

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

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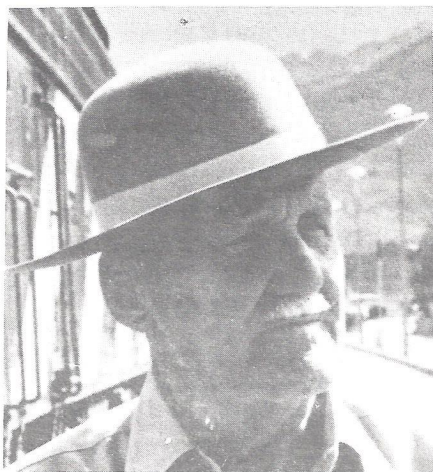
No. 2

Clyde Arbuckle, author-historian, was hardly the sleepy, Santa Clara three - year - old when his iron bed reeled wall to wall introducing him to his first abrupt encounter with history. The event was the devastating 5:13 a.m. earthquake of April 18, 1906.

Our long fervent educator is just concluding over 40 years with the San Jose Metropolitan Adult Education Program fully affirmed in that "The future must find its roots in our past."

Clyde, everyone's historian, is himself a descendant of astonishing pioneers. His mother, Mrs. Mollie Arbuckle, who passed away in 1932, was born in San Jose in 1858, the daughter of Ben and Mary Gordon, pioneers who crossed the plains with ox team in 1856. At the outbreak of the Civil War, she accompanied her parents back to Missouri, also by oxen, returning to California by the same means in 1865. In 1878 she married J.D. Gordon (no relation) at Yorkville, Mendicino County, remaining there until Gordon's death in 1891. She returned to Santa Clara Valley and in 1899 was married to William Arbuckle.

Clyde also made his mark in the sporting world. In 1921 he was the California cy-



*Clyde Arbuckle*

cling champion and a contender for the 1924 Olympics.

This former American Railway Express associate and railroad "buff" is past president of the Conference of California Historical Societies, also of our own California Pioneers and an honored member of the internationally active Oregon-California Trails Association.

**Happy Trails, Clyde.**

**Clyde is ending his teaching career to devote more time to history writing.**

**Friends and former students are invited to celebrate the end of one era and the beginning of another at dinner, June 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Fiesta Hall, County Fair.**

**Cost is \$16.00 per person. Make checks payable to "Arbuckle Party" and send to Rosalina George, 2597 Aragon Ct., San Jose CA 95125 by June 1. For more information call Barbara Schrag at Markham Center, 266-8186 Tuesday or Wednesday nights.**

# WHALE BLAZERS

You can be classed as an oldtimer if you can recall the days before hotels had running water and portable bathtubs were kept in hallways, and upon request, a bellman would just roll a warm tub to your room.

SAN JOSE, April 1878- Miss Anna Tully, a young girl under sixteen years of age employed by the San Jose Fruit Packing Company, performed the astonishing task of pasting labels on 3,677 tomato cans. Each can weighed 2 1/1 pounds, and had to be handled three times in the operation, making a total lifting of fourteen tons. An ordinary day's work was about 1,200 cans. It was only by the most remarkable skill, dexterity and perseverance that she was able to perform this task, a task that challenged competition.

SAN JOSE, 1901- Capitalists interested in the Oakland-San Jose Electric Railroad were among those associated in the Oakland-San Francisco Railroad project, capitalized at \$2,500,000, to lay a tube beneath San Francisco Bay connecting the two cities.

May, 1911- San Jose High School girl students, by popular vote, decided to forego silks and satins and would wear wash dresses at the evening graduation. The girls were applauded for taking such a step. The Domestic Science Department helped the girls for the occasion.

SAN JOSE, 1913- Negotiations for the purchase of the 4,348 acre Rancho Atascadero in San Luis Obispo County, the property of Jim Henry, formerly of San Jose, by a Mrs. J.E. Lewis were concluded. Word was Henry had acquired the Rancho with the flip of a card at a San Jose poker game. The victim was Ben Murphy, former mayor of San Jose.

April, 1914- The opening of the new indoor swimming pool, or natatorium, attracted over 10,000 to Alum Rock Park. Double cars were run by the Peninsular Railroad every hour. Also, 1,100 automobiles, 200 motorcycles and over 200 horses and rigs filled the canyon for the "splash."

SACRAMENTO, 1915- Our cigar smoking legislators would no longer enjoy their cigar smoking sessions here due to the action of Lt. Gov. Eshleman. One fuming senator gave notice he would make a future motion to repeal such nonsense.

CAMPBELL, 1939- Double parkers here, at the time, would no longer be reprimanded by a stern faced officer, but instead would find a politely worded "courtsey card" asking them not to repeat the practice.



# President's Message

Edward Allegetti

It has been now over one hundred twelve years since the founding of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. The original members of the Society were proud of their common background and wanted to form a group for people with the same interest and heritage.

Hopefully you also enjoy socializing with fellow "Pioneers" and our proud of your ancestors' achievements? More importantly, I hope you are contributing to the community and are making new achievements. During the past year the Board of Directors has worked hard to carry out the existing charities and activities, as well as creating new ones. I have been happy serving as a member of the Board of Directors and being president, and will continue to be proud of my membership in this society. Please show your support by wearing the new lapel pins and displaying the new membership certificates which will soon be available to all members in good standing!

Although the Pioneers is probably the most active of the hereditary societies in Santa Clara County, several others do exist. I mention them because many of our members belong to some or may want to join.

Of particular interest to Californians are: the Society of California Pioneers (for men descended from an ancestor who arrived in California before 1850), Los Californianos (descendants of the Spanish settlers of California prior to 1848) and the Native Sons and Native Daughters of the Golden West (for those people born in this state). Other active groups in Santa Clara County include: the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the International Society of the Hereditary Nobility.

Call me at (408) 629-6360 if you want to know more.

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The Pioneers of Santa Clara County was first called into existence Saturday, May 29, 1875. The draft of a Constitution and By-Laws was to be reported at the first reunion and picnic which was set for Tuesday, June 22, 1875, at O'Donnell's Gardens, corner of William and 9th Streets, San Jose.

## LION TRAINERS IN OUR MIDST

by Hank Calloway

As a tike with a bucket full of prune picking years still under our belt it had been revealed how our paternal aunt had the opportunity to become a genuine whip-cracking lion trainer. However, along about 1910 an unyielding grandmother, Della Terry Calloway, a native of County Kerry, Ireland, forbade her plucky youngster, our Aunt Jewel, to ever attempt such an outrageous and Lord forbidden venture.

For years Aunt Jewel, a San Jose native, had taken delight on how her rejected lion training opportunity site was just in the neighborhood near the crossroads of Meridian and Fruitvale avenue, known at the time as the West Willows. Here was the 14 acre ranchplace of the renowned lion trainer "Madame" Adelaide Schell and her husband Edward, also a trainer, who much preferred the title "orchardist." The Schells kept their performing cats here while not on tour. It was also the realm where our non-timid aunt was introduced to Schell's top stars, Babe and Prince, during her term there as a domestic.

Her opportunity to venture forth as an apprentice trainer, of course, was never realized, but she called upon her feline friends frequently.

The Schell bookings were usually California expositions as well as extended dates at San Francisco's long then popular "Chutes-at-the-Beach." Their exciting feline act also claimed frequent bookings at San Jose's Victory Theater.

Aunt Jewel was always amazed on how much courage could be tucked away in such a batam sized big cat trainer. When the "Madame" entered the steel cage and her whip cracked, Babe and Prince knew it was strictly business and time to perform with their excitable leaps and terroristic growls.

Like most spectators at the time, it was the belief that a woman animal trainer should be the burly Amazon-masculine appearing type with a determined face and a voice to match. Not Adelaide Schell! She was reported as "quiet and reserved" as any housewife who ever mounted a chair and screamed for help when the household's tiny mouse ran across the floor.

A San Jose Herald interview revealed how she became such fast friends with her massive playmates. "When they were young small cats, they became so attracted to me they followed me everywhere and would come when I called. The cats showed so much affection and grew up to love me. In training we have to use the whip now and then, but kindness goes a long way in winning their affection.

"In Los Angeles during a performance Babe, in leaping, slipped and fell on me. It was not her fault, but I was in the hospital for three months. When I returned, they were so overjoyed they would not let my

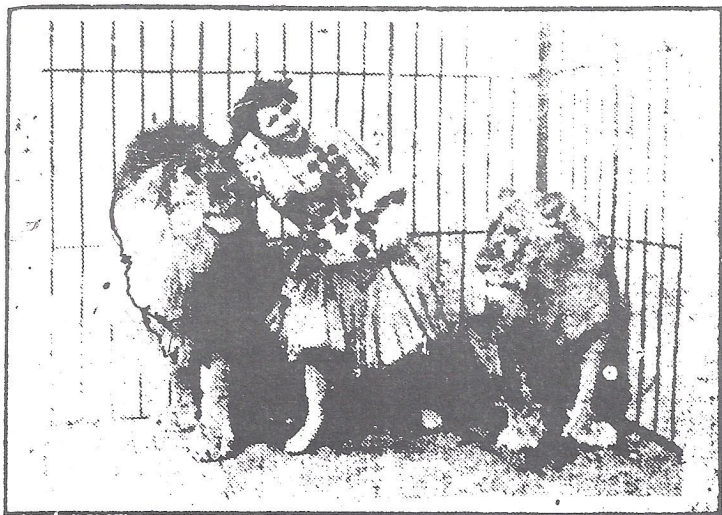
pounds of meat between them.

"We ranch in the Willows and have a nice home there. I'm raising chickens," said the petite trainer. "We drive to town each day and return home after the evening performance."

At this point Adelaide Schell revealed how Babe and Prince would be given to the Alum Rock Park Zoo. Brave little woman she was indeed. Folks had no doubts about it when the lions revealed their huge, frightful meat devouring molars and off-key roars.

Perhaps Aunt Jewell did not have the flair for a lion trainer's calling. As for Grandma Calloway, the beasts were indeed purgatory and hell's leading mischief makers.

Adelaide "Madame" Schell, a native of Alsace-Lorraine, France, died on October 12, 1915 at San Jose and is interred at the Santa Clara Mission Cemetery. Grandma Delia, too, passed away in 1915 and is also buried in the Santa Clara Mission Cemetery. Surprisingly--and for which we have no explanation--in the grave site directly bordering our lion detesting grandmother, lies "Madame" Schell. Somehow our concern has always been for Grandma, may she rest in peace.



*'Madame' Schell  
with Babe and Prince*

### A NEW IDEA!

Do you have an RV? Do you like to travel and camp, visit and explore historic landmarks at the same time or just relax with friends or fellow Pioneers for a weekend away from the hustle and bustle of the valley? If so, sign up at the June meeting or call Ken or Miriam Clark (415) 968-3059. Also, do you have any ideas or suggestions of places to visit?

## THE ODD FELLOWS HOME

by Bill Chivers

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows celebrated the 75th anniversary of its California retirement home in Saratoga last year (1987). The I.O.O.F. is the largest fraternal organization in the world and it has some sixty Odd Fellow homes for children and the aged in the United States and Canada.

The California Old Folks Home in Saratoga was built in 1912 on Fruitvale avenue on property that was called Oakwood Farms when the I.O.O.F. purchased it from John and Bessie Harden Stetson for \$16,000. It consisted of 85 acres of fruit trees, old oaks and rolling hills. The previous home was at "Thermalito" near Oroville in Butte County. The name "Thermalito" was of artificial coinage from the Greek word "thermal" meaning something like little hot springs or hot baths. The old folks there didn't like the location because of the "climate and unhealthfulness of the location" early reports say. The town had a post office from 1895 to 1920, but it is now under the water of Oroville Dam. The forebay and afterbay constructed in 1960 was given the harmonious name of Thermalito.

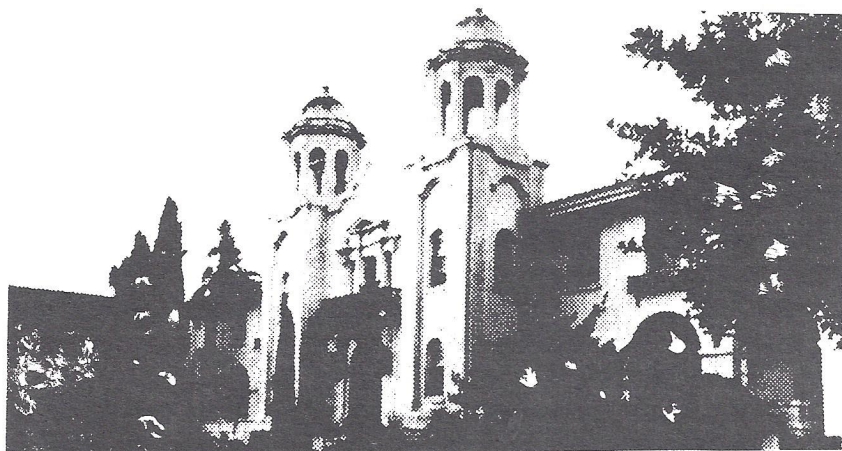
On October 7, 1911 the cornerstone of the new property was laid with a huge celebration. Special excursion trains were run from San Francisco, Oakland and points north, Los Angeles and points south and east from Sacramento and Stockton. There were 3,000 people who attended the ceremony. Street cars would take them from the trains in Los Gatos as far as Fruitvale road and autos and buggies from there to the cornerstone ceremony. A huge barbecue luncheon was served. One ton of meat was cooked, 600 loaves of bread, 150 pounds of coffee and sugar. Many gallons of milk and large caldrons of beans were served. The Boys Band from the Gilroy Orphans Home played the music.

The cornerstone weighed 1,000 pounds and within it a copper receptacle was placed. It contained records of the home, a roster of subordinate lodges and many other articles, including souvenir tin cups, postcards and a copy of the Los Gatos Mail newspaper of October 5, 1911. There were also coins and members' receipts for dues. The copper box was 9 1/2 x 9 1/2 x 21 1/2 and the inscription on the cornerstone is: Odd Fellows Home, October 7, 1911. The trowel with which the cement was laid was silver and the handle was made with oak on the sides. The home was constructed in the Mission Revival style and it was one of the finest concrete buildings of its time.

It was ready for occupants on November 18, 1912. On that day the elderly residents of the Thermalito home packed up and left from the Oroville Western Pacific station about 5 a.m. for their 200 mile trip to the new home in Santa Clara County. When they reached Sacramento, the residents were transferred from the Western Pacific to the Southern Pacific Railroad.

No fee was charged for the move by either railroad. A midday stopover in Stockton found buggies waiting to take the assemblage to a church where the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of Stockton provided a beautiful and appetizing luncheon of chicken. After lunch the train continued by the way of Dumbarton Bridge to Congress Junction near Saratoga where autos and buggies took the aged guests to their new home. Records say the 30 women and 110 men were met by myriads of incandescent lights that brilliantly lit the new buildings in a genial warmth and welcome to each of the new arrivals.

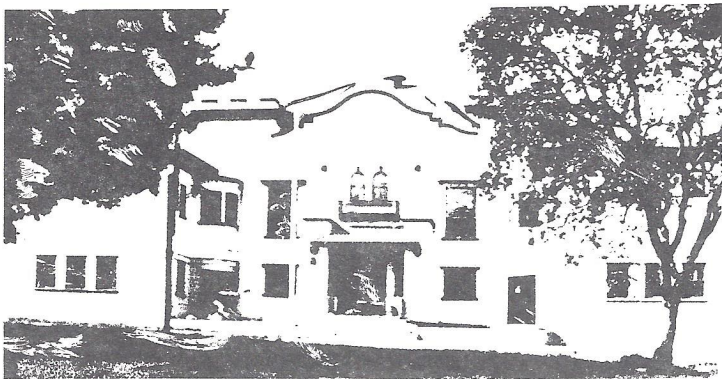
Many hundreds of Odd Fellows, their widows and Rebekahs have retired here over the years and lived out their lives happily and comfortably in this attractive facility. In 1963 the Odd Fellows Grand Lodge of California moved its headquarters from San Francisco to the Saratoga home. Santa Clara County is indeed fortunate to have this beautiful and historic home located here.



*California Odd Fellows Home  
Saratoga*

### **"THIS SPORTING LIFE"**

Campbell's Historical Museum this spring and summer pays homage to the community's winners in the world of sports enjoyed both yesterday and today. The city which is the home of several Olympic Medalists is highlighting the event with displays of historic photos and banners fortified by the Campbell Union High School District's "Athletic Hall of Fame." It features local athletes from 1912 to the present who have gone to the major leagues and other sporting achievements.. The display runs until Oct. 12, 1988, Tuesday through Saturday, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. It is at downtown Campbell off First street and Civic Center Drive.



*Los Gatos High School — 1908*  
*Library Collection*

## LOS GATOS CENTENNIAL REUNION

by Sara M. Miller

While no one seems to know the exact date of the start of the Los Gatos High School district, 1988 has been chosen as the date for the centennial celebration. We do know that in July 1887 the people of Los Gatos voted to establish a "grammar school" course to prepare students for college entrance examinations. The "Los Gatos Weekly News" stated that only those who passed an examination were admitted to the course. "This course differs only in name from the high school course," stated the News.

According to the "History of Los Gatos" by George G. Bruntz, "A petition was circulated in April 1891 requesting the establishment of a high school in Los Gatos." The first class was graduated in 1897 and that year it published the first school yearbook, the "Wildcat," which is still published annually.

The Los Gatos High School centennial reunion will be held June 18, 1988 on the school athletic field starting with registration at 11 .m. The day will include visiting with old "Wildcats," good food and good music. A dance in the evening will conclude the day's activities.

Alumni from the classes of 1935 to 1973 have made up the reunion committee. Many more "Wildcats" have helped out along the way in order to make this a 100th birthday that will be worth remembering.

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Our Everett W. Johnson was born in 1911 in a home now an historic edifice at the San Jose Historical Museum. The house was then owned by his grandfather, John Samuelson. This charming "gingerbread" had been built about 1876 for David Unbarger, a West Virginian and a California 49er covered wagon arrival. It was located on Monterey Road near Oak Hill on about 136 acres devoted to grain and pasture land. In 1946 32 remaining acres were sold to the Santa Clara County Fair Association once part of "down on the farm" for Everett.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Leo Bobbitt, Jr.  
Lynne E. Bower  
Edna M. Brooks  
Bessie V. Bueno  
Willis H. Coates  
Barbara Conyers  
Kenneth R. Croall  
Joyce E. Cunningham  
Fredolin P. Gregory  
Mabel Gregory

Britta Lange  
Francis G. Lange  
Lorraine E. Mitchell  
Arlene F. Nelson  
Eunice L. Oldham  
Uhlane A. Ralston  
Nancy L. Schott  
Clara J. Schell  
Marguerite R. Terzich  
Helen P. Thompson  
Beth C. Westphal

## BEYOND THE SUNSET

James R. Alford, Sr.  
Fred E. Burris

Burnaze M. Lange  
Esther G. Reyes



## A STUDENT OF THE COLLEGE OF THE PACIFIC

Had you been walking down Lincoln Avenue in the Willows in 1892 (later called "Willow Glen"), you might have seen a young man on a high wheeled bicycle on his way to college. That college was located where Bel-larmine Prep School now operates. This college had its state charter before any other institution of higher learning and was called the "College of the Pacific." The young man on the bicycle may have been George Gilman.

George was a member of the college baseball team. He pitched the game against the then-opening Stanford University. After graduation George married May Bell who was a member of his class. Three of the Gilman children graduated from the College of the Pacific.

George was a supporter of moving the college from San Jose to Stockton.,. The reasons he favored the move were:

The San Jose area had San Jose State and Stanford.

The Stockton area needed a college.

The City of Stockton gave some economic incentives for the college to move.

George was one who gave great support to his college and his community.

Courtesy...Mr. and Mrs. H. Barret Patton

## THE HENSLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT

By Henry Calloway

A stroll down North 3rd Street off Julian Street in San Jose provides charming reflections of the 19th century's last stand where guardian like sycamores lovingly umbrella venerable homes with a unique past. Our enchanted showcase is officially the Hensley Historic District, a San Jose Landmarks Commission declaration. Fortunately, up to now, the district has not been in the way of proposed Civic Projects and so continues to offer spacious homes with gingerbread trim, all entirely 'Gay Nineties.'

This realm once embraced the florid 25-acre estate of Major Samuel J. Hensley, pioneer of 1843 and president of the California Steam Navigation Co.

In this concentration of homesteads of generations ago are its devoted and enthusiastic present day owners who share and preserve the square nailed old houses such as irreplaceable museum pieces.

Engaged is such cherished recall is our Pioneer member Angie Sarager who is the present owner of the wondrous Queen Anne Villa at 429 No. 3rd Street. This intriguing house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was built by Jonathon Swergert in about 1880. By the turn of the century it was sold to Marshall Pomeroy a prominent Santa Clara orchardist who purchased the residence in 1900.



**QUEEN ANNE VILLA**

Its three-story tower and wrap-around porch were styles which prevailed in the late 19th century. The detailed oak and cherry woodwork in the home is said to have been shipped from Minnesota over a century ago. The house still has its own well-cared former water tank, pet yard and elegant stable still standing tall and proud recalling the elegant carriages and steeds it sheltered. Angie, the owner since 1955 says the house still retains its original interior and exterior.

Still another neighboring classic is the Jared Brockett Wing House at 336 No. 3rd Street. Tall and stately this Italiante style house was built in 1878 by Jared and Arabella Wing. Wing was a prominent orchardist and vineyardist, and part owner of the San Jose Furniture Mfg. Co., one of the largest furniture makers

in California. Tall and dignified the two story house is applauded as a classic in the Italiante style to the utmost. The present and fervent owners, Manuel Lima and Ross Lee just completed an extensive restoration on this remarkable Victorian, a 'City of San Jose Landmark'.

Tours are announced from time to time by the Victorian Preservation Association. Funds from such tours have been donated to the San Jose Historical Museum and San Jose Trolley Historical Restoration Project.



## Touring With The Californians

June 21, Tuesday. **RIDE THE TRAIN FROM FELTON TO THE SANTA CRUZ BOARDWALK.** Come, be a kid again. Ride the 1911 Merry - go - round. Have a hot dog and some popcorn! Breathe the sea air while you dip a toe in the bay. This is California's last remaining seaside amusement park, 81 years in existence. Let's enjoy it!

September 30-October 9. **FIJI AND AUSTRALIA.** Last call for this extended tour of the land down under. We'll see much more than most tours offer and at a great price. It will be springtime there and beautiful! Send for the brochure to get all the details.

**RESERVATIONS** by phone begin Monday, June 6th, for members only. Call Nancy Hill at 258-3449 Monday through Friday, preferably mornings. After Nancy confirms your reservation, make check payable to the CALIFORNIANS and send to P.O. Box 32121, San Jose, CA 95152. After the quarterly meeting a Trip Brochure or the special Australia Brochure may be obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed legal-sized envelope to the above address.

**ROSE PARADE:** December 30 to January 3. Plan Now! to attend the resplendent 100th Anniversary Tournament of Roses Parade. Please, make arrangements at the June 4th Luncheon for this historic and beloved cavalcade.

### MEMBERSHIP.....SHARE IT!

If every current member brought in just one new person, we could boast a membership of over 2,400. Each and 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 and endorsement and send it along with \$8 (\$3 admission fee and \$5 annual dues) to California Pioneers Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 8288, 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 Mary Wahlberg at (408) 374-5776.

