



Volume 8

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RED LETTER DAY
Marjorie B. Fisk

Can you recall that day, long ago, when you were bound for Grandma's house in Santa Clara Valley?

You were only six years old and exciting thoughts of the hours ahead filled your heart with joyous anticipation.

Grandma's house was not large, but for you, it held possible adventures that could never occur in your own home.

Grandma's kitchen was the heart of the home. Here, meals were prepared, washing and ironing accomplished, letters written, clothing mended, visitors entertained and all family plans discussed.

Two kerosene lamps with glass chimneys hung from a horizontal arm attached to the wall. A round plate size, mirror like reflector brightened the lights.

On the shelf, stood a Seth Thomas clock. Hanging from the shelf was a Farmer's Almanac, handy to Grandpa's grasp.

The coffee grinder, with a package of Mc Laughlin's Four X coffee, graced the open shelf beside the cupboard. Below the cupboard was the flour bin and pot closet.

The old lounge stood along the wall just a short distance from the wood box and the water bench on which set the wooden bucket of fresh well water. The long handled tin dipper hung just above.

The most important item in the kitchen was the big wood burning cook stove. Both warmth and sound came from it. The moan of the steam pouring from the tea kettle spout, mingled with the slow gurgle of boiling coffee in the granite coffee pot.

Silvernose, the family cat and her two kittens sprawled under the stove. On stormy days, Jupiter, the shepherd pup found a haven from the weather there.

Grandma, queen of the kitchen, understood little boys. She knew how to make the day one to be long remembered.

"George," she suggested as she handed the child a small basket, "run down to the barn and ask Grandpa to give you some of his ears of dried popcorn. We'll pop some later on, and be sure to visit the white sow, she had eight baby pigs this week!"

What a report George had to give when he got back in the kitchen. "Grandma! Those little pigs aren't very polite to their mother! They ran after her and knocked her down and chewed her buttons off!"

Grandma turned her face aside. Her shoulders shook and she began bringing out materials for pie making.

"I'm going to make a special pie, George, 'cause you came to visit. It is a real old time recipe, one that Mrs. Bascom gave me. I know you'll like it. It is a vinegar pie."

Wide eyed, you watched every move made by those toil worn hands. In the upper pot of a double boiler, Grandma stirred two cups of warm water, two tablespoons of vinegar and the beaten yolks of two eggs. To this, she added one cup of sugar, one fourth teaspoonful salt and three rounded tablespoons of cornstarch. When the mixture cooked to a custard smoothness, she added a teaspoon of lemon extract and a small lump of butter. This was poured into a baked pie shell, topped with a meringue made by whipping two egg whites, two tablespoons of sugar and a dash of lemon extract until it was stiff enough to form peaks. Five minutes in the oven turned the white meringue to golden brown.

Can you forget that vinegar pie, or the roast of venison cooked in an iron pot? And the biscuits with home churned butter and honey in the comb?

You were a big boy of six, but you enjoyed every minute when Grandma sat down in the old nursing rocker and held you on her lap. You enjoyed every kernel of popcorn as you listened to Grandma's description of that long trip west in a covered wagon when she was a little girl.

"Oh Grandma!" you whispered, "I love to spend the day with you. I've never had such a good time! Visiting you is 'zackly as nice as Christmas



HOTEL VENDOME 1888-1930

The Hotel was named after the Palais de Vendome in France, and built on the homesite of Josiah Belden, first mayor of the City of San Jose.

Facing North First Street the hotel grounds extended north from Hensley Avenue to Hobson, thence west on Hobson to San Pedro Street and south along San Pedro to complete the square at Hensley or Whiteman Lane.

HOTELS and RESTAURANTS of EARLY SAN JOSE

Leo Sullivan

When San Joseans felt ritzy and wanted to splurge--it was dinner at Hotel Vendome--the last word in elegance and class. Sad to relate, there will never be anything in San Jose to match the incomparable setting and charm of the magnificent old structure. Set down in 10 acres of wooded beauty on the west side of North 1st Street, the grounds extended on a line from Hensley Avenue north to Hobson, thence westward on Hobson to San Pedro and south on San Pedro to complete the square.

The Southern Pacific Railroad used the Vendome as a link in a chain of picturesque hostelries thruout the State to acquaint Easterners with the beauties of California and the mildness of its climate.

The Will Sykes Trio furnished chamber music nightly in the glass enclosed Lanai.

An early feature of the Hotel Vendome was the stage trip to the newly erected Lick Observatory atop 4200 foot Mt. Hamilton, a distance of 28 miles. The refracting new 36" telescope, the largest in existence at the time 1888, was the marvel of not only the scientific world but held the interest of the layman as well.

Leaving the Hotel at 7:30 a.m., three changes of horses were made enroute, the Grand View House, Hall's Valley and Smith's Creek. From there on the road was dangerous and steep, with a rise of 2000 feet in the last seven cork-screw miles. Piloting a four-horse team around the 365 turns between Smith's Creek and the summit required expert skill with the reins and a set of good, steady nerves.

The arrival back home at 6:00 p.m. was exciting, the sweating horses lathered with foam after the grueling down hill run, were skittish and impatient to reach their stalls and the tired passengers were just as eager and impatient to rest in the privacy of their rooms.

Guests had the privilege of viewing the supernal majesty of the heavens thru the 36 inch telescope Saturday nights. Guests, if they so desired, could stay overnight at the Smith's Creek Hotel.

The Vendome, under the management of George Snell possibly reached its hey-day in the 90's when the Hotel was a mecca for well-heeled San Franciscans escaping Bay Area fog.

The "Vendome Annex" a north wing added in 1904 collapsed with the loss of one life in the earthquake of April 18, 1906. (The writer remembers the Vendome and

the "Big Shake" well, having played a fancy dress affair with Brohaska's Orchestra in the Grand Ball Room April 17th until 1:00 a.m. -- missing the devastating razzle-dazzle by less than four hours.

Following the earthquake, the Vendome took a new lease on life under the direction of H. Wingate Lake. Lake, a "live wire", erected a large, airy structure on the grounds sporting a modern swimming pool, an attraction that proved very popular with the San Jose public.

Fred Tegler, an Easterner, touring California in 1917, fell in love with the stately old structure and its natural setting, purchased the Vendome in 1918 and acted as owner and resident manager during the lush, post war years.

The Will Sykes String Trio furnished chamber music nightly in the glass-enclosed Lanai from 1918 to 1924.

Fred Tegler passed away about 1925.

The Vendome Hotel collided with the influx of population and progress, when the handsome old structure was razed and the grounds were subdivided in 1930. The "Sumitomo Bank of California" presently holds forth on the former Vendome Hotel grounds on North 1st Street.

OVERLAND RESTAURANT

The "Overland Restaurant", another pioneer food purveyor, was doing business in 1870 at 21 North 1st Street, a few doors north of where Penney's Department Store stands today; it was regarded strictly as a man's restaurant and operated as such by owner and proprietor, Michael Glubetich. The "Overland" served a superb "Mercantile Lunch" known for its quality and quantity.

Steve Zaro, also a Slav, took charge of "The Overland" in 1902 and with Chef Petrinovich continued serving the San Jose public until 1912, when they shuttered the establishment for good.

Worthy of mention was a young waiter named Andy Balich employed by Zaro at "The Overland." Balich moved to Santa Cruz where he married and went into business for himself. Trying his hand at Real Estate, Andy proved a "Natural" and before long was regarded as one of the leading Realtors of Santa Cruz. To the foresight and energy of Andy Balich must be accredited the imposing "Palomar Hotel", a hostelry and landmark of which the Surf City is justifiably proud.

Later, Steve Zaro operated "Zaro's Grill" at 35 West Santa Clara Street as sole proprietor in 1912-1918.

(Continued in the Winter issue)

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RECOLLECTIONS OF COLLEGE PARK IN THE '90's

Herbert C. Jones

(continued from the Summer issue)

The western area of the enlarged College Park affords an example of the disastrous and far-reaching effect of a boom collapsing. Mr. T. C. Edwards, manager of the San Jose Abstract Company, told me that in the 80's and early 90's, with the real estate boom going strong, lots in the College Park area changed hands so rapidly that the Abstract Company could not prepare the customary abstracts of title but had to make just a note of the various sales with the abstract to be completed later. After the collapse of the boom it took many years before the owners of the lots found buyers. Those who were caught with the lots bought at the height of the boom, were not willing to sell at going prices which would have meant a loss. Prospective purchasers would not pay the inflated prices. Finally those who had bought at the crest of the boom faced reality and sold for as small a loss as possible. The developers built one house to a block, hoping this would be an incentive for others to buy and build. The buildings put up were two-stories high with Mansard roofs. It was some years, however, before building became general.

In those days the County Fair was held in what is now called Hanchett Park, between The Alameda and Union (Park) Avenue. The mile race track adjoined Union and there was a pavilion adjoining the race track facing west. Stables for the race horses were built along what is now Race Street. There was also an auditorium adjoining The Alameda where were held political rallies and other public functions which required large seating capacity. It served in the Fall at County Fair time as a place for the exhibits of fresh fruit and vegetables by farmers as well as fruit and preserves canned by housewives. There was also a third of a mile bicycle race track where the Westminster Presbyterian Church now stands. Some famous local bicycle riders raced on this track.

Every Spring the Cavalry travelled from the Presidio in San Francisco through San Jose heading for the Pacheco Pass and Yosemite for the purpose of keeping the sheep out of the Yosemite Park area. The Cavalry camped at the fairgrounds, and the small boys of the College Park area consumed with curiosity, would gather to gaze upon the uniformed units.

There were no paved streets in those days and grass grew along the edges of the roads. Many of the residents

who owned cows tethered their animals along the grassy edges. The animals would be confined to the sides of the road and not interfere with traffic. The method was to drive two pegs in the ground and connect them with a rope. The animal had a halter with a ring on the end and this ring would slip along the pegged rope giving the animal a long grazing space but keep it from wandering out in the road. One of the young lads of the area, seeing a chance to make some money, asked Supervisor John Roll to make him poundmaster. He then proceeded to gather up the cows from along the road and put them into the pound, his family back yard. The owners of the cows were then charged \$3.00 to redeem their animals. The Blanchard family was one of those affected. They immediately got in touch with Mr. Roll complaining bitterly about having to redeem their cow. Mr. Roll, being an elected official and not wanting to antagonize the residents of the area, quickly rescinded the authority of the young poundmaster.

Occasionally a cow would break its rope and scamper along the road. Professor Riederman of the College of the Pacific owned a cow which got away one day and started off down The Alameda causing much excitement. Fortunately I had happened to see it start off on its ramble, ran after it and managed to grab the end of the rope and run with it around a tree and bring the animal to a halt.

"Aunt Mary" Page kept a number of cows and furnished milk to her neighbors, she also rented her vacant lots for pasturage.

Many of the houseowners had a chicken coop in the back yard, a barn for horses and cows, and a large vegetable garden with a few fruit trees. There is still one of the big old barns standing near the corner of Hedding and Morse streets, in back of the old Roberts residence.

In the north area of College Park, running along Union Avenue beyond Davis Street the Morse Seed Company put 60 acres of land into sweet peas to harvest for seed. When the vines were in bloom the perfume from the thousands of flowers permeated the surrounding country-side.

This pleasing fragrance had competition from the odors of the Eberhardt Tanning Company in Santa Clara. The hides were tanned in a solution made from tanbark, much of which was brought in from the tan oak trees of the Big Basin area. The process created a most unpleasant smell, and when the wind was in the right direction the odor reached much of College Park.

(continued in the Winter issue)

HISTORIC BRIEFS

Henry Calloway

A few highlights from Mayor White's address to the Common Council in April 1851:

"I'm convinced that a small police force shall be constantly employed. Crime and disorder are becoming so common that we must enforce the law. Certainly a night police should be employed."

"I would suggest that the ordinance prohibiting the sale of spirituous liquors to Indians be more fully and clearly defined."

"Under the charter it is very doubtful whether a chain-gang can be put to use and although our streets require much to be done, we must resort to some other methods in working our prisoners."

"I would recommend that the present rate of taxation (1%) be continued as the assessment for this year."

"I respectfully urge that a Fire Department be immediately organized, and if necessary an engine and other apparatus be procured." ***

In March 1852 the City Council passed an ordinance, making the license for gambling, "five hundred dollars per month for each table."

In March 1852 "The State House used as a court house burned down" - The adobe building of F. Lightstone on Lightstone Alley was then used as a court house for a few months, when the county purchased the house called "What Cheer House" on the corner of 2nd and San Fernando streets for a court house.

At the Fall election in 1852, 853 votes were cast in the whole township.

In October 1852 telegraph poles and wires had been erected connecting this city with San Francisco. It was quite an event in our town. One old citizen waited all day "to see the mail pass by on the wires." So many crosses were lined up that it struck one old Spanish lady to say "I believe these Americans are becoming good Catholics."

In November 1852 it was reported that "eleven hundred and fifty thousand bricks were used this year in construction in San Jose. Nine thousand of which were made in San Jose and the remainder in Santa Clara."

In 1858 honey bees were introduced into the valley by Mr. Gates, Patterson, Buck and Briggs.

In 1859 First Street between Santa Clara and San Fernando was macadamized at the cost of \$3,050.

By-lines from the President

Greetings:

There is no question in my mind that all, who attended, enjoyed our September luncheon and were delighted with Dr. Barrett's talk.

By way of news; I am sorry to inform you that our Treasurer, Howard Worcester, has resigned, due to the illness of himself and wife. We sincerely hope they will soon be fully recovered. Mrs. Evelyn Duff has been elected to finish Howard's unexpired term.

Mrs. Inez Getchell, who has been so beautifully decorating the head table at our luncheons, has also resigned. Mesdames Kathryn Monogue and Helen Haug have graciously volunteered to accept the responsibility for future decorations.

As this is the last Trailblazer for 1968 I am taking this opportunity of wishing all of you a Joyful Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Cordially yours,
Laurence E. Bulmore

* * *

LOOK FOR IT HERE

Our program chairman informs us that Mr. Mike Paterakis and his chorus will furnish the Christmas program at our quarterly meeting on December 7th. Mr. Paterakis has appeared on our Christmas programs since 1959, at that time he was a senior at San Jose State College majoring in music, at present he is Chairman of the music department for the high schools in the Santa Clara Unified School District. All members who are 85 years of age or older will be honored at this luncheon, so if you have reached the 85 year mark please let your officers know about it. ***

1969 DUES may be paid to our financial secretary, Madeline Smalley at our quarterly meeting December 7th, or mailed to 2221 Coastland Ave., San Jose, Ca. 95125. *

Our Tour Leaders, Effie Hawkins and Jessie Black wish to announce the following tours: January, Old Theater at Monterey. February, Date Festival at Indio via San Diego. March, Death Valley. Leaving dates, tour notices and other information will be provided at our quarterly meeting on December 7th. ***

September 17, 1968 was declared "Mary D. Warburton Day" by the Santa Clara City Council, in honor of her 91st birthday. Mrs. Warburton has been a great civic

leader having helped with the purchase and restoration of the old adobe women's clubhouse which dates back to 1782 and is the city's oldest building. She is related to Luis Antonio Arguello the first Mexican native-born governor of California. Her father-in-law Dr. H. H. Warburton came to California in 1847. Today she plans to serve on a women's club project to get landscaping for the new Triton Museum. ***

October 6, 1968 Mrs. Edna C. Ridley, who will be 95 in December, was honored at a surprise party and dinner in a Santa Clara restaurant. More than 90 of her former students were present. She had taught in the old Midway School for a number of years, this is now a part of the Santa Clara Unified School District. ***

"Ranchos of Santa Clara County," authored by Clyde Arbuckle, historian and Ralph Rambo, cartographer and published by Theron Fox (Harlan-Young Press) will be on the market during November in an extremely limited edition. A large four color map by Ralph Rambo is folded into the book, also the facsimile of a diseno of Rancho Santa Teresa owned by Don Joaquin Bernal and which was supposed to contain one square league of 4,438 acres petitioned for in 1834 by Bernal, an accurate survey at a later date revealed his ownership of 9,647.13 acres! The diseno shows the El Camino Real running through the Rancho Santa Teresa which included all the property in Edenvale-Coyote area west of Coyote Creek, this is now well developed for residence and industry. ***

HISTORIC MUSEUM COMPLEX? July 1, 1969 bond funds will become available to construct buildings for a Historic Museum Complex on the 16 acre site in Kelley Park set aside for our Pioneer Town. The underground utilities have been partially installed, a carriage and wagon shed has been erected, the parking lot completed and two large new warehouses are bulging with over \$1½ million worth of bounty, perhaps the best collection on the Pacific Coast, which includes the Bohnett collection of old wagons, carriages, motorcycles, automobiles and other relics of a vanished era, also the beautiful hand carved altar and artifacts saved from the old Chinese Joss House. Please keep our City Council reminded of their obligation to the citizens of San Jose, lest they renege. ***

Santa Clara's old Fremont School was recently demolished by bulldozers. This was the oldest structure left in the Santa Clara Unified School District. ***

A very Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season is the sincere wish of your editors, Marjorie & Arthur. *

WELCOME

Congratulations to our new members: Elva M. Balzer, Ethelbert L. Beecroft, Hilda A. Beecroft, Byrdie Husted Booker, Eugene R. Booker, Aimee Combatolade, Mary A. Costa, Rose Ganshirt, Aquinlino J. Giorgetta, Mary Giorgetta, Grace Goldsberry, Ethel Hood, Marquerite E. Kemmeries, George F. Kohl, Doreen Magood, Jay McCabe, Claire M. Nickson, Frank W. Nickson, Thomas C. Snyder and Mrs. LaVerne Taroner.

* * *

UNDER THE WEATHER

Leland M. Boruck, William J. Heath, Edna C. Ridley, Leo W. Ruth, Leo Sullivan, Leona L. Uttley and Mary D. Warburton have been reported ill. Our very best wishes for a rapid recovery are sincerely extended.

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. Martha L. Bulmore. Phone 264-2104.

* * *

BEYOND THE SUNSET

Life's labor done

Serenely to their final rest have passed,
While the soft memories of their virtues yet
Linger, like sunset hues when
That bright orb has set.

J. Franklin Moore

April 25, 1873 - July 10, 1968

Pierce R. Mayne

April 3, 1880 - July 18, 1968

Marian B. Tate

April 4, 1909 - September 5, 1968

Josiah Earl Dewey

December 22, 1888 - September 7, 1968

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

THE TRAILBLAZER

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Staff Artist: Ralph Rambo

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* * *

THE SOCIAL CLUB of our society meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday afternoon of each month. Card playing and various activities highlight each meeting. For further information call Mrs. Kate L. Owen, 295-1153.

BUS TOUR information for members of the Pioneer Society may be obtained from Mrs. Effie M. Hawkins, phone 295-2868.

PIONEER SCRAP BOOK items may be sent to Mrs. Elsa Jensen, 520 Bradley Ave., San Jose, Calif. 95128.

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