



VOL. 49 NUMBER 3 2008

Pioneers Picnic

Saturday, September 13, 2008 at Noon

Celebrating California's Admission Day

San Jose History Park, Senter and Phelan

Advanced Reservations MUST BE MADE before

Monday, September 8, 2008

It will be a catered BBQ Style Buffet Picnic in the Park.

The menu is: BBQ chicken, BBQ Pork Ribs, Baked Beans with Franks, Beef Burgers, Veggie Burger, Caesar Salad, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Fresh Fruit.

Iced Tea, Lemonade, Coffee and Dessert

Call: 408-554-7587

Cost: \$30 (Make checks payable to California Pioneers)

Once you have made the reservation you are responsible for the \$30

Free Parking is available in the parking lot behind the Hotel Entrance to History Park is Free to those attending the BBQ

Handicapped Parking is next to the Phelan Avenue Park Entrance, If additional assistance is necessary, a ride to the lunch site will be provided.

San Jose History Park is located at the intersection of Senter Road and Phelan Avenue.

Access from Hwy. 280 is South on 10th Street, to Phelan Avenue, Left, cross Senter to the Park.

Access from Hwy. 101 is West on Story Road to Senter Road then left to Phelan Avenue. And left again to parking.

Please note: Names will be checked off the reservation list as you enter, if your name is not on the list, you will be requested to wait until all those who reserved a place have been seated.

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You must have your commemorative name tag on as proof you have paid to be served. (The park is open that day.)

*The Caterer must have a **FINAL Count ...***

BEFORE MONDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

ADMISSION DAY PICNIC, 2008

In Commemoration of California's Admission Day on September 9, 1850 and the Pioneer's Celebrations in 1877 and 1895, we, too are having a grand picnic with Bar-B-Q and a Band. (We are omitting the two hour speech of those previous celebrations and the hour long poem reading!)

The San Jose Metropolitan Band is a contemporary concert band, playing in the tradition of a community band serenading an afternoon picnic. They give performances throughout the Santa Clara Valley of California, playing a mix of marches, show tunes, Disney, big band and sym-phonc classics. Their membership is made up of dedicated volunteer musicians from many backgrounds and age groups. More information on the band can be found at it's website:

<http://www.sjmetroband.org/>

THE PIONEER NEWSPAPER, August 25, 1877. Is there any one of our readers in proximity to San Jose that has an old emigrant wagon, that has come the plains across. A real old fashioned prairie schooner style. If they have, they will confer a favor by notifying the Secretary of our Society here. We are informed there is one in the county that came over in 1847. If it could be procured, it would be just the thing. Any one having one yoke of oxen near San Jose' will confer a favor by letting the fact be known.

PIONEER PICNIC, ADMISSION DAY 1877

The Society of California Pioneers of San Francisco have decided to picnic at O'Donnell's Gardens on the 8th of September, the 9th falling on Sunday. They have selected Saturday, for the reason that they would have Sunday to rest after the trip.

The Pioneers of this county are preparing a great

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reception for them. They will be met at the (Railroad) depot and escorted through the city. In the procession will be a representation of an old fashioned emigrant train crossing the plains, and two representatives of California, life in '49 and '50; one representing a camp scene on a Sunday, and the other a mining scene on a weekday. Another feature will be the parade of natives, in which is expected there will be a few hundred.

The Pioneers of this county will form at the Opera House, and March thence to the depot. It is the intention to make this a Grand Occasion. W. P. Dougherty has consented to furnish the ox teams and to drive them, if necessary, although William acknowledges that he is a little rusty in that line. Our "Old Boys" enter into the matter with down right earnestness and when they take hold of anything there is no such word as Paid.

Meeting of the Pioneers

An Enthusiastic Gathering
Preparation for a Grand Barbecue
Committees Appointed

The Pioneers of Santa Clara County held a meeting at the Opera House at 2 o'clock last Saturday afternoon to make arrangements for a reception and barbecue to be given the Society of California Pioneers of San Francisco, that society having accepted an invitation to picnic at O'Donnell's Gardens, on the 8th of September for the purpose of celebrating the

Twenty Seventh Anniversary of the Admission of California into the Union. A large number of Pioneers were present.

Coleman Younger, President, called the meeting to order and stated that the object was to make arrangements for the proper reception of the "Old Boys" from San Francisco and as many of them have not had a "square meal" since '49, to treat them to an old fashioned barbecue. He hoped it would be an occasion that would reflect honor on the county and its pioneer people.

A committee to appoint committees was named, S. O. Houghton, John Trimble, and A.P. Murgotten. It was decided that the Society of California Pioneers should be received at the depot and a procession made through the city including the

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"emigrant train" and "the honest miner" to be featured. The Mexican War Veterans would act as escort.

Committees were set up. The Finance Committee assigned each member an area of the county to solicit for funds. The Meat Committee, were also assigned an area to solicit. One of the members on that committee was the rancher, Henry Miller. They were told to have the animals delivered to the slaughter house of Leddy Brothers on the east side of Coyote Creek on Wednesday September 5, 1877, by 4 p.m.

Another Committee was in charge of Displays, and another on Programs, but the most important one was the BBQ Committee led by Uncle Ike Branham. The report in the newspaper afterwards noted that they had dug a trench that held 4,000 pounds of meat-10 beeves, 1 year and under, 13 hogs and 15 sheep. The committee divided up the duties into carvers, waiters, set up crew, wood and coal, dishes, coffee, bread, etc.

The Program Committee laid their duties out as 1-Reception at the railroad depot The San Francisco guests left the City by boat at 9 a.m. on the steamer *Newark* and disembarked at Dumbarton Pier, 25 minutes away by train. They returned at 5 p.m., taking the narrow gauge railroad 18

miles from San Jose. Total traveling time one way was 2 hours and 10 minutes.

2-Parade to the Gardens. Mounted police, Branson and Daggetts Band, Representation of the Emigrant Train (very authentic! One ox dropped dead!) and the Honest Miner on foot, Native Californians on foot, Santa Clara County Pio-neers, the San Francisco Band, The Society of California Pio-neers, Other Pioneer Societies. (Sacramento, Stockton, etc.)

3-Reception at the Gardens

4-Oration by the Honorable Lawrence Archer (Judge, Assemblyman, Mayor)

5-Music by the San Francisco Band

6-Poem by Miss M. A. Fitzgerald, read by Mattie Patton

7-General Remarks

8-Barbecue

9-A good time by all

S. W. Boring was appointed Grand Marshal of the Day.

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(Secretary of the Southeast Side Horse Railroad Company)

A grand party was planned for the 27th Admission Day, 1877 by the Santa Clara County Pioneers.. They were visited by their brethren from San Francisco. Much care was taken in planning the festivities for the day.

As was the style, the order of the day was literary exercises. First there was an oration, (which took up an entire newspaper page plus!) then the San Francisco Band executed an operatic selection. Then the President introduced Mattie Patten who in an eloquent and able manner rendered a poem written by Sister Annie Fitzgerald of the College of Notre Dame entitled "Welcome to Our Pioneers." (That also went for nearly 2 newspaper pages!) When she finished the lengthy poem, the meeting was adjourned to the barbeque.

"On the east side of the grounds, the tables had been arranged, and were groaning beneath the weight of good

things. They were soon relieved, however, and replenished until all who desired to eat had been satisfied, and large quantities remained untouched.

After the barbecue was over, dancing took place for about an hour, the music being furnished by the San Francisco Band. At four o'clock, it closed, as the band had to accompany the San Francisco Pioneers on their return.

The grounds, however, remained crowded after their departure, until the shadows of evening had gathered, when the homeward march began. During the festivities, a dispatch (telegram) was sent to Francis D. Clark, President of the California Pioneers, who was assisting at the celebration of California's Admission Day with a number of California Pioneers at Long Branch, N. J. wishing them health and prosperity. A dispatch was received from them, containing the same wish, and one from the pioneer, John A. Sutter, bearing greetings.

In every particular, the celebration was a grand success, and the Twenty-Seventh Anniversary of California's Admission Day will not soon be forgotten."

.....*The Paulson House* will be open on the First, Third and Fourth Sundays from 12-5 p.m. When more docents are available, we will add more days. Docents giving one Sunday a

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month are Marylou von Rotz, Melita Kelly and Bob & Bev Fisher. Don't you have time?

Last month, in two Sunday afternoons, they had 301 visitors! Including 130 for the Portuguese Festival Day. We have had people from the Czech Republic, Hungary, England, Sri Lanka, Romania, Taiwan, New York, Pennsylvania, Boston and southern California. Some of these people have come to the area for jobs and others are visiting friends or family. Have you been out there?

So many little touches have come in recently from you and Barbara Peddy to make it look like a house would have looked in the twenties or thirties. Remember? Does anyone

have a butter churn? How about an old black umbrella to put in the umbrella stand?

We need more volunteers to show off our house . No one has signed up for the Second Sunday afternoon, nor any Saturdays. We will train you. It is a fun job. Both ladies and Gentlemen welcomed! If you'd like to be a docent (ladies or gentlemen), please contact Marylou vonRotz at 253-8735.

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FREEBEE- On Sept. 18th at 5:30 pm, PAC SJ will be hosting *The Fruit Cocktail Movie Night* at Le Petit Trianon Theatre located at 72 North 5th St. San Jose. This free event will include agricultural footage from Santa Clara County's early days as *the Valley of Hearts Delight*, and food inspired by the 1950s and 60s will be featured. Guests are encouraged to dress in 30s, 40s and 50s attire and to dust off favorite recipes to make and share with others. Awards are given for best dish and best costume. This event is free for all Pioneer members and guests. To learn more go to www.preservation.org

Bob Fisher has turned 90 and decided to stay off the road, a hard decision, so Beverly does all the driving. They did a wonderful job of furnishing the Paulson House and we are all in their debt. They are retaining the acquisition of Past President's photos for our Presidential photo wall. Come and see what they have done. The Jackson girls' piano is fixed and tuned and their parlor furniture installed. There is even a razor strop in the bathroom!

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GONE TO THE GOLDEN HILLS
Helen Parish Stevens
Benefactor



When she was young, Helen Parish's father didn't want her to take up nursing. He thought the work was too hard and suggested she become a teacher. In the end, Helen did both.

Helen was born in Twin Falls, Idaho, in 1910, the daughter of a man who had been a teacher before becoming a prosperous farmer, business-man and politician. She attended local schools with her brother and sister before earning a Bachelor's Degree at the University of Oregon .

Overcoming her father's concerns, Helen earned Registered Nursing and Public Nursing Certificates in Portland. When the federal government encouraged midwifery during the 1930s, Helen obtained a Midwife Certificate in Chicago. There she worked in the slums delivering more than 100 babies - several of them named for her.

She served as a public health nurse near Medford,

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Oregon for nine years. On the recommendation of a friend from Oregon, she came to San Jose in 1947 to teach public health at

San Jose State College. She also worked for the city health department.

After arriving in San Jose, Helen met Charles Stevens, a widower, former actor and businessman who lived near the campus and taught local history classes (before Clyde Arbuckle). He socialized with faculty in San Jose and throughout his life retained friends from his acting days, including Rudy Valle.

While teaching at San Jose, Helen earned a Master's at Stanford. During the summers, she worked on a Doctorate at Columbia University in New York. In 1965, she abandoned the doctorate when President John H. Bunzel appointed her Professor and Chair of San Jose State's nursing department in 1965. She retained the position until her retirement in 1977.

Pioneer member Donna Miguelgorry remembered Helen from SJSU and recalled that she especially liked teaching a course on maternal child health.

Former Pioneers President Edward Allegretti met Helen when she was the faculty adviser and he was president of Black Masque, the senior honor society at SJSU. "We worked closely on many of that group's charitable activities," he recalled. "She truly cared much for the students, the community and being a good Christian." Ed remembered that Helen had a great love of history. "Given her many years of community service and her historic house, it isn't surprising," he said. For a number of years, she was an honorary member of the California Pioneers before she became eligible for regular membership in 1997. She may never have missed a luncheon.

Trip director Rose Crimi Muench recalled how Helen enjoyed traveling with the group after her retirement. "She was very enthusiastic about taking pictures," Rose remembered. Helen made photo albums of the trips

Helen took particular pride in her home on North Third Street in San Jose. She has left the home, with its historic furnishings and many collections, to the Pioneers.

Helen collected many honors, including outstanding

female faculty member at the University in 1958. She was past

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president of a chapter of the American Association of University Women and the Women's Faculty Club and other organizations. She was a Dame of Merit of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitalers. She was active in Eastern Star and taught Sunday school at Trinity Episcopal Church, San Jose.



Remembering the Pioneers in Your Estate Planning

One of the best ways to support the Pioneers is through your estate planning. You can make a gift to a charitable organization such as the Pioneers through your will or trust. The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County is a 501(c)(3) organization and therefore your gifts are tax deductible. Ask your attorney about including the Pioneers in your estate plan or contact our legal advisor, Ken Machado, for further information. Ken can be reached at 408-280-7577 or email at 7m-ken@msn.com.

Our president, Jim Zetterquist has been vacationing in Southern California with his wife and two little girls. Rumor has that the two girls were taken to the estate of Mr. Disney.

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Gone to the Golden Hills

Roberta Ross
Jean Morss

Helen Stevens
Marion O'Connell
-9- Meta Huber

JUNE AWARDEES



At the Awards Luncheon in June, the following essays were recognized. 1st Place Elizabeth Barratt, "Two Cousins From China and Gilroy's Early Seed Industry" This is a very good story about two Chinese Cousins and their contributions to

the early seed industry in South County. Elizabeth and her family have had a long relationship with the Wong family. A descendent of the Wongs, Dr. Don Cheu was her guest at the luncheon. He and Elizabeth carry on the family friendship. Elizabeth Barratt & David McKinney



The 2nd Place award went to Shannon E. Clark who wrote about "James Alexander Forbes The Mischief-making Renaissance Man;" A story about the life of James Forbes who among

many other things started Forbes Mill in Los Gatos. He was the nephew of the Forbes connected with the New Almaden Mines. Shannon lives in Palo Alto and is a student at UCLA. She recently wrote the book about the Alameda that the association used as a fundraiser. Leonard McKay suggested she write an essay for our contest.

Note: Fall MAEP courses are set to start up again on Wednesday, August 27. Sign up for Memoir Writing to tell your story or Mary Lou's course exploring Santa Clara County History. -10-



A Special Award of Merit for a Memoir was given to Patricia Watkins, who wrote, "Staying Young at Heart-A San Jose History," A story about her being elected Homecoming Princess at SJSU at the age of 55-- that's right 55 years old!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month we all were saddened to hear about the loss of one of our members, Helen Stevens. Though I did not know her personally, it is evident that she lived a long, full, productive life that touched many hearts and shaped many lives. Her generosity to the Pioneers will enhance our organization for decades to come. It is a wonderful compliment that she felt so strongly about our mission to "honor our early pioneers". As President of the Pioneers, I will do all I can to ensure that her trust and faith in our organization were well deserved.

Winston Churchill said, "The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see." These words remain true. In our last issue, Mary Lou Lyon told of the Pioneers' earliest history and cited that one of their earliest

action items was to commission bookcases to be built for the library. Over 125 years later, as we complete our new meeting "place", The Paulson House, one of our first action items was to have bookcases/display cases built for our collection of books and artifacts. I hope you take the time to come and see these new additions. If you have any historic items that would enhance our collection, please contact a board member. What happened to the original bookcases is still not quite clear.

Another connection to our past is the revival of the Pioneer BBQ, a tradition dating back well over 125 years. Our

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future is looking brighter than ever. Tim Peddy has been appointed to our board and we have a list of wonderful candidates to fill 3 newly created board positions. I hope to see all of you at the BBQ.

Jim Z

NEW MEMBERS

William Foley
Lawrence Clark
Ruth Hamann
Michael McDonald
Dennis Mena
Lynn Roeder

Lucille Bocks
Eileen Marshall
William Foley
Memay Spencer

TOURING WITH THE CALIFORNIANS

Rose Crimi Muench – Tour director (408) 293-0896

Marie Rider – Phone reservations and cancellations.

(408) 251-7887, M – F, mornings

Beverly Fisher – Treasurer, 3435 Yuba Avenue

San Jose, CA 95117-2966

Marylou vonRotz – Luncheon reservations

REGISTRATION FOR FALL TRIPS begins at the September 13 picnic, 10:30 a.m. in the Paulson House, History Park, for California Pioneers members. Members may register absent members after 12 noon. Checks or exact cash are preferred. Non-members and guests may register starting September 22.

PHONE RESERVATIONS or CANCELLATIONS: call Marie Rider. After reservations are confirmed, send a check payable to The Californians to Beverly Fisher.

PICK-UP POINT: Valley Village, 390 North Winchester Blvd., Santa Clara on Dolores Avenue.

DAY TRIPS.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008, TUESDAY

HISTORIC WATSONVILLE and the GIZDICH RANCH

The Pajaro Valley Historical Association docents host us for an exploration of the rich farming heritage in the Pajaro Valley, where one of the largest Bird's Eye frozen food processing plants operated until a few years ago. The 135-year old farm house of the 100-acre Bockius Farm, established in 1852, houses a collection of historic artifacts including: photographs, displays on local farms and businesses, oral histories, costumes, and

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tools. Next we take a short drive to the Gizdich Ranch, still a working farm growing apples and berries. We will have an included country lunch of deli sandwiches and chips, fresh pressed apple juice or coffee, and apple or berry pie a la mode. We will have a tour of the farm showing apple harvesting and juice pressing operations. Perhaps you can bring home some demonstration of how hand-crafted glass dinnerware and glasses with textured surfaces are made. Their outlet store has samples which you can take home. We will have a larger bus, so you may put yourself on a short wait list.

Leave 9:00 a.m. Return: 5:00 p.m. Cost: \$ 42

NOVEMBER 13, 2008, THURSDAY

(Date subject to confirmation at the September 13 picnic.)

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY of SCIENCES

The California Academy of Sciences founded in 1853 has been reborn as a \$ 430 million facility, designed by famed Italian architect Renzo Piano. We will travel to Golden Gate Park to visit this completely "green" building featuring a unique two and one-half acre roof planted with native wild flowers. The exhibit will include 38,000 living animals, and 20 million specimens. All are displayed in: a living coral reef, a salt water

aquarium, a domed rain forest with birds and butterflies, a swamp with alligators, a penguin enclosure, a planetarium, an African diorama - and more! An optional audio system is available to guide you. Lunch is available on your own at the café or the sit-down restaurant. Entry fee is included.

Leave 9:00 a.m. Return: 5:00 p.m. Cost: \$ 40

DECEMBER 18, 2008, THURSDAY LIVERMORE VALLEY Rancho Los Positis (little watering holes) is now Livermore, named for a British sailor, Robert Livermore. The valley's rocky and gravelly soil lent itself to the planting of vineyards. Early pioneers and neighbors James Concannon and Carl Wentz both started wine production in the 1880's. Livermore valley also attracted the Bay Area's affluent to build summer homes. One of these was Christopher Buckley, the political boss of early San Francisco, who built the Ravenswood Victorian country estate in 1891. It is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is a California Historic Point of Interest. During the holiday season the house is lavishly decorated. We will have docents dressed

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in period costumes give us a tour of the house with a visit to the gift shop. Then we will have an included English Tea at the August Tea Room with home-made scones, Devonshire cream, preserves and lemon curd, tea sandwiches and miniature sweets. Next we will visit the Concannon Winery for a tour of the winery and tasting of their wines. We can still see the original Victorian family home on the property.

Leave 9:00 a.m. Return: 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$ 60

EXTENDED TRIPS

OCTOBER 13 - 24, 2008 MEXICAN RIVIERA CRUISE (Golden Gate Tours) Norwegian Cruise Line "Sun" will be cruising round trip from San Francisco. No flights! Orientation for registrants will be Monday, September 29, 11 a.m., at the home of Rose Crimi, 1289 Martin Avenue, San Jose. R.s.v.p. to Rose, 408 293-0896 Cabins are still available. Call Rose Crimi.

NOVEMBER 3 - 13, 2008 DISCOVER CROATIA

(Collette) Dates have been revised to the above with a reduction in price!! New registration is on a Space Available basis: call Rose Crimi.

DECEMBER 26, 2008 - JANUARY 3, 2009

MISSISSIPPI RIVER NEW YEAR'S CRUISE

(Talbot) Majestic Cruise Company has cancelled all sailings. Information on possible substitutions will be available at the September picnic.

OFFICERS 2007-2008

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY-2008-

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