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March 2012

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Pelliers Celebrated at Cemetery

On Wednesday, November 2nd, "The Lives" of Louis Pellier (1817-1872) and his nephew Louis P. Pellier (1858-1873) were celebrated and honored in San Jose at Calvary Catholic Cemetery on Alum Rock Avenue. Their headstones, missing for about 80 years, were returned to their rightful location.

The restoration project of bringing home the Pellier's headstones was a team effort. Mike Brunitti, at *California Monumental*, donated granite bases for the headstones. Calvary Cemetery shared their records and provided the labor to professionally install the bases and headstones.



Paul Bernal, Jim Zetterquist, Rick Helin, Tim Peddy and Clarice Shephard with the Pellier headstones at Calvary Cemetery.

Tim Peddy scanned dozens of photographs and copied documents, while Billy Foley and Paul Bernal worked to compile all of the historic information into one report. The research gathered over decades by Tom Shepard and family, of Stockton, was a great source of Pellier history. Rick Helin

created a state of the art Q.R. code that allows visitors with smart phones to watch portions from the historic film, "A Fortune in Two Old Trunks," and learn more about the Pelliers at the gravesite.

Pioneers President Paul Bernal came up with the

(Cont'd page 3)

Quarterly Luncheon on March 10th

Join us at *Three Flames Restaurant* from 11:00-2:30 in the Banquet Room, 1547 Meridian Ave in San Jose. Make reservations by Thursday, March 8th at 408-554-7587 or email us at sccpioneers@aol.com. Cost is \$25. Parking is available in front of or at the rear of the Banquet Room.

Menu selections are:

- 1) 3 Flames Special Steak; tri-tip with mushrooms.
- 2) Greek Chicken char-broiled, lemon/herb marinade
- 3) Mostaciolli; pasta with basil, spinach, garlic, feta, tomato and sauce.

Coffee and Vanilla Ice

Cream for Dessert. No Host Bar for soft drinks, beer and wine

Our speaker will be Darlene Thorne who will present her vintage collection of postcards on "The Valley of Hearts Delight." For more details about Darlene and her collection, visit our website at www.californiapioneers.com.

Message from our President

The Pioneers has again accomplished an incredible amount of successes in a short period of time! There is a lot of good news for us, there is much volunteerism going on, and we are very strong right now.

The Trailblazer newsletter/journal has a new look thanks to our new Editor Gayle Frank. Kat Foley provided a fresh look to our organization with a much-awaited new Pioneers logo. Mary Lou Lyon was editor for many years and did great work. We appreciate her contribution and look forward to more great things from Mary Lou.

Bill Foley is managing our online *History Calendar Santa Clara County*, which goes out to all history groups, libraries, museums, archives and interested people each month.

We are completing new Docent Guides, thanks to Mary Berger. It is an inspiring guide that helps us remember the importance of our docent program, ably managed by Bev Blockie. We have new docents and are conducting orientations and trainings.

The *In Grave Danger Gang* continues its exceptional work in our local cemeter-

ies. We have replaced two lost headstones at Calvary Cemetery. And we are preparing to return two lost marble headstones at our own Hacienda Cemetery. Eric Johns is crafting some authentic replacement markers for lost wooden ones. Incredibly, we have been offered three more "missing" headstones to return to cemeteries in the Bay Area.

Tim Peddy, the recipient of our Austen Warburton Award, continues to keep our website fresh, which is not an easy task. He works quietly behind the scenes, but works constantly for the Pioneers. I believe he is our most valuable asset because he does everything with joy and does it with success.

The Pioneers Bylaws and Guidelines have been re-written. Thanks to Ken Machado, Gayle Frank, Jim Zetterquist, Tim Peddy and Rick Helin. In addition, Rick will be conducting orientations for board members.

Mary Berger, Tudy Johnson and Tim Peddy are working on getting our inventory put on a professional data base called Past Perfect. It is a powerful tool that we can use to post our collection to the world (with security measures in



Paul Bernal, President
California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

place), so that if someone is researching A.P. Hill in China, they will know we have some resources for them.

Membership tracking has been successful with Gayle Frank at the helm. We are on our way to increasing membership in diversity of color, age, geography, and areas of expertise. Membership numbers are up and the Pioneers is as vibrant as it was when we were founded in 1875. Some of our newest members really add to the high quality of members we already have. We are honored to have April and Hans Halberstadt, Linda Lester, Beth Wyman, and Joe Moless.

We have much for which we are thankful.

-Paul Bernal



Pioneers New Sunshine Chair

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are pleased to announce our new Sunshine Chair, Madeline Streight. Madeline has much experience with this job since she also has held this position for another group for many years.

Madeline serves as a docent at our Paulson House Museum at History San Jose and has been a member for nine years.

If you know of a Pioneers member who is ill, needs cheering up, or lost a loved one, please call Madeline at 408-259-4422. An appropriate card will be sent.

When you call Madeline, please make sure you explain the circumstances, spell the recipient's first and last name and spell the mailing address.

Trailblazer

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Pelliers Celebrated at Cemetery (Cont'd)

brilliant idea to hold the celebration on *All Souls Day* at Calvary Cemetery. The two grave markers honoring a very important family were a beautiful sight, as the two headstones finally were united in a park-like setting. Over four hundred people attended the Mass and members of the *In Grave Danger Gang* were asked to present communion gifts. As the service ended, over one hundred people journeyed to the gravesite where Most Reverend Bishop Thomas Daly gave a blessing and the Knights of Columbus participated in the ceremony. Barbara Peddy placed flowers at the gravesites and somehow a basket of prunes mysteriously



appeared at the foot of Louis Pellier's headstone. It could not have been a more perfect day.

The *In Grave Danger Gang* includes Paul Bernal, Bill Foley, Tim Peddy, Rick Helin and Jim Zetterquist and they are always on the lookout for historical headstones from Santa Clara County. If the *In Grave Danger Gang* has anything to say about it, the "Jinx of Louis Pellier" hopefully will now end. For the rest of the story, see *The Pellier Jinx* on page 8.

-Jim Zetterquist



Top, the Louis P. Pellier headstone.

(Photos: Tim Peddy)

Above, Paul Bernal speaks to the Pellier gathering at the Calvary Cemetery.



OVER 45 YEARS OF FLOWERS | 800-239-0700

Thanks to Gloria Citti, a fellow Pioneer member!

3 locations

990 E. Hamilton Ave., Campbell

800 Scott Blvd., Santa Clara

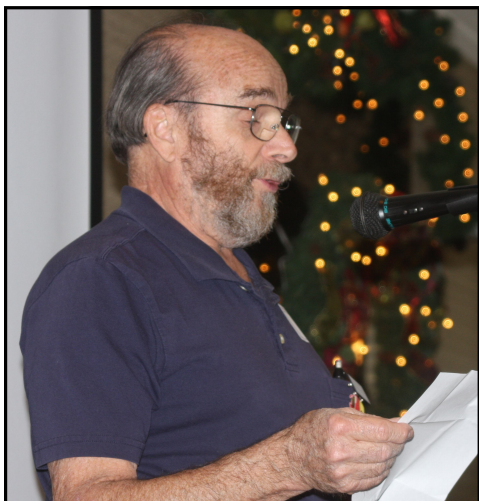
3100 Stevens Creek Blvd., San Jose

Award Winning San Jose Florist Offering World Wide Delivery.

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Voted "Best of the Best" by the San Jose Mercury News.

Tim Peddy Receives Austen Warburton Award



.....Peddy “has become a tsunami-like force for the Pioneers.”

Tim Peddy is the winner of the Pioneers' Austen Warburton Award. Tim is descendant of members of the 1775 Anza Expedition and the 1781 Rivera Expedition. He was born in San Jose in 1936, began school soon thereafter, and has been in school ever since – learning just about everything at night schools and adult education. He has expertise in electronics, business, quality control, web design, photography, writing, astronomy, large equipment repair, office management, radio, navigating the streets of our valley, history, computers, and he can fix just about anything. At the Paulson House Museum, he has fixed everything from the irrigation system to the elevator!

After helping dozens of San Jose non-profits, he has become a tsunami-like force for the Pioneers. He serves as our webmaster, a member of the *In Grave Danger Gang*, served on the Board of Directors, served as 1st Vice President for years, was the manager of our Paulson House Museum, and chaired these committees: Pioneers luncheons, Haci-



enda Cemetery, Events, and Admissions Day BBQ. Tim presently sits on these committees: Inventory, Acquisitions, Library, Archives, Bylaws, Publications, Films, School Programs, Budget, and Paulson House.

The Warburton Award is reserved for those who also contribute significantly to the community at large. Tim has volunteered at History San Jose, Argonauts, San Jose High School, Woodrow Wilson Jr. High, California Historical Society, the A.P. Hill House, Happy Hollow, and Southern Lumber. He has received awards for his stellar efforts. He and his equally awesome wife Barbara established the San Jose High School Heritage Room, raise funds, and chair mega-reunions. Always there to lend a hand, he builds wheelchair ramps for neighbors in need, and drives many people to their medical appointments. Tim collects old maps of San Jose and maintains a website to share his collection with others. He and Barbara were blessed with seven children, many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Tim is thoughtful, has common sense, and is a pleasure to be with. Everything he does, he does right. We are thrilled to have Tim on board, and he certainly earned the Austen Warburton Award.

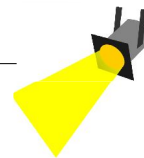
(Photos: the Peddy family)



Paul Bernal, Tim Peddy with Award and Jerry Rosenthal at the Dec. Luncheon

– Paul Bernal

Pioneers Member Spotlight: Ralph Pearce



California Pioneers of Santa Clara County member Ralph Pearce is an incredible asset to our society. He is a library clerk in the California Room special collections of the San Jose City/San Jose State Main Library. Ralph is an outstanding researcher and generous with his great ideas. The poet Mary Oliver in her poem "The Summer Day" asks "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" Ralph is certainly doing a lot with his life, as you will readily see by the interesting things he has done.

Growing up in Willow Glen's "Birdland" neighborhood, one of Ralph's first jobs was at Myron's Books located at Franquette and Lincoln Avenues. Clyde Arbuckle was a frequent visitor and the two spent no small amount of time discussing San Jose's early years. A child of the 1960s, Ralph rebelled somewhat as a teenager, hitch-hiking across the country at the age of 17 despite his parents' protests. Drawn to art, music and writing, he took classes at the Academy of Art in San Francisco, San Jose City College and later San Jose State University. During his student years, Ralph restored a 1927 Chevrolet farm truck and a 1880s high wheel bicycle, both of which he used for daily transportation.

In the late 1980s, Ralph met his future wife Emelie. Living in San Jose's

Japantown, he began work for the San Jose Public Library as a clerk, while playing Andean music and Japanese drums with the San Jose Taiko Group. He and Emelie eventually married and had their son Michael in 1990. Ralph left the library to become a stay-at-home dad, returning part-time when Michael began pre-school. It was during this time that Ralph began doing historical research, primarily into Japanese baseball. When he discovered that the Tokyo Giants had played against San Jose's Japanese American baseball team in 1935, he became interested in local Japanese American history. In 1994, Ralph began interviewing surviving members of the "Asahi" baseball

team and working with the Japanese American Museum of San Jose to create a baseball exhibit. Some years later, Ralph wrote a book based on his research entitled, *From Asahi to Zebras*, which was published by the museum in 2005.

In 2003, Ralph had an opportunity to transfer to the San Jose King Library's California Room. He currently enjoys assisting patrons and serving on the Board of Trustees for SJSU's Sourisseau Academy. His wife Emelie works at the Santa Clara City Library and their son Michael is a junior, majoring in history at Stanford University. Having returned to his childhood home in 1992, Ralph's old bedroom now serves as his office.

His current book projects include histories of San Jose's Japantown, Filipinos in Santa Clara Valley, Coyote Valley, Americans in pre-war Japanese baseball, and a history of his Canoas Garden neighborhood.

Ralph is a third generation San Josean and a sixth generation Californian; his third great-grandfather Reuben Phillips settled near Stockton in 1857. His family has a long history in law enforcement; his great-grandfather Robert Pearce was a federal marshal, while his grandfather Ralph Phillips was a police chief in Los Gatos. His father Jim (Glenn) served on the San Jose Police Department until his retirement in the early 1990s.



Ralph riding his 1880s high wheel

Volunteer Today!

The Pioneers have numerous committees and we are seeking interested members to join. There are opportunities to serve on the following committees: 1) Education, 2) Events, 3) Membership, 4) Cemetery, 5) Paulson House, 6) Docents, 7) Newsletter, 8) Essay Contest, 9) Book Publishing, 10) Inventory, 11) Grants, 12) Public Outreach, 13) Finance, 14) Library, 15) Website and 16) Archives. Please call us at 408-275-6889 if you want more information or would like to serve.

Rose Marie Beebe Wins Fellowship

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County Board member Professor Rose Marie Beebe has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to work on her research and translation of "Mariano Vallejo's 1875 History of Spanish and Mexican California." This translation by Rose Marie will be an incredible resource for those studying California history.

Rose Marie is Professor of Spanish Literature at Santa Clara University. She was elected to the Pioneers Board in July, 2011, is helping us with the Essay Contest. and is currently serving as 2nd Vice President.

Congratulations Rose Marie!



Rose Marie Beebe

December Luncheon Awards

At the Pioneers luncheon, on December 10th at the Three Flames Restaurant, the following 2011 awards were presented.

Tim Peddy

Austen Warburton
Award

(see story on page 4)

Tudy Johnson

&
Mike Console
for
Outstanding
Service Award

Eric Johns

for
Community Service
Award



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Ashworth-Remillard House Update

Several Pioneers recently made a site visit to the Ashworth-Remillard House at 755 Story Road, and were pleasantly surprised by the tremendous progress that has been made over the last year. From the front, the house still looks derelict. Visitors from the offices of Vice-mayor Madison Nguyen and Supervisor George Shirakawa's office both had the same initial comment; they said they always thought the house looked abandoned but "spooky." Like the Pioneers, they were all surprised at the condition of the dramatic interiors, far from perfect but now clean enough to be appreciated.

The Ashworth House was built by Gold Rush pioneer James Ashworth. James and his brother David came from Kentucky and headed for the "diggins" in Mariposa. Both made enough money to buy substantial farms. In 1854 James came to San Jose and bought property on Story Road. His farm would eventually cover 250 acres. James then sent to Kentucky for his family which included his wife and seven children. The family lived in a small house and barn, which are still extant, and built his imposing two-story house in the early 1860s. In 1891, after his wife died, James sold his property to brick manufacturer Peter Remillard and moved to town.

The clay deposits located behind the house and adjacent to Coyote Creek produced some of the finest bricks available.

The Remillard family lived in Oakland but operated brick manufacturing facilities in several Bay Area communities. Their San Jose house was a summer retreat.

After the death of Peter Remillard, the business was managed by his widow and daughter Lillian, who added a kitchen wing and modern plumbing. In the early 1970s, Lillian bequeathed her San Jose house to Joseph Covey, a young man who had been her

neighbor in San Francisco. Lillian met Joseph when he was in grade school and as he grew up, he helped her at dinner parties, assisted with interior design, escorted her to social events and provided companionship in later years.

1970s and discovered the property had been greatly neglected. They began improvements and listed the house on the National Register of Historic Places, then later as a San Jose landmark. Gilbert passed away in the 1990s. Joseph Covey put the site into an historic trust in order to preserve the building before he died in October, 2010.

Sue Cucuzza, a friend and former conservator of Joseph Covey, is currently the trustee of the property. She is looking for a non-profit organization that might benefit from using the property. In the meantime, substantial clean-up efforts continue. The house is open for tours on most Saturday mornings. Contact Pioneers member April Halberstadt to make tour arrangements.

-April Halberstadt

Joseph Covey and his partner Richard Gilbert moved into the San Jose house in the early

To contact April: aprilhalb@gmail.com



Photo: Hans Halberstadt

The Ashworth-Remillard House on Story Road

The Pellier Jinx

Few people have had as much impact on Santa Clara County as Louis Pellier (1817-1872.) He and his brother Pierre Pellier (1823-1894) are considered the fathers of the French prune industry in California for introducing the first French prunes (la Petite Prune d'Agen) to America in 1856.

Two years earlier, in 1854, they founded what became Mirassou Winery, the oldest family operated winery in the United States. Thanks to the Pellier brothers, prune trees were planted throughout the county, creating a sight to behold. In springtime, the valley would be blanketed with beautiful pink blossoms and by summer, covered with the most delicious prunes in the world. By the end of the nineteenth century, the Santa Clara Valley transformed into the *Valley of Hearts Delight*, San Jose was renamed *The Garden City* and Campbell was known as *The Orchard City*. By 1929, California had 267 square miles of prune orchards.

Even though California still produces 99% of the nation's prunes and 70% of the world's supply, very few people know or appreciate the important role the Pelliers played. It is as if a curse was placed on Louis Pellier at the end of his life. It took both Pellier brothers to make the partnership work. Louis had the land and ideas and Pierre had the know-how and willingness to travel to France to acquire cuttings from trees.

Unfortunately, by the end of Louis' life, he and Pierre no longer got along. One account suggests they literally cut the family house in half, splitting everything. Even though the Pelliers were innovators, others made much more money off their contributions. Louis'

wife divorced him and he was committed to an asylum in Stockton, where he died on June 13, 1872, at the age of 55.

The jinx of Louis Pellier did not seem to end with his passing. After Louis died, several attempts were made to honor his memory but no matter what was done, something went wrong.



Though Louis was divorced, estranged from his brother and died far away from many family members, someone loved him enough to have his body shipped to the new Holy Cross Cemetery (aka Kell Cemetery) in San Jose. A large and beautiful Italian Carrera marble headstone was placed at his grave to honor his memory and mark his final resting place. His family members assumed it would be there for centuries.

Louis left behind his 13-year-old namesake, Louis P. Pellier, to carry on his name. Louis P. was the son of Louis' brother, Pierre and wife Henriette Renaud. Sadly, just ten months after Louis's death, 14 year old Louis P. died and was buried next to his uncle. Only ten years

after Louis Pellier's death, the Diocese of San Francisco decided Holy Cross Cemetery was too far from its two San Jose churches, Saint Joseph and Saint Patrick, so the cemetery was completely abandoned by 1890. Over the next fifty years, the old cemetery became overgrown and forgotten by most, except for a few family members and vandals. Some of the headstones were taken and others defaced. One person tried to chip letters off Louis' headstone while another attempted to carve something at the bottom.

Louis P.'s shorter and much thicker marble marker had a unique round, brass and glass door removed. The six-inch door covered a round niche cut into the stone (see photo on page 3.) It is not known today what was exhibited behind the very special glass door; perhaps a locket of his hair or a small candle.

Eventually, a tractor scooped up the remaining headstones and dumped them into a nearby ravine. This act made it impossible to identify individual gravesites going forward. Ironically, the stones were removed so fruit trees could be planted. (Cont'd page 9)

**Above, the prune on the tree before drying.
Below, sorting prunes in old days.**



The Pellier Jinx (Cont'd)

Luckily, by the end of the 1940s, a few people remained who understood the importance of Pellier and respected our early pioneers. Official City Historian and past Pioneers President Clyde Arbuckle lived a few blocks from the old abandoned cemetery, which sat just west of Oak Hill Cemetery.

An old Mercury News article states that Clyde's son, Jim, also a past Pioneers President, and his sister, Susan, came across the old headstones while playing up in the hills. Clyde recognized the historic value of his children's find so he carefully removed Louis' large stone for safekeeping.

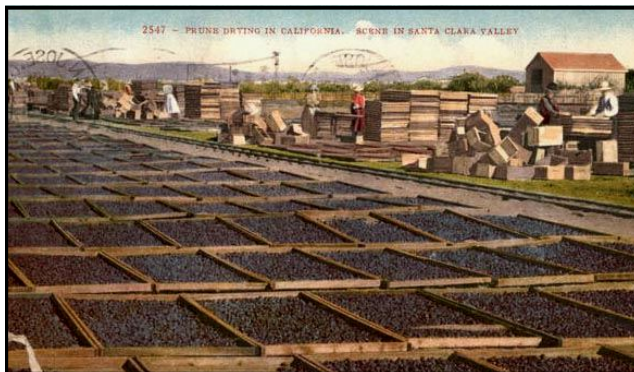
He later loaned the headstone to Sun-sweet Co. for *A Fortune in Two Old Trunks*, a movie that explained Pellier's role in bringing the French Prune to America. Clyde provided most of the historical data for this movie. The movie promoted Sunsweet Prunes but also served as an educational tool for local history classes.

In the 1950s, orchardist Lee Lester rescued Louis P.'s headstone from being used as target practice, placing it in his barn for safekeeping.

During this same period in the 1940s, an official historic marker was placed near present day San Pedro Square, to commemorate the location of Pellier's *City Nursery*. At this point, the jinx appeared over. School kids had been educated about Pellier's role in history and the site of his nursery was properly marked and honored. All looked good, until a truck swerved off the road, destroying the historic marker. That marker was removed and never replaced.

For the next twenty-five years, schools phased out local history classes and the Pellier film was long lost.

By 1976, only a handful of canneries and packers were left in Santa Clara Valley. Past Pioneers President Leonard McKay and Jim Arbuckle (not Clyde's son) had a vision for San



Jose's bi-centennial in 1977. They convinced the McDonald Family, who were related to the Pelliers, to donate the land where the City Nursery was once located. They also convinced the city to turn the donated land into *Pellier Park*. Since the City was short on funds, much of the park was built by the generosity and hard work of local citizens. Fruit trees were planted and a big celebration was held for the park's grand opening. But once again, the jinx continued. The park was not easily accessible and deteriorated by the 1990s.

Circa 2005, local developer Barry Swenson, obtained permission to temporarily remove the park during the construction of a high-rise. Though the development was completed in a few years, the park remains vacant to this day and the city

appears to be in no rush to rebuild it, since they have no money to maintain it. The city also hopes to realign Julian Street one day, which will affect the footprint of the park.

Earlier in 1984, the old Holy Cross Cemetery was in the way of the proposed Highway 87 and "smack dab" in the middle of the planned light rail corridor. All of the bodies in the cemetery were removed and relocated to Calvary Cemetery. Without markers, there was no telling who was who, so the remains were placed in a common grave. A monument was then installed to honor the early Pioneers and the cemetery from which they came. The church, state and cemetery did their best to rectify what had been done but something was missing from the new gravesite, namely, the original headstones.

With Clyde Arbuckle's passing in the 1990s, the location of the Pellier headstone seemed forgotten. Just when it looked like the jinx had prevailed, past Pioneer Vice President, Bill Foley came across a copy of the movie, *A Fortune in Two Old Trunks*. The film was added to the Pioneers' film archive and has been viewed by almost 1,000 people on our website and shown at a PAC*SJ free "Movie Night."

(Cont'd page 10)



Image courtesy of History San Jose

The Pellier Jinx (Cont'd)

During that same period, Bill Foley and past Pioneers President Jim Zetterquist found a picture of Clyde standing with Pellier's headstone in an old issue of a San Jose Historical Museum (now History San Jose) newsletter. The picture was discovered as they sifted through papers left to the Pioneers by the Theron and Frances Fox Estate. Zetterquist thought he recognized the building in the background as being History San Jose's North Warehouse and remembered seeing a headstone stored there over fifteen years earlier.

Meanwhile, past Pioneers Vice President Tim Peddy and California Room Librarian Ralph Pearce in-

formed the Pioneers that Louis Pellier's headstone was located at Lee Lester's barn in South San Jose. As it turned out, the headstone belonged to the nephew, Louis P., which was equally exciting. When the

"Hopefully, in the near future, Barry Swenson and the City of San Jose will rebuild Pellier Park and disprove the Pellier jinx."

group met the Lesters, they knew the long-time San Jose family would make perfect Pioneers members and luckily, the Lesters agreed. Ralph Pearce joined in on the fun and also became a member of the Pioneers.

The Gang was now reinvigorated to find the other half of the pair of Pellier headstones. History San Jose CEO Alida Bray and Archivist Jim Reed con-



Above, former Pellier Park in its early days. Below, former plaque that may still be in storage.

(Photos from E Clampus Vitus at http://www.mountaincharlie1850.org/pl_pellier_park.html)



Pellier Park today

Photo: G. Frank

firmed the elder Pellier's headstone was stored at their Warehouse. Permission was granted to place both headstones at Calvary Cemetery. Ralph Pearce, Rick Helin, Tim Peddy, Bill Foley, Paul Bernal and Jim Zetterquist loaded both headstones on a trailer and Paul Bernal made arrangements with the Diocese of San Jose

and the cemetery to receive the headstones.

Hopefully, in the near future, Barry Swenson and the City of San Jose will rebuild Pellier Park and disprove the Pellier jinx.

-Jim Zetterquist

Radar Tower at Mount Umunhum



Radar Tower view at Mount Umunhum from the valley.

At the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County December luncheon, historian Basim Jaber gave a wonderful presentation on the Almaden Air Force Station on Mt. Umunhum. The Open Space District now owns the property and will turn it into a public recreational area.

Basim strongly believes that keeping the imposing radar tower will serve as a point of interest, as well as providing a

source of historic interpretation to people who visit the mountaintop.

The radar tower that held up the radar sail at the Air Force Station is the enormous multi-story concrete structure you see when you look to the top of our southern mountains. The tower is our version of a European castle ruins. Just like a castle, the Cold War edifice no

longer serves that purpose. If you would like to see a documentary about the radar tower, visit www.AlmadenAFS.org.

If you have questions for Basim or would like to help save the radar tower, please contact Basim at bjaber@jaber.net.

-Tim Peddy



Radar tower, close up view

The radar tower is “the most identifiable marker from the valley floor of our Cold War past. And the structure cannot be easily replaced by show-and-tell panel boards: It is the tower itself, in all its ruin, that evokes the era.”

-Scott Herhold, “Mount Um radar tower must be saved,”
December 21, 2011, San Jose Mercury News.

Pioneers Gone on to the Golden Hills



**Richard H. Bartels
Dorothy Ruth Fischer**





TOURING WITH THE CALIFORNIANS

DAY TRIPS

April 20, 2012 (Fri)

**Moffett Field Historical Museum
and NASA Exploration Center**

From lighter than air--- to faster than sound---to outer space. If you are interested in history and the important role this area has played in aviation and our national defense, this Museum will fascinate, educate, and capture your imagination. After visiting the Museum we will have lunch at *Don Giovanni's* in Mt View before visiting the *NASA Ames Exploration Center* which will get us up to date on touring and exploring outer space.

**Leave: 9:30 AM Return: 3:30 PM
COST: \$ 67**

May 15, 2012 (Tues)

Nuts—Cheese—and Airplanes

On this trip we will travel to San Joaquin Valley and visit **Stewart & Jasper Orchards**. The founders, Roman Stewart and Lee Jasper planted the first of many California almond orchards in the mid-50s. From a modest beginning they gradually expanded and became an integrated operation involving thousands of acres—a leader in hulling, shelling, processing and marketing almonds. We will visit, sample, and shop in their Company Store in Newman, Ca. From there we continue on to Hilmar, Ca. to tour, sample, shop and have a Buffet Lunch

at one of the worlds largest single-site Cheese Manufacturing Facilities.

Then on to Atwater ,Ca. and the Castle Air Museum. **“Nose gunner to pilot---bandits at 12 o'clock high.”**

There is something awesome and mystical about the aircraft flown by the brave pilots and crews of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam Conflict. These aircraft are a part of America's heritage. A group of dedicated enthusiasts formed the Castle Air Museum Foundation, Inc. to have a Museum in which faithfully restored historic aircraft could be exhibited for public enjoyment.

**Leave: 8:00 AM Return: 5:45 PM
COST: \$ 68.**

JUNE 19, 2012 (Tues)

**The National Steinbeck Center
and Steinbeck House**

This multi-sensory museum offers three distinct visitor experiences: a journey through the Nobel Prize-winning author's life and work; the Rabobank Agriculture Museum, which explores the roots of Salinas Valley agriculture through interactive displays, family stories and memorabilia; and changing galleries that host exhibitions of regional and national importance. We will further our Steinbeck experience by having Lunch and touring his actual Home which is a few blocks down the street from the Steinbeck Center.

**Leave: 8:00 AM Return: 5:30 PM
COST: \$68.**

EXTENDED TRIPS FOR 2012

Oct. 26—Nov. 11, 2012

CANADA & NEW ENGLAND

Beautiful scenery is always on display when you cruise down the East Coast during the peak weeks of Autumn. With the fall foliage seemingly aflame, there's no better way to enjoy Mother Nature's dazzling show than aboard **the Norwegian Dawn, of the NCL Cruises.**

Along the way, visit an exciting array of East Coast Ports, such as: Quebec City, Canada; Portland, Maine; Boston, Mass.; New York City; Norfolk, Virginia; Baltimore, Maryland; Charleston, South Carolina; Miami and Tampa, Florida. Brochures will be available at the luncheon. If interested, or for more information call Mike Console at (408) 246-1080.

Costs range from \$2302 to \$3452 per person/double occupancy---depending on your selection of cabins. A deposit of \$450 will be required with your application to secure a reservation. Make checks payable to: **GGT INC. TRUST ACCOUNT** and Mail to: **MIKE CONSOLE**, 3527 Parkland Ave. San Jose, Ca. 95117 .

HAPPY TRAVELS!

Mike Console: Californians Tour Director (408) 246-1080.
Beverly Fisher: Treasurer, 3435 Yuba Ave. San Jose, CA 95117-2966
Marylou vonRotz: Trip Registrations at the luncheon

Luncheon Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. Members may register absent members after lunch. Checks or exact cash are preferred. **Phone Reservations or Cancellations:** call Mike Console. After reservations are confirmed, send a check payable to: **The Californians**, Beverly Fisher, 3435 Yuba Ave., San Jose, CA 95117-2966. **Pick-up Point:** Valley Village Apartments, 390 North Winchester Blvd., Santa Clara (Dolores Avenue side.)

**For more trip
details and
policies, go to
our website at
www.
california
pioneers.com**

2012 ANNUAL HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

\$2,100.00 IN PRIZE MONEY

DEADLINE - April 15, 2012

Prizes

- FOURTH GRADE WINNER - \$100.00; a seat at the award luncheon plus a seat for a parent or guardian; a one year subscription to the *Trailblazer*. Winner's classroom – A *Westward Ho!* field trip up to \$400.
- HIGH SCHOOL WINNER - \$250.00; a seat at the award luncheon; a one year subscription to the *Trailblazer*. Winner's classroom - \$250.
- JR. COLLEGE / COLLEGE..... WINNER - \$500.00; a seat at the award luncheon; a one year subscription to the *Trailblazer*. Winner's teacher - \$100.
- or UNIVERSITY
- ADULT EDUCATION WINNER - \$500.00; a seat at the award luncheon; a one year subscription to the *Trailblazer*.
- or ADULT

To read past winning essays and rules go to www.californiapioneers.com. For questions, contact Essay Committee Chair April Halberstadt at aprilhalb@gmail.com, or Paul Bernal at pbernal@scscourt.org.



Photo: Tim Peckay

2011 Essay Contest winners with Pioneers Essay Committee

New Pioneer Members - Welcome!



Jean Dresden is a native Californian. Her parents were also born in California. Jean's pioneer ancestor is George Washington Harvey, a famous scout and later a proprietor of a general merchandise store. Harvey came to California in 1973 from Missouri. Jean lives in San Jose and is an Educational Therapist. She is well known for her excellent research concerning local history.

Kathleen Lowe Owen's family arrived in California about 1915 from Illinois. Kathleen lives in Los Altos Hills and has worked with our Board Member Mary Berger in archival work. Kathleen's father came to San Jose in 1925 as a toddler.

Helene Davis lives in Cupertino and is past president and current board member of the Cupertino Historical Society. Her family arrived in California in 1959 from Ohio and Texas.

Angela Faulkner is the daughter of Barbara and Tim Peddy, our most recent recipient of the Austen Warburton Award. Angela lives in Fairfield and is an aerospace engineer. She and her parents are native San Joseans.

Joanna Herz lives in Campbell and works as an accountant. She and her husband have restored their beautiful historic house that is now a National Landmark. Her family arrived in California in 1900. Her mother was Frances Chedzey and her father was Michael Kelly. Another ancestral name includes Fox.

Sally Howe is a publisher and lives in Campbell. Her grandmother's parents arrived in California in the 1800s. Her mother's name was Margaret Knotts and her other ancestral names include Adams, Belknap and Starr.

Basim Jaber lives in San Jose and is a historian and archivist for the Almaden Air Force Station at Mt. Umunhum. Basim gave an excellent talk on the Air Force Station at our December luncheon. Basim is a native Californian and is a sales engineer. His mother came to California in 1969 and his father in 1936.

Joe Maille lives in San Jose and is a software systems engineer. He is a native of Massachusetts and arrived in California, as a boy, with his parents in 1971.

Beatrice Mead arrived in California in 1944 from Illinois. She was a teacher and homemaker. Her pioneer ancestor was John White who came to California during the Gold Rush and then returned to Illinois.

Sharon Stokes was born in Edenvale, California and her pioneer ancestors were Walter Carothers (died in San Jose in 1881), Ole Christopher, Adaline A. Gray, and Margaret Jane Bell. Sharon lives in Los Altos.

Beth Wyman is an Associate Professor of historic preservation at San Jose State University and of course, she is very knowledgeable on local history. She lives in Morgan Hill. Her family arrived in California in 1940 from Kansas. Her mother was Faye Newell Dunham and her father was Hart Dunham. Beth also has a Plymouth Colony ancestor, Deacon John Dunham (1630-1660).

Membership Report



The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County have 485 members as of early 2012. This year we have designed new renewal envelopes that were mailed out in December. We have had an excellent response. Thank you.

We now offer higher levels of membership for those members who would like to contribute a little extra to the Pioneers' projects and educational endeavors.

Thanks to Franklin Maggi and Darlene Thorne for renewing at the Loomis Level!

For members who have not yet paid their 2012 dues, this March issue of the Trailblazer will be their last issue received until 2012 dues are paid.

Members can check their address label on their newsletter to find their membership expiration date. If it says

Dec-11 that means you need to pay your 2012 dues. Standard dues are still \$25 per year and can be sent to California Pioneers Membership Chair-Gayle Frank, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA 95155.

Dues can also be paid at the March luncheon. And don't forget to invite a friend to the luncheon and to join the Pioneers. If you have questions, please call Gayle Frank, at 408-275-6889.

Losing Agnews: A Personal Viewpoint

The impending demolition of Agnews Developmental Center is a concern of our community. There is more at stake here than the loss of an historic landmark. We are also losing our commitment to care for the mentally ill. A newspaper recently reported a schizophrenic man, who lived in a drainage culvert for many years, died earlier this year. The number of homeless who have already died this year is 61, and most of them were either addicts or mentally ill. Somehow, conventional mitigation measures such as putting a plaque at the Agnews site seem somewhat inappropriate and inadequate in light of the ongoing problems.

After Agnews closed, the mentally ill were moved into residential neighborhoods. California enacted the Short-Doyle Act in 1956 and the Lanterman-Pertris-Short Act in 1969, which opened an era of "community care" for the mentally ill. The mentally ill were relocated from institutions like Agnews and into the general community; often roaming the streets all day in search of cigarettes and companionship.

A census taken in the early 1970s showed that 80% of the mentally ill for a four county area were clustered in Naglee Park. Becoming acquainted with my mentally ill neighbors caused me to question the wisdom of closing the hospitals because clearly, the "community" was not effective in caring for the mentally ill. Only a few licensed residential care homes now remain in Naglee Park, or elsewhere in San Jose. My sense is that the mentally ill are now out in the community, a community that is supposed to care, but allows them to live and die in creeks and under bridges.

Historian Pat Loomis reminds us that the Agnews Hospital was named for the tiny community of Agnew's, which was named for farmer Abram Agnew. He bought 120 acres in 1872 and when the South Pacific Coast Railroad went by his

property in 1876, he donated four acres for a station and planned a town site. His little town eventually included a post office, two hotels and a couple of general stores. The town was annexed to nearby Santa Clara in 1960.

Agnews Hospital was not the oldest mental hospital in the state. California's first mental hospital was built in Stockton in 1853, primarily to serve dozens of ill and deranged gold-seekers. Poor, depressed and lonely, many men succumbed to melancholia as the result of overwork and poor nutrition. Larger facilities at Sonoma and Agnews were built in the 1880s as California's population increased. The original hospital at Agnew was built on the Kirkbride plan, named for Dr. Thomas Story Kirkbride who pioneered a therapeutic system based on what was called Moral Treatment. Dr. Kirkbride, a Quaker physician from Pennsylvania, was a pioneer in designing buildings to care for the mentally ill as well as developing a system of treatment based on fresh air, natural light, natural beauty and humane care. Today there are still dozens of hospitals remaining across America that are known as Kirkbride buildings, all developed according to Dr. Kirkbride's designs and care philosophy.

The Kirkbride buildings at Agnews were the site of the San Jose community's most serious devastation in the 1906 earthquake. There were 123 people lost in the earthquake in San Jose and 112 of them were at Agnews. The buildings collapsed killing patients and staff. Agnews was rebuilt as a cluster of cottages, but the mental health system once again came under harsh criticism after a sensational 1948 movie,

"The Snake Pit." Olivia DeHaviland won an Academy Award for her portrayal of a woman inappropriately sent to a mental ward, and once again the mental health system came under review.

"There is more at stake here than the loss of an historic landmark."

We continue to see the mentally ill on the streets in downtown San Jose and dismiss their presence as evidence that we now have an enlightened community care system for the mentally ill. And we will put a plaque on the Agnews Developmental Center site, commemorating a time when we

cared for the mentally ill and developmentally disadvantaged with shelter and regular meals.

-April Halberstadt



(Photo: G. Frank)

**Water Tower Building at Agnews
Developmental Center (East Campus)
off Zanker Road.
The closed site is threatened.**

**California Pioneers of
Santa Clara County**
Established in 1875

P.O. Box 8208
San Jose, CA 95155

Email: info@californiapioneers.com

We're on the Web!
www.californiapioneers.com

*Our Mission is to promote,
preserve, and celebrate the history
of Santa Clara County and the
heritage of its past generations.
We collect, archive, educate and
encourage research and scholarship.*

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