



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

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 1 MARCH, 1998



CLYDE ARBUCKLE

APRIL 11, 1903-JANUARY 10, 1998

Clyde Arbuckle's Memorial Service--January 14, 1998

Mayor Susan Hammer

I'm deeply honored to represent my colleagues on the City Council at today's celebration of the life of our dear and unique friend, Clyde Arbuckle. Several years ago, I bought a very special birthday present for my husband Phil (if truth be told, I also had myself in mind) It was a fore-edge, handpainted copy of Clyde's *History of San Jose*. This book is a real treasure, a work of art and one that has a special place in our home. And while it took longer to complete than was originally anticipated, was it ever worth the wait. Clyde's book did much more than establish him in everyone's mind as San Jose's official historian, which he was named in 1945. To me, it elevated him as one of the great chroniclers of western history.

As I leafed through Clyde's book last night, it struck me how difficult it is to record history because it changes so fast, particularly in a community like San Jose, the first civil settlement in California. Our transformation from the Llano de Los Robles to the Valley of Hearts Delight to the Capitol of the Silicon Valley, from an agrarian community to the technology center of the world, has taken place in, historically speaking, a very short period of time, a time which has been personally lived, witnessed and chronicled by Clyde. What a journey.

But Clyde was much more than our historian. He was our Renaissance man, a teacher for nearly 4 decades, a champion bike racer, a driver of a Railway Express truck, an engaging story teller, a devoted husband, father and friend. I doubt there's anyone in this room who hasn't been regaled by Clyde's endless number of stories. Talk about total recall. I'm envious.

Clyde was our link to the past, a past that shaped what we are today: a city pre-pared to meet the challenges of the 21st century. We are forever grateful for Clyde's many contributions to San Jose and this Valley.

To Helen, Jim and Susan, your loss is our loss. We'll miss you Clyde.

A TRIBUTE TO CLYDE ARBUCKLE

Dr. A. C. Todd

Honorary Life Member of the California Pioneers

Former Resident Tutor in Cornwall,

Extra-Mural Studies, University of Exeter

Today we say good-bye to one of the most colourful personalities of the American West, and a friend who spanned the 20th Century like a colossus. Clyde was one of the most original and sensitive historians of our time; a superb teacher who could arouse excitement, foster curiosity and infuse enthusiasm for fact and events which appeared to be insignificant. He was the natural interpreter of the great migration across the continent and instinctively knew that the past only becomes meaningful when it becomes part of the present. To go with him - and Helen - on the Oregon Trail, watch him sizing up the significance of the landscape, and peering into the far distance was to see Clyde as the very incarnation of the original pioneers, which is perhaps not surprising for he was the son of a pioneer. He stirred and encouraged people to think about their origins, gave unstintingly of his time to students and saw their families on the move; leaving their cultural footprints in deserts, over mountains and in forests. A brilliant talker, especially in Spanish, with more than a handful of anecdotes and a storehouse of historical detail (some said he was a walking encyclopaedia) he was as good a listener as a talker when it came to the subjects of California and San Jose. He was an open book to anyone who wanted to read the historical mapping of the American West, and after all he wrote one, his monumental *HISTORY OF SAN JOSE*.

He certainly was an open book to me in the 1950s when in Cornwall I began my researches about the emigration of the Cornish tin and copper miners. An acquaintance in the California State Historical Society said, "You MUST meet Clyde Arbuckle." Never before had I come across so exciting an historian. He taught me to feel history

through my boots better than books (they could come later). He and Helen introduced my wife and me to the Pioneers, took us on their trips to Yosemite, Grass Valley, Nevada, and Virginia City, and walked us along the trail in the footsteps of the ill-fated Donner party. I remember a meeting at the De Anza Hotel at Christmas 1960 where members gave a dramatic reading of the events of the Donner tragedy. Clyde was moved almost to tears, so sensitive was he to the plight of those heroes and heroines. Full of wise sayings and jokes, at heart he was in touch with the ordinary people of this world who are left to make sense of their predicament and their problems of success or failure.

He has been my counselor for nearly 50 years. I could hardly have written my *CORNISH MINER IN AMERICA* or *EVER WESTWARD THE LAND* without his encouragement and his ideas, for he was a man who had read widely, as his personal library reveals. He recommended me to Arthur Clark (the publisher), helped me to an Honorary Fellowship at Berkeley, and sent me books and colour slides of the Trail. Twice he and Helen visited us in England; once in Cornwall and once here in Leamington. Within the last few years I have visited them many times. So in my mind's eye, I still picture Clyde feeding the birds on Franquette Avenue, snoozing in his garden under the apricot trees, or keeping guard over his corn. I treasure those days when he showed me the graves of the Pioneers in Oak Hill Cemetery. We spoke now and again at important festivals like Thanksgiving.

The last time we talked was almost two weeks ago when I 'phoned him and Helen on New Year's Day. He recognized my voice and asked "when are you coming West again young man?" (I am 88!) I assured him "later this year," and then there was silence. And now he has gone into his sunset. T. S. Eliot in his *FOUR QUARTETS* says, "Old men should be explorers - we must be still and still moving." That was Clyde to the very end, but as Mary Queen of Scots said, "In mine end is my beginning."

CLYDE ARBUCKLE
by Leonard McKay
from CLYDE ARBUCKLE; A 90 YEAR BIOGRAPHY

In our disposable age, Clyde Arbuckle was unusual. He used a shovel to dig out the basement at his house on Franquette Street in 1939 and still had the same shovel which he used to spade his vegetable garden. He still lived with his same wife of over 60 years in that same house. He has been the Historian for San Jose since 1945, some 53 years. He wore the same hat or one like it for nearly that long. He taught an Adult Ed History Class in San Jose for 39 years. He has been high on our list of admirable people for a long time.

Clyde was a native Californian, born in Santa Clara April 11, 1903, a fair and windy day, he always said, referring to his gift of gab. On his Mother's side he was related to the Gordons and Pyles who arrived in California in 1846 by wagon trains that did not run into trouble crossing the Sierra. His Father's family were late comers, arriving in 1886. He was the youngest of two born of that union, a second marriage for both parents after their first mates died. He had six half brothers and sisters on the Arbuckle side and eight on the Gordon side.

The Arbuckle home was in Santa Clara and his father owned the Santa Clara Hotel. Thirty feet from his room was a cow corral and thirty feet in the other direction, the outhouse where it was "mighty cold in the winter." Their neighbors were Portuguese and Spanish families for whom Clyde developed the highest admiration. He remembered taking a ride across the room in his bed in 1906.

Clyde's early schooling was at the Santa Clara Grammar School. After classes and on weekends and summer, he supplemented the family income with odd jobs. When his father died, he left school at age 15 to support his mother. He became a printer's devil, a full time laborer during the summer, then a fruit loader for the Block Fruit Company and at the Santa Clara Southern Pacific Train

Station, worked for the American Railway Express Company.. He received his first driving lesson from the American Railway Express Company by driving a Moreland distillate burning truck once around the block, which assured him of a three week job in December, 1918 hauling caskets and victims of the great flu epidemic.

At 14, Clyde took up bicycle racing which led to his first permanent job. He trained by doing an early morning paper route of 20 miles. He was called into the Railway Express Office by the manager, Tom Morgan, an old time bicycle racer who recognized him. He had just fired three drivers for shooting craps on the job. He asked Clyde these questions, "What are you doing?" "Nothing." "Do You know how to write a receipt?" Can you drive a team of horses?" Do you know the town?" The "Yes" answers gave him a temporary job until 1922 when he gained enough seniority to make the permanent list. He kept that job until 1947 and often referred to it as "When I did honest labor for a living."

While working for the Railway Express Company, he started driving a team of horses, Jack and Jill (a toe dancer who walked on the front of her feet), graduating to Moreland and Model T trucks. He became acquainted with every business and homeowner in San Jose and years later could tell exactly the people and locations of those early years.

Clyde continued his education by attending night school in San Jose and in San Francisco where he attended the California Fine Arts School, traveling by train on a railway express pass. He was remembered for reading when walking down the street, never missing a curb or hitting an obstacle. Soon he began writing free lance articles for the *Pony Express Magazine*.

In 1921, at the age of 18, he captured the mile bike title for the state in Los Angeles. The *Los Angeles Times* headlined, "Arbuckle Cops Mile Bike Title." On April 3, 1921, he broke the USA road record for 60 miles under the colors of the Garden City Wheelmen by racing to Gilroy and back in

two hours and 45 minutes before the days of geared bikes. His last race was on Admission Day, 1926 at the California State Fairgrounds in an Australian Pursuit race of 60 minutes, and he quit a winner. He was cheated out of a place in the 1932 Olympics, but didn't know it for years.

In 1926, Clyde was listed in the Union Musician's Directory as a banjo player. His half brother, Harry had taught him the basic fingering and chords. He took lessons from Harry George and played professionally in a three-piece combo until 1934, when he gave up the music business.

He first spotted his future wife, Helen Fisher doing her San Jose High School homework at a friend's house in 1926. their first date was a hike over the hills of New Almaden which became a major pastime for their family. Five years later, they were going together and were married on August 7, 1932. The wedding was postponed a week as Clyde's mother died on the original date. They set off on the Del Monte Express train for their honeymoon showered with corn and wheat found on the shipping dock.

He accepted the responsibility to pay for his mother's hospital bills since several of her children were long dead. Three years later, Jim was born and Susan the following year. times were tough in the great depression so the major recreation for the family was hiking the local hills, then over to the Sierra. By hard work at the express company, free lance writing and pioneer thrift, they were able to buy their home on Franquette in 1939 where they still live, but now the house is filled with history books and hundreds of manila envelopes packed with research materials. Their original Wedgwood gas stove with trash burner is still in the kitchen. Both children graduated from Cal Berkeley and hold advanced degrees.

Clyde became the Official City Historian for San Jose in 1945 and the official secretary of the Historic Landmarks Commission until 1970. He became the director of the San Jose Historical Museum at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds in a Replica of the First California State Legisla-

ture Building built in 1949 for the Centennial of that "Legislature of a Thousand Drinks". The replica was built in 1949 to commemorate the Centennial of Statehood on the Plaza on Market Street with donated labor and materials. It was moved to the Fairgrounds in 1950 where Clyde served as Director and Curator.

In 1970, he was commissioned by the city to write the *History Of San Jose* at the urging of Theron Fox and the book was finally published in 1985 because he could never find an end to his research and writing. The book is long out of print and one of the hardbound copies recently brought \$700! Meanwhile, he also wrote a small book on *Santa Clara County Ranchos* in 1968 which has been republished many times and *Historic Names of Persons and Places in Santa Clara County* with Roscoe D. Wyatt in 1948. Many articles were also written for Western History magazines, *Westways* and *The Argonaut*. He also wrote weekly features for the *San Jose Mercury* in a column called "Nostalgia." from 1970-73 in the Sunday section. He worked closely with Pat Loomis and Dan Stern of the *San Jose Mercury* to produce commemorative issues in 1951 and 1961.

In 1949, the Director of Adult Education asked Clyde to teach evening classes. He received a special Credential from San Jose State College to teach the History of California and the West and after taking some educational courses was awarded an Honorary Master of Letters in 1958. He was soon teaching three night classes and two morning classes featuring the Overland Trail, Santa Clara County History and California History. He continued with his Adult Ed classes for 39 years, retiring in 1988. His class on Wednesday nights was held in the auditorium of Edwin Markham Junior High because it enrolled over 100 students every semester. They also took extended bus trips, calling themselves the "Argonauts" as they explored California and the West by guided bus tours. They took over 100 trips to historical sites with Clyde narrating, Mary Little Mueller doing the organization and George Cook, the driving.

Clyde and Helen drove to Missouri, retracing the Oregon-California Trail in 1967 and he returned the following year with Dr. Earl Rhoads, then led a Greyhound busload of Argonauts in 1970 and again in 1977. Clyde and the Argonauts became involved in a new organization, The Oregon California Trail Association when it was formed and many are still involved.

A Grammar School was named for him in 1962. In 1972, The San Jose Newspaper Guild awarded him its "Gold Plated Typstick" as the city's outstanding citizen of 1972. The Oregon-California Trails Association presented him with a Meritorious Achievement Award for his teaching of trail history and leading tours of the trails in 1986. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment is in the hundreds of students of history he leaves behind.

Clyde "Went to the Golden Hills" on Saturday, January 10, 1998 at his home in San Jose where he had lived since 1939, leaving his wife of 65 years, Helen Fisher Arbuckle and children, Jim and Susan. His life was celebrated at the San Jose Masonic Temple on Wednesday, January 14, 1998 with some 350 persons whose lives he had touched, in attendance. The closed casket was topped with a beautiful spray of flowers and a widely recognized symbol of Clyde, the hat he had always worn on every outing-the hat his wife opined he had been born wearing. His private burial will be in the Pioneer Section of Oak Hill Cemetery in San Jose, where so many of the early Argonauts who made California what it is today have their final resting places. This is a fitting resting place because Clyde has done so much work in chronicling the history of these pioneers and their places in history.

CLYDE AND THE METROPOLITAN ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

by Mary Mueller

I am proud to have known Clyde Arbuckle as my friend for 40 years. I would like to share a few memories of Clyde, the EDUCATOR. He taught the "History of the West"

for nearly 40 years in the Adult Education Center, shortened to MAEP. I estimated recently that he taught at least 30,000 adult students who came to morning and evening classes in the San Jose Unified School District. One of those classes with the largest audience met at the Markham Adult Center created the popular traveling group we called the Argonauts and has become the Argonauts Historical Society.

With Clyde, we planned and led 122 trips by bus throughout the midwest and west with approximately 5000 adult students. This was an extension of his classroom where students learned history on sites and trails. From those experiences with a Master Teacher, many of his students have become volunteers as docents, some have written books and dedicated those to him, others have pursued research of their own family tree. Many have followed his efforts to care about the preservation of history of old buildings and become involved with preserving the emigrant trails from the Missouri River to the west coast.

One week before he died, I met with him and Mrs. Arbuckle to try to help John Krizek to understand the most significant legacy of the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Party who scaled the precipitous Donner Summit to bring the FIRST emigrant wagons overland into California. As I listened, I realized that the man who was never at a loss for words about history was a man who wanted to tell his story his way and singled out the man, Dr. John Townsend and later the teenager, Moses Schallenberger who stayed behind at Donner Lake to protect the property of the emigrants left in his care during the snowbound winter. He spoke about the 1846 Party as people who had talents, skills, intelligence, leadership, responsible, cooperative, volunteers and a vision to serve in the new frontier.

Clyde was a self educated man who loved the written words, not only of history but also of Botany, Literature, Geology and the Scriptures. He wanted to impart that love of reading to all of us. Before I close, I would like to explain about the musical numbers to be played after the eulogies. I

ask you to think about riding a bus from the jumping off places on the Missouri River to follow the Emigrant Trail through Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, across Nevada and into California. Close your eyes and imagine riding along with Clyde.

After the end of every trip, whether it was a one day or longer trip of days or weeks, Clyde would thank the group to have included him on the trip and would sign off with "And that is 30 for now! That's the End."

BREAKFAST TIME WAS A GOOD TIME TO CALL **by Pat Loomis**

I've known Clyde Arbuckle a very long time...since I was a brunette and Clyde had hair. I was a cub reporter on the *San Jose News* when I discovered this city's greatest historical resource. He helped me write of A.D.M. Cooper, early day artist, back in January, 1944, four months after I joined the *News* staff. It was the first of many historical articles I would write with the help of Clyde Arbuckle.

For more than 40 years, I interrupted the Arbuckles' breakfasts looking for sources of information for "Signposts" and other historical pieces.

I attended his night school classes at old San Jose High, at Lowell, and at Markham. I have 29 notebooks filled with notes taken in Clyde's classes at Markham and on the bus trips dating back to the Overland trek of 1977, my first with Clyde and Mary Mueller. There were many other trips, but I still get shivers remembering the deep wagon ruts at Guernsey, Wyoming, and walking with Clyde and Nebraska historian Paul Henderson at Courthouse Rock. I still feel the sadness and disappointment shared with Frazier Reed and Clyde when we discovered the grave marker of Mrs. Keyes vandalized at Alcove Springs.

Clyde always had a way of making history come alive and the people who made our history real. He made history exciting and colorful, and he never let anyone down who

asked a historical question. I owe a great deal to this tall, gentle man, as do all of us in the Argonauts, OCTA and the other historical and educational groups throughout the West who had the honor of knowing him.

In me, Clyde instilled the need for accuracy in reporting history. He made me want to dig deep for little known facts, to search beyond what is known, and to share information as he does. Thank you Clyde.

THE CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

by Mary Lou Lyon

When the idea for the Conference of California Historical Societies was first approached by Rockwell Hunt in 1954, one of those representatives of the historical communities in the state invited to help form this new cooperative umbrella group was Clyde Arbuckle, City Historian for San Jose since 1945. The Organizational Meeting was held in Columbia, June, 1954 with representatives attending from San Diego to Yreka. At the First Annual Meeting in Monterey June 24-25, 1955, Clyde served on the Program Committee. At the Second Annual Meeting in San Jose, June 21-23, 1956, he was the Local Arrangements Committee as well as Vice President. He took office as the third President in 1958-59 at the meeting at Hoberg's, Lake County. He was the last to leave us of the first seven presidents. For many years, Clyde was one of the pillars that held up the statewide organization.

I couldn't always go on his trips and to his class when I was teaching high school, but regret it, although now and again, I could work it into my schedule. I counted him as a friend and was very flattered when he finally decided to stop teaching night school that he nominated me to succeed him at Markham in teaching California and the West. There is no way that I or anyone else could be like Clyde, but he recognized that I would do what I could in his beloved subjects to the best of my ability. I would deliberately go to

visit afternoons between meals, intending to talk history an hour or two, and hours later, without noticing how much time had passed, be asked to share their dinner and finally arrive back home at 9 p.m. There can never be another like Clyde.

CLYDE ARBUCKLE AND OCTA **by Tom Hunt, Preservation Officer**

I did not have the honor and privilege of knowing Clyde Arbuckle personally until he joined OCTA. I knew OF him, of course. Anyone interested in the history of the West and the overland emigrant trails, knew of Clyde's reputation as an historian and a repository of knowledge concerning the pioneer families and their descendants. I had run across references to him as a chronicler of that part of our nation's westering heritage on numerous occasions in my own research.

Once I was at Iron Point on the Humboldt River in Nevada, the place where John Snyder of the Donner Party was killed by James Reed in 1846, when I noticed that a simple historical marker had been placed by the side of the road recently by "The Argonauts" from San Jose, California. By my next visit, the marker had disappeared, but the fact that a group had been there when I could go weeks on end without meeting another soul on the desert backroads left me curious about that group. I had no luck finding them until OCTA came into being years later and the mystery was solved. They were Clyde's traveling group who had, indeed, placed a marker in the middle of nowhere.

It was at this time, that I got to know Clyde and was even afforded the honor of being asked to guest lecture to his class on several occasions. It was at this time that I began shamelessly to mine the vast resources of Clyde's encyclopedic store of knowledge pertaining to the trails and pioneer emigrant families.

One of the high points of my life was the private tour

which Clyde gave me to the Pioneer Cemetery at Oak Hill in San Jose. I know that anyone who was ever privileged to join him on that tour knows what a truly wonderful historical experience it was. I will always remember and cherish the memory of that brisk-sometimes too brisk- walk through history on which I was led by this astonishing, overwhelmingly knowledgeable guide. I can still picture in my mind's eye those sparkling friendly eyes, that perfectly manicured mustache, and that hallmark, square-set hat sailing along ever one step in front of me with me desperately straining to catch every one of those soft-spoken words of his. And there wasn't a bronze plaque or a chiseled stone or a carved name in granite-whether pioneer or not-that didn't elicit a fascinating bit of history from this lovely, giving, gentleman. It was an awesome experience.

There are some things in life that never leave one's memory, that rise up above the humdrum ordinariness of most of daily existence like a beacon fire in the night, that make one stop and say to oneself- "This is special...This I'm going to remember and cherish...This I'm going to call upon to keep me going whenever I begin to wonder if what I'm doing really is leading me anywhere worthwhile."

That walk with Clyde was one of those things for me, and Clyde was one of those rare men who truly could make history come alive.

THE MASONIC HISTORIAN

by George Hesse

Clyde began his Masonic career in 1929 when he became a member of Liberty Lodge No. 299 in his hometown, Santa Clara. He remained a member until his death. After joining the Lodge, he immediately set out to learn the history of his Lodge as well as all of the Lodges in California. He was particularly interested in the history of San Jose Lodge No. 10 as a large number of Donner Party survivors, as well as other early San Jose pioneers, were members of that Lodge.

Clyde was appointed to the History Committee of the

Grand Lodge of California. At the time they were preparing to write and publish what became the four volume work, *One Hundred Years of Freemasonry in California*. Clyde was the principle contributor as well as editor of the work. He was acknowledged for his work: "Clyde Arbuckle of San Jose, who, for several years did outstanding research as a member of the Grand Lodge History Committee and who, for more than two years has been continuously engaged in writing and preparing portions of this work. His training as an experienced historian has stood us well in hand, and we gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to him."

Clyde joined the San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies in 1930 and was one of very few who became the leader of all four Bodies of the Rite.

In 1962, Clyde was requested to write the history of the San Jose Scottish Rite publication, *California's First Century of Scottish Rite Masonry*.

In 1955, because of his contribution to the San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies, as well as to his community, he was honored by being named a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor and on October 22, 1963, he received the highest honor that can be accorded by the Scottish Rite when he was Coroneted a 33rd Degree Mason.

A Note From Hal Goodyear of Weaverville

...Our friendship with the Arbuckles goes back about 35 years. We had lots of enjoyable times with Helen & Clyde-through CCHS, ECV and the Agonauts. He was my idea of a model Clamper; enjoyed a nip, fine historian, writer and genuine good guy...

Frances Ridley, Principal at Arbuckle School

Our school was named after Clyde Arbuckle, the historian. Clyde Arbuckle inspired thousands and thousands of students who have attended Arbuckle Elementary School since the school was established more than 30 years ago. Two years ago, at age 92, he came to visit our school again

during our NetDay. He was our Special Guest. Indeed, we were quite honored with his presence. Our students were proud having him, to see a real person who is our school's namesake.

A WALK THROUGH THE PAST. The hardbound book about the Pioneer Cemetery at Oak Hill Memorial Park is expected to be out by spring, 1998, possibly in April, was announced by the San Jose Historical Society. The committee has been working for two years on this project. The 200 page book with 14 color pages will contain brief biographies of 170 persons buried in

the oldest secular cemetery in California. Included will be members of the Donner-Reed Party, early educators, merchants, doctors, ranchers, bankers and others who made their mark in Santa Clara County. Among the women featured in the book are Dr. Elizabeth Gallimore, "Grandma" Anna Bascom, Sarah Knox-Goodrich, 1862 overland pioneer Jane Gould Tourtillott and Patty Reed Lewis. Others are Dr. Benjamin Cory, Moses Schallenberger, Ignacio Bernal, John D. Crummey, Sheriff John Adams, Senator Herbert Jones, victims of the Dunham murders, A.D.M. Cooper and James F. Reed are recalled in the pages of the book.

Rosicrucian Press is printing the book which is dedicated to the late historian, Clyde Arbuckle.



MEMBERSHIP DUES are delinquent after March 1st, 1998. Please send in your dues with a stamped self addressed envelope to Robert & Irene Johnson, 445 North 15th St., San Jose, CA, 95112. We do not want to lose you as members. Please have your pioneer neighbors join us. Irene & Bob will be at the March meeting to reinstate you or greet new members. Check you labels to see if you are current.

NEW MEMBERS

Manuel & Faye Carvalho

Ralph & Marie Perez

Mary Miklica

Lucile Young

Pamela Dorsey

GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS

Thelma Rhineland	11/97
Elsa Fetsch	11/97
Herbert Lietz	11/18/97
Henry Gerdt	11/24/97
Virginia Petersen	12/28/97
Agnes Solari	1/98
Rupert Moore	1/6/98
Clyde Arbuckle	1/10/98



Touring With The Californians

Rose Crimi Muench - Director

Nancy Hill-Phone Reservations (258-3449-M-F before noon)

Pauline Hawkins-Treasurer 1223 Redcliff Dr., San Jose, CA 95118-1228

Helen Brooks-luncheon sign ups

Registration for Spring Trips Begins at the March 7 Luncheon. Non Members & Guests may sign up starting March 16. If you do not get a trip flyer at the Luncheon meeting, send a stamped self addressed legal sized envelope to the above address.

Pick Up Point (unless otherwise indicated) Valley Village, 390 North Winchester Blvd., Santa Clara at the Dolores St., side of the complex.

MARCH 25 WEDNESDAY-GAMBLE HOUSE & GARDENS, ALLIED ARTS GUILD & LOS ALTOS HISTORY HOUSE (REGISTRATION IN PROGRESS) One of Palo Alto's hidden treasures is the Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden Center & Colonial Revival home. The estate was built in 1902 by Edwin Percy Gamble, grandson of the Proctor & Gamble founder, so his four children could attend Stanford University. His daughter, Elizabeth, left the estate to the City of Palo Alto in 1981. After several years of restoration, the garden & home became available for public viewing. We will have a guided tour of the home & gardens, featuring early spring roses, flowering bulbs, nasturtiums & other flowers. We then drive to the Allied Arts Guild, situated on the old Rancho de las Pulgas, a Spanish land grant from the 1700's. The complex features Spanish-style gardens and adobe buildings decorated with tiles. We will have an included lunch and time to visit the charming artisan shops. Finally, we will visit the Los Altos History House, a turn of the

century shingled farm house situated in an apricot orchard. It is decorated in depression era furnishings. We will also see a current exhibit entitled "Riding the Rails", depicting the history of railroading in the Los Altos area.

LEAVE 9:30 AM RETURN 4:30 PM PRICE \$33

APRIL 20-29, 1998-I LOVE VIRGINIA TOUR WE REGRET that this tour has been canceled because the other group did not get their quote of signups.

APRIL 15 WEDNESDAY- "GOLD FEVER" EXHIBIT AT THE OAKLAND MUSEUM Celebrating the 150th Anniversary (Sesqui-centennial) of the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill, the Oakland Museum has assembled an extensive exhibition telling the story of how this event impacted California. For serious students of California history this is a MUST SEE exhibit. The *Gold Fever* exhibit includes an archeological "dig" with an array of 1850's goods, a presentation of the California native peoples and Californios who lived there on the eve of the Gold Rush, accounts of the extraordinary riches of the first finds, tableaux of the miners' lives, and the impact of destructive mining techniques on the California environment. Another area entitled "*Silver and Gold*" displays 150 daguerreotypes and ambrotypes - the first major world event documented through photographs, which was developed only ten years before. Our tour will be via an innovative headphone and CD system issued to each person. As visitors move through the exhibits, infrared triggers activate narratives with dramatic first hand accounts taken from diaries, letters, newspaper accounts and other records. Docents will also be available in each gallery to answer questions. Besides the "Gold Fever" exhibit, the Oakland Museum has revamped displays on the other floors. We will arrive at the museum early so that you may tour other floors and also have lunch on you own at the museum's cafe. Our scheduled entry into the "Gold Fever" exhibit is at 1:15 p.m. This will allow two

hours for people to tour at their own pace. Entry and headphone fees are included.

LEAVE 9:30 AM RETURN 4:30 PM PRICE \$20

MAY 12 TUESDAY--SPRINGTIME GARDENS OF WALNUT CREEK Spring is the ideal time for an uplifting stroll through beautiful gardens filled with colorful flowers. We will travel to Walnut Creek for guided tours of the Heather Farm Garden Center and the Ruth Bancroft Gardens. Heather Farm's five acres features ten landscaped gardens, including herb gardens with a bubbly fountain, rose gardens with over 700 plants around a duck pond, a rock garden, a butterfly garden and other demonstration gardens. The internationally recognized Ruth Bancroft Gardens were created by Mrs. Bancroft who is the daughter-in-law of western scholar Hubert Howe Bancroft. He developed pear & walnut orchards in the 1880's. Octogenarian Mrs. Bancroft continues to work in the gardens daily. The gardens feature many varieties of succulents & cacti including over 100 varieties of African aloes. Pines, palo verde, and mesquite trees provide dappled shade. The tour price includes picnic lunch at the Heather Farm Gardens and all entry fees. We suggest you bring a sun hat and bottled water.

LEAVE 9:00 AM RETURN 4:30 PM PRICE \$31

PROVENCE IN AUTUMN?

Our last survey indicated an interest in a trip to the Provence region of southern France. We have an opportunity to join an 11 day *Saga Holidays Road Scholar* program, departing September 24th, October 8th or October 15th, 1998. *Saga* is a non-profit company serving travelers 50 years or older. The Provence program is a stay-put tour centered in Nice and aix-en-Provence with lectures and trips to surrounding attractions, emphasizing Impressionist artists such as Cezanne, van Gogh, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

(They do the Smithsonian Programs, also. I took their road Scholar of Tony Hillerman Country last year & it was great!...ed)

The trip includes round-trip air fare from San Francisco International to Nice, medical and baggage insurance and 16 meals. Van transportation from San Jose to SFO can be arranged. The cost is \$2649. The single room supplement is \$149. There are five optional activities costing from \$25 to \$65 each. A two day Nice extension is \$149 for

doubles or \$199 for singles. The deposit is \$265 and the balance is due about July 20th.

For Pioneers to join the *Saga* program, we need 15 people. We will be taking a sign up of people with a serious interest at the March 7th luncheon, or call Rose Crimi (408-293-0896) by March 15th. Pertinent pages of the *Saga Holidays Road Scholar Catalog* will be available. If there is enough interest, the \$265 deposit would be payable by March 16th.

LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT, BOB FISHER

Dear Pioneers;

At a recent Board of Directors' meeting the Financial Secretary reported that forty-six members were demitted from our membership list because they had not renewed their memberships for 1997. This action brought our members to less than 700 and pointed out how important it is to retain our members. If you have a friend, relative or acquaintance who is interested in local history, I hope you will extend an invitation to join our group. Remember that a person who is a descendant of someone who lived in California fifty years or more is eligible for membership as well as anyone who has resided in the State of California fifty years or more. Let's work on it!

The Board was very sorry to learn of the death of our President Emeritus - Historian Clyde Arbuckle. We will miss him very much and the history of our valley that he talked about each meeting. The Board authorized the purchase of a suitable gift to be made in his name.

Our next Quarterly meeting will be March 7, 1998 at Lou's Village at 12 noon. I will see you there. Bob

**1998 SANTA CLARA COUNTY PIONEERS
ANNUAL HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST**

\$1000.00 IN PRIZE MONEY

1ST PRIZE-\$500.00

1ST HONORABLE MENTION-\$60.00

2ND PRIZE-\$250.00

2ND HONORABLE MENTION -\$40.00

3RD PRIZE-\$125.00

3RD HONORABLE MENTION-\$25.

OPEN TO ALL-

STUDENTS AND GENERAL PUBLIC

RULES

SUBJECT-Any person, place or event concerning Santa Clara County from its beginning to the recent past.

LENGTH-Minimum 3000 words-Maximum-10,000 words

CONTENTS-Each Essay must be typewritten in English.

a. Double spaced

b. At least one inch margin and must include:

c. Short introduction or preface

d. Table of contents

e. Bibliography

f. Sources- persons, books or other items consulted

g. Contestants Name, Address & phone number **MUST** appear on the lower right hand corner of the Title Page of the essay.

h. Students must include the name of their school and advisor under their name.

i. Essays must be in an appropriate folder or thoroughly stapled together so they do not come apart.

j. Each essay must be submitted IN DUPLICATE. One copy will go into the Pioneer Archives and the other into The California Room of the San Jose Public Library.

k. Those submitting only one copy will be disqualified but the copy will be placed in the library

l-The Pioneers reserve exclusive publication rights to all essays.

m. None will be returned.

n. First prize winners for the last 3 years are not eligible to compete.

WINNERS will receive their awards at the **Quarterly Luncheon Saturday June 6, 1998**. The first three winners will make a **BRIEF** presentation to the membership at that time.

Lou's Village, 1465 West San Carlos St., San Jose,

DEADLINE-Friday, April 24, 1998

SEND ESSAY TO Campbell-Warburton Law Offices, 111 West St. John, Suite 440, San Jose, CA-95113 (corner of Market & St. John)

FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES OF CONTEST RULES-

HELEN MAC CARTHY --578-4485

**1998 OFFICERS - CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

Robert G. Fisher-- President

3435 Yuba Av. San Jose, CA
95117-2966 408-241-0224

David McKinney, 1st V.P.

P.O. Box 6772, San Jose CA
95150-6772 408-732-1946

Jim Arbuckle, 2nd V.P.

988 Franquette Av. San Jose
408-265-9722

Jane Brown-ton-Corresponding Sec

10 Kirk Av, San Jose CA
95127-2214 408-929-7591

Doris Herschbach-Recording Sec

Telfer Av, San Jose CA
95125-3346 408-294-1509

Mimi Wells-Treasurer

16 Ayer Ave, San Jose, CA
95110-2201 408-293-0134

Robert & Irene Johnson

Financial Secretary & Membership

445 North 15th St, San Jose, CA
95112-1726 408-275-1389

Helen MacCarthy-Archivist

270 Umbarger Road #123
San Jose, CA 95111-2032
408-578-4485

Paul R. Bernal-Legal Advisor

365 Flamingo Dr.,
Campbell, CA 95008-3625
408-299-7400

Hacienda Cemetery

Richard Hill

10393 Doris Court,
San Jose CA 95127-3013
408-258-3449

Bud & Marie Amaral

6001 Vera Cruz Av,
San Jose CA 95120-4864
408-268-4078

Audit Committee

Hal Messimer

18950 Sara Park Circle
Saratoga, CA 95070-4177
253-3888

Joseph (Bud) &

Marie Amaral

6001 Vera Cruz Av
San Jose, 95120-4864
408-268-4078 95125-2619

Parliamentarian

Ruth Savage -Sunshine

4002 Club House Ct.,
San Jose, CA 95135-1482
408-531-8496

Beverly J. Fisher-Sunshine

3435 Yuba Av. San Jose, CA
95117-2966 408-241-0224

Melita Kelly-Marshall

460 N. 15th St.
San Jose, CA 95112-1725
292-2385

Californians-Tours

Rose Crimi Muench

1289 Martin St
San Jose 95126-2628
408-293-0896

Californians -Reservations

Nancy Hill 408-258-3449

Before Noon

Californians Treasurer

Pauline Hawkins,
1223 Redcliff Dr.
San Jose, CA 95118-1228

Submissions to the Trailblazer For the June Issue must be received by May 1
Mary Lou Lyon- Ed 879 Lily Ave, Cupertino, CA 95014-4261 (408-253-9514)

P.O. BOX 8208 SAN JOSE CA 95155
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

PIONEER LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1998
AT NOON LOU'S VILLAGE

LEONARD MAC KAY ON SAN JOSE ARTISTS

554-7587

BREAST OF CHICKEN
SALAD & ROLLS

RESERVATIONS FRESH VEGETABLES

BEFORE MASHED POTATOES

WEDNESDAY,

ICE CREAM & COFFEE
WINE AVAILABLE

FEBRUARY 25, 1998 \$3 BY THE GLASS

\$14

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CUPERTINO, CA
PERMIT NO. 543

RICHARD M & NANCY HILL L

10393 DORIS CT

SAN JOSE, CA 95127-3013

