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New Marker for Campbell's First Adobe

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County was proud to partner with the City of Campbell to celebrate the placing of a marker that honors the first adobe home in Campbell. The May 9th event at John D. Morgan Park was the unveiling of the new plaque marking the site where the adobe home was built by Sebastian Peralta and his brother-in-law, Jose Maria Hernandez around 1847. (Sebastian Peralta (1794-1859) was the nephew of Luis Maria Peralta (1759-1851) of downtown San Jose's Peralta Adobe.)

The land the adobe was built on was granted to the brothers-in-law in 1840 by the Governor of Alta California. Peralta and Hernandez called their 6,631 acres Rancho Rinconada de Los Gatos where they both worked as cattle and sheep ranchers.

The audience for the unveiling of the marker included about 200 fourth graders from Rosemary and Capri Elementary Schools, as well as Campbell City officials, Pioneers members and interested residents.

Paul Bernal delivered an informative talk on the early history of the area while Pioneers member Denis Mena assumed the role of Sebastian Peralta. Pioneers member Paul Boehm wore vintage attire as did members of the Portraits of the Past, dressed as Juana Briones, Sarah Winchester, Madame Pantalon, and Antonio Suñol. The school children were attentive as the Peralta story unfolded and afterwards, asked many smart and amusing questions. There also were dancers from Los Lupeños de San José and even a pony visiting the festivities. (Continued pg. 2)

The First Adobe Home in Campbell

California used to be part of Spain and then Mexico. Vast ranchos were granted to worthy citizens. In 1840 Mexican Governor Juan Alvarado granted Rancho Rinconada de los Gatos (corner of the cougars) to brothers-in-law Sebastian Fabian Peralta and José Maria Hernandez.

The 6,631 acre rancho included what is today about 1/3 of Campbell; parts of San José and Saratoga; as well as Los Gatos and Monte Sereno. Like most rancheros, Peralta and Hernandez raised thousands of cattle and sheep. Around 1847, Peralta built an adobe home at the northernmost point of their rancho, near the spot you are presently standing. He lived here with his wife Maria Paula Sepulveda and their children Antonio, Miguel, Mariana, Julia and Rita.

The new marker, placed in John D. Morgan Park in Campbell, honors the site of Sebastian Peralta's home (circa 1847).

Marker (Continued)

The Pioneers sponsorship of the marker included six months of research into determining the exact location of the adobe site; getting approval from the City, lining up services, securing in-kind donations, City Parks help, and volunteers; writing the text and providing graphics; and paying \$300 for the base of the marker.

The Pioneers logo and a QR code on the marker will enable visitors with smart phones to link to the story of the adobe, its owners, and information about the Pioneers, thanks to Rick Helin and Bill Foley. This project meets the Pioneers mission of celebrating the pioneers of our valley and educating the public. Many people worked hard to bring this project to fruition including Paul Bernal, Joanna Herz, Liz Gibbons, Martha Champion, and Cindy Atmore.

Back in 2014, the Pioneers also participated in the installation of a plaque to mark the first adobe home in Los Gatos (circa 1839), which was built by Peralta's brother-in-law, the same Jose Maria Hernandez, an ancestor of Pioneers members Melita Kelly, Gordon Patnude and Susan Sisneros. ❖



Paul Bernal, surrounded by festive decorations, tells the story of Sebastian Peralta's adobe home.

See page 8 for the story.

(Photos: Barry Shilman)

Below, from left, Dennis Mena, Joanna Herz, Paul Bernal, Cindy Atmore, the guest pony and his owner.



Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

Saturday, Sept 1st, 2018

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT

Banquet Room—1547 Meridian Ave. in San Jose

Luncheon Presentation

**“Land, Love and Loss:
The Sylveria Pacheco Story”**

presented by

Damian Bacich

Make Reservations by Wednesday, Aug 29th

Email to sccpioneers@aol.com

or call 408-554-7587 with your menu selection

If, after reserving, you cannot attend the Luncheon
PLEASE call or e-mail to cancel your reservations.

We have to pay for no-shows !

Luncheon cost is \$35*

Please make checks payable in advance to
California Pioneers and bring to Luncheon.

Menu Selections

Three Flames Special Steak
tri-tip steak topped with sautéed mushrooms

Breast of Chicken Sauté
Boneless breast with white wine & mushroom sauce

Grilled Salmon with Lemon Dill Sauce

[Above served with red potatoes & fresh vegetables]

Pasta Rose
Penne Pasta, tomato-Alfredo sauce, mushrooms, green
onions and fresh basil

All of the above served with Salad, Coffee and Dessert
No-Host Bar for soft drinks, beer and wine

*Parking is limited in front of the restaurant; however,
ample parking is available in the rear and close
to a separate banquet room entrance.*

Luncheon Presentation

The story of Sylveria Pacheco de Coles is a saga of Californio life in the second half of the 19th century. Born in 1811 at Mission Santa Clara, Sylveria was one of the few women granted title to mission buildings prior to secularization. Her mother Juana María, widow of Anza party member and Presidio soldier Miguel Pacheco, was granted a rancho in Contra Costa County, which Sylveria and her siblings later inherited.

As a member of one of the Valley's elite Californio families, Sylveria joined with her family members in a struggle to protect their land holdings after the U.S. takeover. Through business dealings, legal battles and marriage, she fought a long, losing battle to maintain their holdings and adapt to U.S. society. Along the way, her life intersected with Franciscan padres and Jesuits, Prussian aristocrats, Mexican governors, American pioneer families, and unscrupulous lawyers.

Learn more about the person who connects James Alexander Forbes, Martin Murphy and Fr. John Nobili with the notorious Candelaria's Fandango House. ♦

Damian Bacich, Ph.D. is an educator, researcher and translator. He is Professor of Spanish Language and Literature at San José State University and chair of the Department of World Languages and Literatures. At SJSU he teaches courses on Colonial Latin America, including the Spanish Borderlands and Hispanic California. In addition to the Trailblazer, his work has appeared in journals such as California History, the Boletín of the California Missions Foundation, Pacific Coast Philology and Comitatus. He is a member of the board of the California Missions Foundation and the Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History. He is currently researching a book on Sylveria Pacheco. You can find out more about Damian's projects at www.californiafrontier.net.

***Pioneers do not make any profit from the cost of these lunches.**

Docents Visit Martial Cottle Park

On May 18th, the docents from the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County enjoyed a private tour at Martial Cottle Park.

Earlier, our docents conducted a tour for the Cottle Park docents at our Roberto Adobe & Suñol House. Park Ranger Sara Shellenbarger guided us through the main park, discussing the history of the Cottle family and the Cottle Ranch.

Then she brought us through the 30-acre, fenced-off, area that holds 18 buildings, including the barn, garages, staff houses and the 1883 two-story Italianate house. This section holds much history but it will take many years and numerous dollars to make it available to the public in a safe and organized state. *(Continued pg. 5)*



Above from left, Sylvia Hew, Rosalyn Zisch, Paul Boehm, Judi Mabie, Phil Johnson, Haylee Johnson, Mary Hanel, Paul Bernal, Gayle Frank, Lu Anne Behringer, Barbara Peddy and Tim Peddy. *(Photo: Paul Bernal)*



Ranger Sara points out the beauty of the Cottle Park landscape to the Pioneers docents.

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Gayle Frank, Editor

Contact us at
info@CaliforniaPioneers.com

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organization

Docents Visit (Continued)



Cottle Ranch in early days. Their Italianate home is on the far left, the barn is far right. Walter Lester's Uncle Martial Cottle and Aunt May are on the horse. (Photo Courtesy of Martial Cottle Park)

We all enjoyed the tour very much and were impressed with the Park. Thank you, Sara Shellenbarger, for a great tour. And thank you, Sylvia Hew, for organizing the tour.

If you haven't been to Cottle Park and Visitor Center to enjoy the grounds, plant life and trails, be sure to visit soon.

A year ago, you may remember our Pioneers luncheon talk on the Martial Cottle Park was presented by Park

Manager Eric Goodrich (see Trailblazer article-- December, 2017, page 14).

The Cottle Ranch began in 1864 and after many generations, Walter Cottle Lester transferred the ranch land, 287.5 acres, to the County and the State. He passed away in January of 2014. Walter Lester chose to have his family's ranch preserved for future generations instead of selling off the land to developers. ❖



This map is part of the wonderful informational exhibits at Martial Cottle Park. Park Ranger Sara Shellenbarger discusses the diminished farmland in San Jose. Note the streets and houses surrounding this ranch, an area which is now a rare example of agricultural land and open space left in San Jose. (Photo: Gayle Frank)

“When San Jose Was Young—San Jose as a Child ”

This is a reprint of a 1916 series about local history written for San Jose's Evening News and attributed to Cora Older.

“As a child, according to the few photographs of her in existence, San Jose was physically not lovely. She gave little promise of her beautiful womanhood. The first houses in San Jose were built without architects. Very simple they were at the time George Washington was President of the United States.

The method of building a house by a colonist was this. He selected a raised spot near running water and placed thereon four logs perpendicularly, forming the frame of the house. Upon those logs smaller ones were laid. To these were tied a roof of tule leaves made waterproof. Then a foundation of large stones was made on the ground from post to post. With mortar small stones were placed upon the large ones. These were added until the wall of the house reached the roof. The house was divided into two

or three rooms. Finally an attic was built.

Wooden doors, white-washed walls inside and out, were a social distinction among the thrifty, early colonists. Plain, indolent people had doors of hides. These doors were seen quite late in the last century in San Jose in the district known as



Antonio Suñol house and store across from the Plaza on Market St. in early San Jose. (History San Jose)

The furniture of the colonists consisted of a cot and three or

four chairs covered with skins. Some stools, coarse crockery, blankets and a table completed the furnishing of the average house.



Early San Jose home previously on Market & W. San Carlos Streets. (Photo: History San Jose)

the “Pocket,” the old Mexican quarter, formerly on San Pedro Street, between San Fernando and Post.

On the ranches the corral was on a level spot in front of the house. Fresh bull hides were nailed to each post which was anointed with bull's blood. Hundreds of cattle could be driven into the corral by two vaqueros.

Although colonists came continually from Los Angeles where the conditions for strangers were not favorable, in 1819 the population of the Pueblo was not more than 188. Half the men had joined the army.

(Continued pg. 7)



Farm animals grazing at front of an early San Jose home.

(Photos courtesy of History San Jose)

San Jose (Continued)

In those days one of the most distinguished visitors was Kotzebue¹, the Russian traveler, for whom the Kotzebue Sound was named. In 1824 Kotzebue wrote of San Jose as a “beautiful spot, unburdened with taxes.” Kotzebue probably did not consider as a tax a payment of one-third of the tallow from the cattle to the Spanish Governor at Monterey. He speaks of the simple life of the Spanish land-owners, and he dwells upon their cordiality and Castilian grace.

Beachey, another visitor in the early Pueblo days, wrote of San Jose as the “largest settlement of the kind in upper California. It consists of mud houses, miserably provided in every respect.”

Captain Duhant-Cilly of the French navy, who at the same time left his ship at Monterey for a visit to San Jose, describes it as a “town of eighty houses, and not prosperous.”

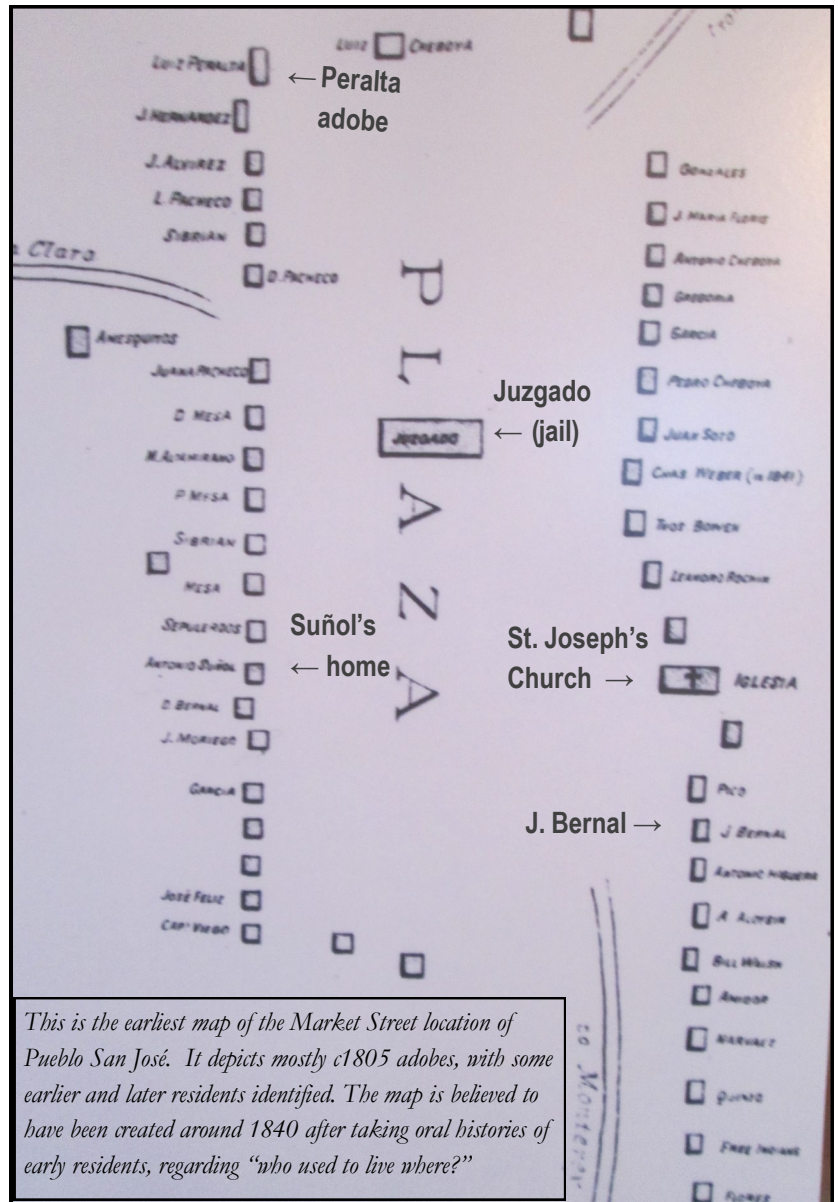
Another traveler speaks of San Jose as a “row of adobe houses around the Plaza festooned with red peppers.”

In 1830 Robinson wrote of San Jose as possessing a “church, a court house, a jail and a grist-mill.” Real estate decidedly had no boom. In 1828 a lot of fifty by three hundred feet sold for \$100 and a pot of soap.

However, in 1834 great changes came with the coming of the Dons.

— Oct. 2, 1916. Evening News

¹ Otto von Kotzebue (1787–1846) was a Russian officer and navigator in the Imperial Russian Navy and of Baltic German descent. He was known for his world explorations, plant collections and documentations, primarily from 1815–1826. His brother, Count Paul Demetrius von Kotzebue, under Czar Alexander II, sold Alaska to the U.S.



Berryessa Adobe in early days of San Jose. (Photo: History San Jose)

Sebastian Peralta's Adobe

By Judge Paul Bernal

A speech on May 9th given to the students from Rosemary School, Capri School and the general public at the Peralta marker unveiling ceremony

Buenos dias! I would like to thank my friends Joanna Herz and Liz Gibbons whose idea it was to place this commemorative sign here. We met in this park three years ago with a plan. And now that the dream of that signage has become a reality, the story of Sebastian Peralta will be shared with all who come to enjoy this wonderful Campbell park.

Campbell used to be part of the European country of Spain. In March 1776, 242 years ago, a clutch of *pobladores* (or populators) rode through this area on horseback. They were soldiers and families of the Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition. About 240 people were on that trip along with 1000 head of cattle for food. It was a moving town, treading 1200 miles, roughly 20 miles every day, for about 6 months. They came from *Nueva Espana*, or New Spain, which today we know as Mexico.

Around half of the travelers on horseback were children under the age of 12. One of the families was the Peralta family, mother, father (a Spanish soldier) and four children. One of those children was 15 year old Pedro Regalado Peralta, who eventually became a soldier for Spain at the Presidio (Fort) in San Francisco.

Pedro married, moved to Pueblo San José, and had a son named Sebastian Fabian Peralta in 1794. Sebastian grew up in downtown San Jose, near Plaza Park, with at least nine siblings.

Sebastian made friends with Jose Maria Hernandez as well as the Sibrian family. Sebastian Peralta and Jose Hernandez each married a Sibrian daughter and became brothers-in-law.

After Spain gave up this land to the Republic of Mexico, Mexico decided all the church land and extra land would be given to worthy citizens for their families' use.

In 1840, these two brothers-in-law, Sebastian and Jose, asked the governor of Alta California for a portion of the excess land. The governor gave them a 6,631-acre Mexico land grant, which Sebastian and Jose called Rancho Rinconada de Los Gatos, meaning Corner of the Cats, after the wild mountain lions in the hills.

Their property included parts of what we now call Los Gatos, Monte Serrano, Saratoga, Campbell, and San Jose. Sebastian and Jose built an adobe in what is now Vasona County Park.

After Sebastian's first wife died, he married Maria Josefa de Paula Sepulveda at Mission Santa Clara. Paula brought with her three children from a prior marriage: Antonio, Miguel and Mariana Pacheco. Sebastian and Josefa Peralta later added two children to their home: Julia and Rita.

They needed a new home, so around 1846 Sebastian built the first adobe home, made of mud bricks, right where the marker sits in what is now Campbell. Only one lonely house as far as you could see populated with weeds, trees and rivers.

Besides raising thousands of sheep on his land, Sebastian was a *regidor* (city council member) in San Jose, and *mayordomo* (manager) of Mission Santa Clara.

He also had to deal with horse thieves. In 1846, American spy John Fremont arrived and stole Sebastian's horses so that Fremont would have transportation for his followers who wanted to make California part of the United States

Sebastian confronted Fremont at his campground, but the men in Fremont's camp threw Peralta out. Peralta complained to Pueblo San José *Alcalde* (Mayor) Jose Dolores Pacheco and demanded that Fremont return the horses back to Sebastian. Fremont wrote back that he was too busy "to appear before the magistrates of your towns on the complaint of every straggling vagabond who may chance to visit my camp," and that Sebastian Peralta "should have been well satisfied to escape [from my camp] without a severe horsewhipping."

It is that straggling vagabond that we celebrate today. It is only right that Campbell citizens honor the "bum" Sebastian Peralta, because we are all just straggling vagabonds at heart.

Viva Sebastian !

May 9, 2018

John D. Morgan Park,
Campbell, California



Dancers, Crystal Ortiz and Sam Cortez, from Grupo Folklórico Los Lupeños de San José perform for fourth graders and the general public at the Peralta Adobe Marker Dedication.

(Photo: Paul Bernal)

San Jose Mercury News (1967)—A Sketch By Jim Campbell



San Jose's major newspaper, the San Jose Mercury News, moved out of its headquarters at 750 Ridder Park Drive (see above) in September of 2014. The original building of 185,000 square feet was designed by architect Warren B. Heid and completed in 1967 by builder Carl N. Swenson. Heid's design of the Mercury newspaper plant was listed in the "Top Ten National Industrial Plants of 1968" in *Factory Magazine*.

The most interesting part of the Mercury headquarters was the front of the building. With an extensive setback, lawn and walkways leading to the walls of precast 10' x 19.5' tall panels made of Canadian quartz and concrete, each panel was separated by tall aluminum framed windows. At the entrance, a 60-foot wide, raised loggia¹ in an elliptical shape, formed with 28 columns, suggested a

place of significance. A large metal sculpture created by John Jagger hung from the loggia's ceiling and a raised walkway connected to the main building. The main building was expanded over the years to 312,000 square feet with more outbuildings gradually added to the 36-acre site. Back then, it was claimed to be the world's largest one-story newspaper plant and supported around 1,000 employees, peaking in the 1990s. It housed linotypes, typewriters and other various equipment that are now obsolete

Mercury News History

The San Jose Mercury News has a history going back to 1851 when it was called the San Jose Weekly Visitor. After a few more name changes, James J. Owen purchased the paper in 1861. Then Owen purchased a daily paper, the Daily Guide, and re-named his newspapers the

San Jose Mercury. His printing production increased after steam power presses were available. The respected journalist and publisher sold his paper to Charles Shortridge in 1884, who moved the operation to the Lyndon Building on W. Santa Clara Street the next year. The Lyndon Building is a city landmark for its architecture, history and the fact that it was designed by Theodore Lenzen, built specifically to house the newspaper business.

By 1898 the newspaper, now called the Mercury, was sold to Clarence Wooster and Alfred Holman, who in turn sold it to the Hayes brothers in 1901. Everis A. and Jay O. Hayes already owned the Herald and production of both the Mercury and the Herald operated on Lightson Alley before moving to 20 West Santa Clara Street. By 1913, the Hayes brothers combined the two newspapers to become the San Jose Mercury Herald. *(Continued pg. 10)*

Mercury News (Continued)

In 1942 the newspaper moved to 211 West Santa Clara Street (the building distinguished by a globe on top) and eventually took over the whole block. As the newspaper grew, the Hayes brothers bought out their last rival newspaper, the San Jose Evening News. Both newspapers were published for a time. In 1950, after 99 years of operation, the San Jose Mercury Herald name reverted to The San Jose Mercury.

The newspaper was sold in 1952 to Bernard H. Ridder of Northwest Publications, a large newspaper chain from Minnesota. Ridder's son, Joseph B., was assigned to head the San Jose newspaper. Subsequently he expanded the business, increasing efficiency with the latest innovations. Finally it was decided to build a plant designed specifically for newspaper production away from the busy downtown resulting in the 1967 building in the sketch on page 9 and the photo below. This was a time of rapid city growth along with modernizing buildings and operations.

The 1967 Mercury News Building was established to be eligible for City Landmark designation, ranked as significant because the newspaper was an essential part of San Jose's heritage and played an "important role...in the community."² Additional significance was attributed to the owners, Joseph B. Ridder and P. Anthony Ridder, who were prominent local citizens in the business world and were responsible for innovative newspaper operations. Finally, the Modernist architectural style was notable and "was a good example of the corporate/industrial buildings"² popular in the mid-20th Century.

In 1974, Northwest Publications, owned by the Ridder Family, merged with the Miami-based Knight Newspapers, becoming the largest newspaper company in the U.S., and ultimately branching out into radio and television. In 1993, the San Jose Mercury News became the first newspaper in the U.S. to offer an online news service to its readers.

P. Anthony Ridder and the Mercury newspaper Board decided to sell the

Knight Ridder Company to McClatchy Company in 2006. A few months later, much to Ridder's dismay, McClatchy sold 12 of the papers including the *San Jose Mercury News*. The Denver based MediaNews Group, now Digital First Media, purchased the San Jose Mercury News and others, which soon evolved into a subsidiary, Bay Area News Group, in 2007 after legal challenges.

Destiny of Mercury News Building

But as we have seen so many times before, San Jose history is destined to be demolished to make way for new technology. At the end of 2013, Super Micro Computer, Inc. purchased the Mercury headquarters site from Digital First Media, the parent company of the San Jose Mercury News. Super Micro was founded in San Jose in 1993 and is a growing networking and communications company. Their plans consist of light manufacturing, offices and warehouse space. As of July 13th, all that is now left of the 1967 Mercury newspaper building is a HABS Level III report³ and the planned restoration of the loggia sculpture. *(Continued pg. 11)*



The San Jose Mercury News Building, completed in 1967 at 750 Ridder Park Drive in North San Jose. Building was sold in 2013 and demolished July 13th, 2018. (Photo by George Kelly)

Mercury News (Continued)

The San Jose Mercury newspaper moved all its operations to 4 North Second Street in 2014 and the latest name for the paper was changed to The Mercury News in 2016. The printing press operations were relocated to the Concord and Hayward plants, where ten daily Bay Area newspapers are printed. This move and consolidating operations reduced jobs in San Jose. ❖ —Gayle Frank

¹ an architectural feature that is a covered exterior gallery or corridor. The outer wall is open to the elements, usually supported by a series of columns or arches.

² Department of Parks and Recreation Primary Record (DPR 523L), San Jose Mercury News Headquarters, Carey & Co., Inc., July 11, 2014.

³ Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) is a program administered since 1933 through cooperative agreements with the National Park Service, the Library of Congress, and the private sector, documenting significant structures with drawings, photographs, written histories and supplemental materials.



John Jagger's metal sculpture was installed in the ceiling of the loggia at the former San Jose Mercury News headquarters. The "Loggia Pendant" was commissioned by the Ridder family after Jagger won the newspaper's contest, submitting the winning statement piece for the front façade. Jagger collaborated on the sculpture with Bud Delisle who ran a model shop in San Jose. The "Chandelier," as Jagger called it, was removed in 2013 with plans for restoration and relocation locally. Jagger worked as a full time professional sculptor for over 45 years and received a Bachelor's degree in interior design and a Master's in creative design from San Jose State University. He passed away in 2013.

For the whole Loggia Pendant story and video, visit <http://mercurynews.historysanjose.org/the-loggia-pendant/>
(Photo: Ryan Ford)

Sources: —Department of Parks and Recreation Primary Record (DPR 523L), San Jose Mercury News Headquarters, Carey & Co., Inc., July 11, 2014.
—San Jose Mercury News, 4/16/13 pg. B1 and 6/17/2018, pg. B1.

San Jose Daily Mercury.

1861

VOL. 1.

SAN JOSE, CAL., TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 5, 1861.

NO. 1.

SAN JOSE MERCURY.

1876

NEW SERIES.

SAN JOSE, CAL. TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 3, 1876.

VOL. X. NO. 19

Sunday Mercury and Herald

1903

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA: SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 27, 1903—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

NO. 48.

San Jose Mercury Herald

1922

VOL. CIII.

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 17, 1922—TWENTY PAGES.

Back By Popular Demand **2019 History Essay Contest**

Prizes Awarded for Best Essays

Essay Subject: Any person, place or event concerning Santa Clara County from its beginning to the recent past.

For Details and Rules go to: www.californiapioneers.com

Submittal Deadline: April 15, 2019

For more information contact:

Essay Committee Chair Dr. Michael Shea at md6996@sbcglobal.net or CaliforniaPioneers@gmail.com

Movie Night at Harris-Lass Museum

On Friday night, September 14, 2018, in the 1867 era Barn on the Harris-Lass Museum Preserve, 1889 Market Street, Santa Clara (west of Winchester), the Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara is sponsoring its annual 'Movie Night.'

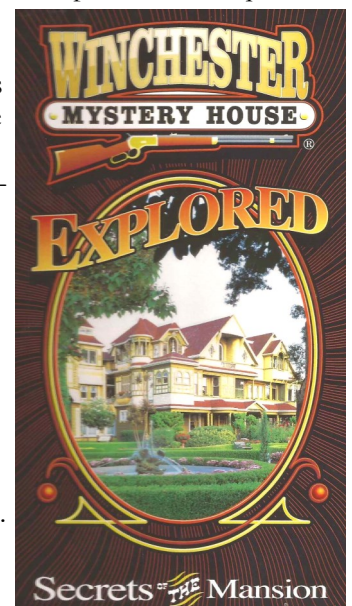
This year, *The Winchester Mystery House Explored: Secrets of the Mansion*, a 20-minute film produced in 1997 by Tam Communications for the Winchester Mystery House, will be shown.

Sarah Winchester moved to San Jose in 1884 where for the next 38 years she kept a large and well paid staff of carpenters, construction workers, gardeners, and servants to continually build and maintain her house and grounds. The themes explored include how the source of her wealth and Sarah's sense of mysticism and spiritualism, her exquisite and opulent sense of style, and her practical and inventive ideas all influenced the mansion's design and architectural evolution. How the 'Great 1906 Earthquake' impacted Sarah and the house is also addressed.

Coordinators Mary Hanel and Leo Martinez have announced that the first showing will begin at 6:30 pm with subsequent showings at approximately, 7:00, 7:30 and 8:00 pm. Popcorn and cider will be served. Admission is free. RSVPs are requested; please leave a message noting the time and number of guests on the Museum's answering machine at 1-408-249-7905 or if you also have questions, RSVP with Mary at 1-408-253-0682. The film is suitable for ages 13 and up.

You will also find more information at www.harrislass.org, the Museum's website. Click on the 'Movie Night in the Barn' tab.

— Mary Hanel



Member Spotlight—Fred Gardner

Fred Gardner (pictured right) has been a Lifetime Member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County since 1975. Born in 1924, he attended San Jose High School back when it was on the campus of San Jose State, graduating in June of 1943. Before graduation, Fred and other students raised money for the war effort by selling iron from fences, railroad tracks, keys, & locks. They also sold stamps and bonds in the amount of \$2,193. By 1943 they were able to fund a B-25 bomber, sixteen Jeeps and one P.T. boat. The jeeps alone cost \$14,003; they also raised \$297.00 for parachutes.¹

During WWII from July 1943 until March 1946, Gardner served his country in the United States Army, spending time overseas at New Guinea. For the last 14 months he was assigned to the Army Coast Artillery Core-Mine Planter Service and worked on a mine planting ship to place 2-ton mines at the bottom of the ocean outside the Golden Gate Bridge. He said that though he was in the Army he had to wear a navy uniform while serving on the ship and he wasn't happy about that. When he first arrived on the ship he immediately noticed thirteen 2-ton mines sitting on deck and asked,



“What happens if they go off while sitting on deck?” The Captain answered, “If they do, you’ll never know.”

Returning home to San Jose after the war ended, Gardner went to work for the Bank of America. He was assigned to two downtown San Jose branches until he was transferred to the new Bank of America at Valley Fair on Stevens Creek Boulevard. He worked there for 14 years and was proud to be one of the initial employees at that branch. He always thought it would be a nice gesture to give the employees the old, dirty money scheduled for the furnace or shredder—but no such luck.

Fred Gardner was born in Saratoga as were many of his ancestors. In fact, there is a marker (below left) on West Valley College land that honors the history of the Gardner family and their involvement in Saratoga. Gardner’s grandfather, Daniel Gardner, and his wife bought 167 acres in 1862, planting apricots and other fruit on the land where West Valley College sits today.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Fred Gardner served as an active docent at History San Jose and even conducted five different San Jose downtown walking tours. At that time he

lived on W. San Fernando and Vine and knew the history of every building in the area. He also trained and evaluated docents for History San Jose and volunteered at the Japanese Friendship Gardens.

Gardner’s wife, Marilyn, also a Lifetime Member of the Pioneers, passed away last year (Feb. 2017).

Recently, Fred visited the San Jose High Heritage Room and generously donated yearbooks and other mementoes such as a belt and belt buckle with the San Jose High inscription and Bulldog design (see below). He also donated a scrap book of WWII articles from the San Jose Mercury.

These days Gardner enjoys his membership with the SIRS (Sons in Retirement)

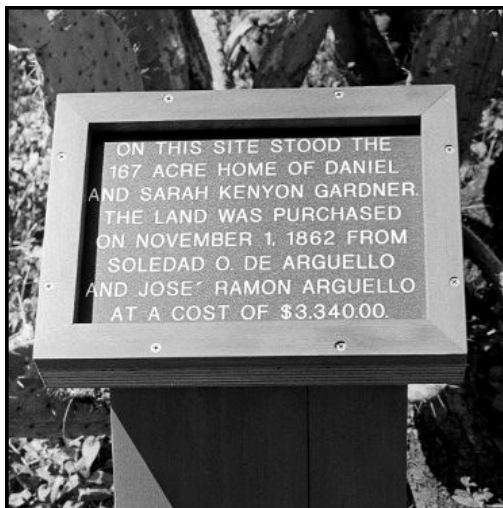


ment) and plays a rousing game of bocce ball with other SIRS members. He told us, “I had such a wonderful life that I think I’ll do it again!” ❖

—Gayle Frank

*(Color photos: Lynda Martinez,
SJH Class of 1963)*

¹ This information is available for research in the San Jose High Heritage Room/Library.



Welcome New Pioneers Members

Jane Beckman and Andrew Crockett

Jane Beckman and husband Andrew Crockett live in San Jose. Jane is a native Californian and is a tech writer/author.

She is interested in the Californio period, California during the Civil War, historical botany, and has spent 40 plus years researching Californio period food and cooking. She has volunteered as a docent at Sacramento SHP (State Historic

Park), Sutter's Fort, Petaluma Adobe SHP, San Juan Bautista and the Peralta/Fallon site locally.

Jane's pioneer ancestors include Joseph Rutherford Walker* (the renowned Mountain Man and fur trapper) who came to California in 1833, J. P. Walker and family in 1841 and Dr. O. H. Beckman and family in 1905. ❖

* To read about Joseph R. Walker visit <http://thefurtrapper.com/home/joseph-walker/>



Men on a Mission

California Pioneers of Santa Clara County President, Jim Zetterquist (right) and Vice President, Bill Foley (left), stride toward the Paulson House at History San Jose for our June Board meeting. Our Board meetings are held at noon on the second Monday of each month at the Paulson House.

(Photo: Paul Bernal)

Roberto Adobe & Suñol House

770 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose

FREE TOURS

Saturdays 12 to 2

Not open on major holiday weekends

Gratis tours en Español con cita previa

CaliforniaPioneers.com

Join Us As a Greeter or Docent for the Paulson House at History San Jose

For more information or to
volunteer, contact Jonna Baker at
(408) 533-3256 or J234belle@yahoo.com

Docent or Greeter Roberto Adobe & Suñol House Museum

For more information or to
volunteer, contact Sylvia Hew at
408-265-5371 or hewmum@gmail.com

Membership Report

The membership dues for the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County are **due on January 1st every year.**

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2018 please do so at the next luncheon or mail it in to CA Pioneers of SCC, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA, 95155. Basic dues are \$35.

Check your mailing label on the your Trailblazer and it will indicate when

your dues have expired. For example, if after your name it says, Dec-18, your Pioneers membership is up-to-date until the end of 2018.

Additional donations or higher membership levels are always appreciated. Visit www.CaliforniaPioneers.com for more details. And please, don't forget the Pioneers in your estate planning and consider donating from your IRA's required minimum distribution.

Please Note

Pioneers Board member Walt Gil is now our new Membership Chair. If you have questions about your member status, contact Walt at wgil@cpi-re.com or 408-978-1090.

Time Travel *(Past News from Newspaper Archives)*

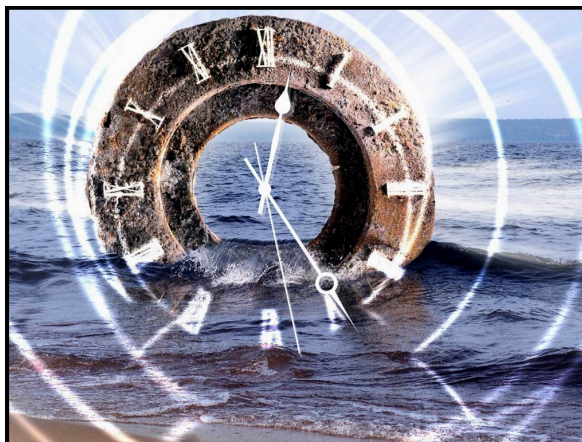
June 1, 1878, San Jose Daily Herald: "A new rail track is apparently being built on Santa Clara St. with an eye for the good of carriage builders. We never saw any contrivance that looked so well adapted for the smashing and twisting of buggy wheels. Some preventive efforts should be made against this costly hazard."

July 1, 1878, San Jose Daily Herald: "Alum Rock is the place for recreations; everybody goes there. One hundred seventy buggies were at the resort Sunday."

July 5, 1878, San Jose Daily Herald: "Cook's Grove in Santa Clara accommodated over three thousand patriotic celebrants at the handsome retreat on The Alameda---

O'Donnell's Gardens, near 10th and William Streets, due to a rather expensive 50 cent admission charge, found attendance somewhat disappointing---

Live Oak Park near Guadalupe River



and Park Avenue led a joyous celebration with two dance bands plus a fusillade of firecrackers, bombs, pistol and shot gun fire. A free lunch was included with the 25 cent entry charge---

It was also noted, "buildings in town were tastefully ornamented with our national colors---

Oct. 1908, San Jose: Prunes Barred!! "Prunes have been side-tracked in favor of peaches, apples, butter, syrup,

griddle cakes and muffins, which have been given an important place on the menu of the soldiers of the U.S. Army, but not the prune!" This was the angry outcry of Mr. E. Schillingsburg, District Passenger and Freight Agent of the Southern Pacific Co.

April 1925: "Bobbed hair is held to blame for headaches. Devotees of the hair bobbing fashion are complaining of "Shingle headaches."

This is nothing more than a form of neuralgia, medical men admitted, caused by the sudden removal of hair from the tender nape of the neck which is then exposed to nippy weather."

Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills



Marylou Von Rotz Byrd

Jean McNamara



P.O. Box 8208
San Jose, CA 95155

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California Pioneers of Santa Clara County 2018 Board of Directors

Jim Zetterquist, President; thewoodencrown@att.net

Bill Foley, Vice President, SCCPioneers@gmail.com

Tom Kearney, Treasurer; tpkearney35@att.net

Walt Gil, Business Secretary; wgil@cpi-re.com

Mary Berger, Parliamentarian; marsieberger@yahoo.com

Ken Machado, Immediate Past President;
7m.kenmachado@gmail.com

Paul Bernal, Member-at-Large; PBernal411@gmail.com

Jonna Baker, Member-at-Large; J234belle@yahoo.com

Gayle Frank, Member-at-Large; gaylefrankCA@gmail.com

Tim Peddy, Member-at-Large; miltpeddy@aol.com

Russ Robinson, Member-at-Large;
russ1011@ix.netcom.com

Michael Shea, Member-at-Large; md6996@sbcglobal.net

Jim Campbell, Resident Artist for Calif. Pioneers of
SCC

Madeline Streight; Sunshine Chair; 408-259-4422 or
madeline.streight@att.net

*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.*