICKNESS and DEATHS: Please notify: Mary Simas, 1722 Husted,
San José, CA 95124 Phone 448-6102

MOVING! Let us know!