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## Gravestones Project Coming to an End

By Claire Britton-Warren

Who cares about a pile of old, misplaced gravestones? Why would anyone care, especially when they have not been on their grave sites for more than twenty years? I have asked myself these questions many times over the last four years, since I first heard about the plight of the Charcoal Trail Gravestones.

Members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County may recall a Trailblazer article from September of 2015 which detailed the rescue of a large cache of improperly removed gravestones. These stones had been separated from their grave sites and abandoned in the Cupertino foothills in a remote area known as Charcoal Trail. A monumental effort was underway, between the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District, E Clampus Vitus, Oak Hill Cemetery, Soquel Cemetery, the Boulder Creek IOOF Cemetery and a number of individual volunteers in an

effort to return the gravestones to the graves where they belong.

Returning a gravestone may sound simple, but it is no easy task. First the condition must be assessed to determine if it is in good enough shape to return to the cemetery. Second, it must be thoroughly researched. In the case of stones with more recent dates of death, this was a relatively simple matter of checking the database of Oak Hill Cemetery, where we suspected most of the stones belonged. However a number of the stones were old historic stones, which were not included in the cemetery’s current computer files. What to do then? This is where California Pioneers member Veronica Jordan came in. She became our “Research Goddess,” going to great lengths to track down the story behind each and every stone. This included checking old obituaries and a number of local archives. Once it was determined in which cemetery the deceased had been interred, then old record books, files and maps had to be manually consulted to locate the grave site.

*(Continued page 2)*



*Claire with many of the gravestones found at Charcoal Hill Trail.*

*Now the stones are where they belong.*

## Gravestones (Continued)

Once the grave site was located, the next step was to determine if a missing stone had been replaced. Sometimes, this was a simple matter of consulting the Find-a-Grave website to see if a volunteer photographer had uploaded a photograph. Sometimes one of our stones would turn out to be “scrap,” old stones that had contained an error and were never on the graves at all. These could then be marked for destruction by the cemetery. Most often it required an on-site visit to ensure that we truly had a burial that had been deprived of its original marker.

In the midst of all of this, we had to find a temporary home for the gravestones. Help came from the IOOF Cemetery in the little town of Boulder Creek in the Santa Cruz Mountains. They kindly allowed us to store the gravestones in a secure back area of their cemetery, rent free, while we completed the long process of researching the stones.

In 2015, we reported in the Trailblazer about the return of the first group of twenty-three gravestones to Oak Hill Cemetery. Our team followed up on each of the gravestones and can report that all except four have been returned to their grave sites and installed by the staff at Oak Hill Cemetery. Those that have yet to be installed need custom bases to be made by Oak Hill and will require additional time. We will continue to follow up on these markers from the first batch and ensure that they get back where they belong.

Meanwhile, research continued on the remaining eighty or so gravestones in storage in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Once the research was completed, the stones had to be retrieved from the IOOF Cemetery’s back lot. This proved unexpectedly difficult when Boulder Creek was hit with unusually harsh winter conditions that caused mudslides and entire roads to be washed away or severely undermined.

E Clampus Vitus kindly offered to load and haul the stones back to Oak Hill Cemetery, but several scheduling attempts were cancelled due to hazardous road conditions, especially considering that the Clampers would be driving a vehicle heavily laden with a few thousand pounds of marble and granite!

Finally, on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2017, more than four years after the California Pioneers first became involved with the Charcoal Trail gravestones, the last of them were loaded into a box van and returned to Oak Hill Cemetery, where the cemetery staff will reinstall them onto their gravesites.

For this last batch of gravestones, there will of course be some additional work to do—following up with Oak Hill and making site visits to make sure that the stones get back “home” to their original placements and

*(Continued page 3)*



*Many of the great volunteers that helped to rescue over 100 gravestones and return them to their rightful places.*

# Gravestones (Continued)



***Claire Britton-Warren with the rescued gravestone of “Jean Jacques Vioget, 1799-1855, the surveyor of Yerba Buena (later San Francisco) in 1838.”***  
*(Photos: Claire Britton-Warren)*

cemetery there is something to be done. Simple gestures such as weeding around a headstone, righting a fallen vase of flowers or photographing a stone for an online database are all worthy efforts. It all matters. It matters a lot. ❖

ensuring that bases are made for those that need them. However, the end of the project is finally in sight; there is light at the end of the tunnel. So again I ask myself, why would anyone care about a bunch of old gravestones? Why did I care enough to devote four years of my life to this? Every time I asked, something deep in my heart answered back, loud and clear: “It matters. It matters a lot.”

It was not just me sensing this. I had been surrounded by scores of volunteers who eagerly gave up their time whenever I asked, just to be a part of making this happen. Still, I had to ask why. Why does a gravestone matter?

A gravestone is far more than marble, granite or iron. It is a statement. It represents the last act that a grieving widow does for her spouse, that a parent does for their child or children do for their parents. It is the last gesture on the long road of a life. It speaks for the deceased. It says loudly “I was here. This is my name. My life had meaning.”

Paul Bernal once said something with regard to cemetery preservation and gravestones that stuck with me throughout this project. He said “We will speak for those who can no longer speak for themselves.” Therein lay the answer to my question. We the living must speak out on behalf of the dead. Love does not end when we leave the earth, it transcends death. Every volunteer felt this. There was a great wrong to be righted on behalf of people we never knew, people who mattered.

So as the Charcoal Trail gravestone project comes to an end, I hope that it will continue to inspire others. In every

## California Pioneers of Santa Clara County June Luncheon

The June Luncheon/annual general membership meeting will include the presentation of the annual fiscal report. If anyone wants a copy of the report, contact the Treasurer, Tom Kearney, at his email, [tpkearney35@att.net](mailto:tpkearney35@att.net). The slate for Board of Director positions will also be presented for a vote by the membership.

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**Gayle Frank, Editor**

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non-profit organization

# Pioneers Quarterly Luncheon

**Saturday, June 3rd, 2017**

**11:00 AM to 2:30 PM**

## **THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT**

Banquet Room—1547 Meridian Ave. in San Jose

Luncheon Presentation

### **Wolfe & Higgins:**

**Master Architects of the Spanish Revival**

presented by

**Krista Van Laan**

Make Reservations by Wednesday, May. 31st

Email to [sccpioneers@aol.com](mailto: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 \$30**

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

**Stuffed Chicken Breast**  
With wild/white rice, mushroom filling, topped with demi-glaze

**Grilled Salmon with Dill Sauce**

**Pasta Mostaccioli**  
Penne Pasta, sundried tomato cream sauce, basil,  
spinach, garlic and feta cheese

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**

### **Wolfe & Higgins:**

**Master Architects of the Spanish Revival**

One hundred years ago, San Jose architect Frank Delos Wolfe partnered with his son Carl Wolfe and Santa Clara architect William Ernest Higgins to form what would become one of the most prolific architectural firms of its time.

Today we in San Jose know Frank Delos Wolfe for his Prairie-style houses and his residential design as part of the firm of Wolfe & McKenzie, but what is not so well known is that in the last part of his career, Wolfe was responsible for bringing the then-new Spanish Revival style to San Jose.

Early adopters of the Spanish Revival style that swept

California in the 1920s, the firm of Wolfe & Higgins lasted only fourteen years but in that short time produced more than 500 houses, commercial buildings, and institutional buildings.

Characterized by red tile roofs, arched doors and windows, wrought iron trim, twisted pillars, and ornate terracotta and plasterwork, the distinctive Spanish Revival buildings of Wolfe & Higgins include some of the most recognizable architectural landmarks in Northern California and some of the most beautiful buildings in Santa Clara County.

Krista Van Laan will talk about and show photographs from her new book, Wolfe & Higgins: Master Architects of the Spanish Revival, and tell the stories of the architects and the people who were their clients.

See ad for the Wolfe & Higgins Home Tour in August on page 12.

# “When San Jose Was Young—First Church in the Pueblo”

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

*Under monarchies there is always hidden hostility between church and state. This distrust existed between the Mission (Santa Clara) and the Pueblo (El Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe). The Mission held the Pueblo to be an ungodly force in the community, and the rough soldiers of the Pueblo scoffed at the self-denial of the Franciscan fathers. The fathers complained to the Governor that the soldiers and the settlers delighted in making the neophytes drunk. Besides, young Indian women had to be kept under lock and key.*

*The Mission was also troubled because the unregenerate Pueblo cared very little for attending services at the distance of a league.<sup>1</sup> A Mexican stabbed an officer who was sent by the Alcalde (mayor) to compel him to go to mass. The devout among the inhabitants of the Pueblo in turn were troubled because it was so difficult to worship at Santa Clara. In the winter the great stretch of level country between the two places was flooded. In the summer the heat was often stifling. Pedestrians were always in fear of their lives because wild cattle were likely to charge foot passengers. In the very early days the trees in The Alameda were not yet grown. Later, travelers used to take refuge in the trees to escape the long horns of the cattle. Besides, always in the darkness there was danger of highwaymen.*

*The Pueblo decided to have a church of its own. And so, in 1801 the Pueblo petitioned the commandant at Monterey for the privilege, which was granted. Each farmer was compelled to contribute for the chapel half a fanega of grain (3-4 bushels). “A gift to the church impoverishes no man,” wrote the Governor.*

*The corner stone of the first church was laid at the corner of El Dorado (now San Fernando) and Market streets, opposite the post office, where St. Joseph's now stands. The people of the Pueblo had hoped that this occasion would be great and imposing, and so they addressed Don Jose de la Guerra, commandant at Monterey, asking him to come to San Jose to act as god-father at the consecration of the corner stone of the chapel to be erected. The commandant with mock modesty replied that his “daily acts of impiety would not permit him to accept the honor,” and so*

*he sent a substitute, Don Jose Estudillo Cadet, who acted as god-father of the little church.*

*The ceremony took place on the twelfth of July, 1803, on the ground where St. Joseph's church now stands. Several pieces of coined money made in the reign of the different Spanish monarchs were placed under the corner stone. A brief statement of the proceedings was placed in a sealed bottle.*

*A copy of these proceedings is as follows: “In the Pueblo of San José de Guadalupe, the twelfth day of July, 1803, Senor don Carlos IV, being king of Spain; Don Jose Joaquin de Arrillaga, Governor ad interim and lieutenant of the royal army; the retired sergeant Macario de Castro, commissioner of the Pueblo; Ignacio Archuletta, ordinary Alcalde; and Bernardo Heridia and Francisco Gonzales, regidores (community representatives), at six o'clock of the evening on said day, was made the consecration of the first stone and mortar of the church which was commenced in the said Pueblo, dedicated to the patriarch, Senor St. Joseph, and the Virgin Guadalupe, which ceremony was celebrated with much solemnity by the Reverend Father Friar Jose Viader, minister of the Santa Clara mission; (Continued page 6)*



*The third structure for St. Joseph's Church (1869-1875) after two adobes. This one was destroyed by fire.*

*(Photo: History San Jose)*

# First Church in Pueblo (Continued)

Don Jose Maria Estudillo, Cadet, acting as god-father by proxy from Alferez de Jose Antonio de la Guerra y Noriega, commandant at the Presidio of Monterey, and who placed under the first stone moneys of every sovereign, and a duplicate of this document in a bottle sealed with wax for its preservation in the future; and for the present we sign it in the same Pueblo the day, month and year aforesaid: (Signed), FR. Jose Viader.“

This little chapel was not finished for several years, and even then, it did have candles for the ceremony. It stood till 1835. It was made of adobe with a grass roof. Some crude little images decorated the walls. There were no seats, and during the service people sat on the floor. Father Catala often came from Santa Clara to say mass in the Pueblo church, and for years only the priests from the Mission presided.

In 1835 Padre Moreno of the Pueblo church informed the citizens that he wished to build a new church, and he asked for tithes. Contributions did not come as rapidly as the good father had hoped. The largest sum was given by Mr. G.Figueroa. He contributed \$30.00. Finally after ten years' labor, Father Moreno succeeded in collecting \$2050.

The new St. Joseph's was erected under the supervision of Alcalde Don Antonio Pico. His residence, famous in the pueblo days, stood at San Fernando Street on the



*Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, 80 S. Market St., San Jose, CA*

*(photo: Gayle Frank, taken in 2008)*

corner opposite St. Joseph's. Don Antonio Pico was assisted by Don Antonio Suñol, and also by the Ayuntamiento<sup>2</sup>. The church remained without any alteration until 1858, when it was encased in brick, and adorned with two towers and other embellishments.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The general term for the town council or sometimes the municipality itself.

<sup>3</sup> St. Joseph's Church original and second adobe structures were damaged by earthquakes. The building of the third church in 1869 was destroyed by fire in 1875. A fourth temporary church was built while the fifth and current church was being constructed, dedicated in 1877 with construction continuing until 1885. In 1981, St. Joseph's Church underwent major renovation and became the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph in 1997. It is a city and state historical landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. St. Joseph's Church was the first non-mission parish in California.

❖  
-San Jose Evening News, 9/26/1916

<sup>1</sup> A league varies but is about 3 miles or the distance to walk on foot for one hour.

## History San Jose Events

### Going Places: Historic Transportation Day

Sunday, June 18, 11 AM-3 PM; Free to HSJ Members; Regular Admission \$8

### Valley of Heart's Delight

Saturday, June 24, 6-9 PM; HSJ's annual fundraiser  
For details, visit: [www.hsjvalleyofheartdelight.org](http://www.hsjvalleyofheartdelight.org)

## J. H. Henry House—A Sketch By Jim Campbell



The James Harrison Henry House, built on the corner of University and The Alameda in the 1880s, was a stately Victorian home in San Jose. It was built on a 5-foot wide, sandstone block foundation. The house was unique because of the fantastic amount of gingerbread, both interior and exterior. The three-story, 15-room residence was so structurally sound, it was known as the “Century House.”

Huge stone gargoyles with outstretched wings rested on either side of the main chimney. Inside, rooms were decorated with hand-carved wood, cut-glass chandeliers, and seven ornate fireplaces.

The mansion was built by Henry, a Midwesterner who had retired at the

age of 40 and came out West to enjoy life and spend his wealth. Henry enjoyed playing poker with his friends at the Sainte Claire Club in downtown San Jose. One afternoon in 1889, he had been standing on the corner of First and Santa Clara waiting for the San Jose & Santa Clara horsecar trolley, which was always late and undependable. The longer he waited, the more irritated he became. He walked into the nearby office of C.W. Wooster, a well-known real estate man, and said, “C.W., I’m tired of waiting for those damned horsecars! I’m going to do something about it.” By the end of the year, he owned the trolley line. The following April, Henry converted the line to the first overhead power trolley system west of the Rockies.

Around 1893, Henry got into a high stakes poker game at his favorite club. Finally, only James Henry and Bernard Murphy, landowner and former mayor and state senator, remained as players. “Tell you what I’ll do, Barney, I’ll put up my street car line against your 22,000-acre ranch at Atascadero.” Murphy agreed and then lost. Henry sold the rancho for \$880,000.

Like so many other treasures of history, after J.H. Henry’s death, his mansion became too expensive to maintain and was replaced with an office complex, marking the premature end of the “Century House.”



# Meet Our Newest Board Member

Meet Russ Robinson, our new Board Member, who has been a member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County since 2011. His wife, Norma, is also a Pioneers member.

Russ has done extensive research on all his family lines, especially the Zumwalts and the Sartiats. Joseph and Mary Zumwalt came to California in 1849 with 8 of their 12 children. Joseph Zumwalt is credited with bringing to California the rituals that established E Clampus Vitus chapters. Russ's story about Joseph Zumwalt story can be accessed online at [www.mountaincharlie1850.org](http://www.mountaincharlie1850.org).

Russ's great grandfather, Pierre Sariat, came to California in 1874 from southern France. His son, Bernard married Ruth Johnson from the Zumwalt family. Russ visited his great grandfather's home in the village of Escot, near the Basque area, which was the last place Pierre lived before coming to the "New World."

Since the 1960s, Russ has been a very active member of the South Bay



*Russ Robinson*

Yacht Club in Alviso, and served as Commodore in 1978. The yacht club building used by SBYC is the oldest building on the West coast that has been in constant use as a yacht club. He serves as the Club Historian and gives tours and talks on SBYC. Pioneers members may remember reading Russ's article in the Trailblazer on the letters by founding Yacht Club member Joseph McKee.

The full essay can be accessed in the California Room at San Jose State University.

Russ is also a member of E Clampus Vitus, Yerba Buena 1 Chapter. In addition he was a key team member behind the research and installation of the Jenny Lind Disaster Monument plaque at the Alviso Marina. He also received the Pacific Inter-Club's first "Historian of the Year" award in 2011.

Most recently Russ received approval from the IRS to establish a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the South Bay Historic Restoration Foundation, to assist in maintaining structures and telling the history of the South Bay. (See page 11.)

Russ looks forward to working with the Pioneers because it is an organization he very much admires. ❖

## Docent Opportunity for Paulson House at History San Jose

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

## Docent Opportunity for Roberto Adobe & Suñol House Museum

For more information or to volunteer, contact Sylvia Hew at 408-265-5371 or [hewmum@gmail.com](mailto:hewmum@gmail.com)

## 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](http://CaliforniaPioneers.com)

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# From Our Garden

The garden at the Roberto Adobe & Suñol House is populated with many plants used in the early days of the Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe.

Pictured right is our Mission Fig Tree [Higuera] (*Ficus carica* 'Mission'). It is the largest fig tree in Santa Clara County and one of its oldest. The grown fig tree was in the Roberto Adobe yard when the Bassuinis acquired the land in 1906, so it was likely planted by Antonio Suñol or Stefano Splivalo between 1847 and 1881.

This tree is included in the San Jose Heritage Tree Inventory (# HT-03-012).

Saint Junipero Serra brought the mission fig to California when he planted them at Mission San Diego, founded in 1769. Then, as each mission was added to the chain, cuttings would have been transplanted northward.

This photo was taken in winter so all the leaves are gone, which enables us to see the branches. In the summer the tree is full of leaves and shades the rear patio of the Suñol House. ❖



## The Berryessa Family: A California Legacy

**Presented by Anthony Ray, Hosted by San Mateo County Genealogical Society  
Saturday, June 24 at 10:30 AM - 12:00 noon  
Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo**

Anthony Ray, a descendant of the original Berryessa colonist who came to Alta California with the de Anza party in 1776, will present a brief history of the Berryessas beginning with the de Anza expedition and ending in the early twentieth century.

He will review Berryessa military involvement, ranchos, their religious and social involvements, the murder of Berryessa family members in the 1850s, and how the family settled into American culture by the late nineteenth century. Anthony will discuss the records that he has researched which include manuscript collections, church records, newspapers, vital records and more, and how he incorporated them into his history of the Berryessas.

Anthony Ray is an avid genealogist who specializes in church records, California, Mexican, and Southwest research. He has been researching his own family for the past fourteen years and has been a member of numerous genealogical societies.

In 2011, Ray was honored with being awarded the first Suzanne Winsor Freeman Student Genealogy Grant, which he used to further his research. He has done extensive research all throughout California, Arizona, and in the northern Mexican state of Sonora. He is currently in the process of researching and writing a comprehensive history of the Berryessas, a founding family of San Francisco and San Jose. ❖

# The Sportsman Chefs

## Gourmands in the Valley of Hearts Delight

By Jerry Rosenthal

The most notable group of gourmands in the Santa Clara Valley of Hearts Delight was formed to provide great wild game feeds on a regular basis. Not for charity, not for gain, but just for pure and simple fun and camaraderie! For some time, members of the business community, hunters and fishermen, had been lamenting about how the womenfolk just didn't prepare the results of the family's hunting and fishing in a proper manner. And, we couldn't eat all of the meat that was piling up in our lockers. At one of the group lunches, in early 1956, Johnny LoCurto, managing partner of the Hawaiian Gardens Restaurant (no longer in existence) offered the use of his kitchen facilities and a walk-in-refrigerator to store our excess wild game. We could gather there and cook a dinner on the restaurant's closed day of business.

We jumped on the idea! Sam Rubino, Harry Williams, Carl Briggs, Bill Keough, Rig Rose, Fran Zingheim, Jim Percy and I joined LoCurto and a board of directors was formed, not elected! Invitations were issued by phone and I invited my old friend Jack Schwabacher to join us. Planning started, food was gathered and the Sportsman Chefs was under way. It was decided to have three dinners a year around February, June and October. Two for us and one where we would invite the ladies. For each event, a banquet chairman would be chosen, the menu would be selected, and a crew of chefs designated. We had printers and artists in the group so the menu was designed and printed as the invitation. Johnny had a set of dishes made with the Chefs logo and we were in business! The first dinner was scheduled for October of 1956.

I have the fourth dinner menu with a list of chefs, the contributors of the game, and a guest list that reads like the who's who of San Jose in 1957.

Every profession, occupation, and business was represented, including politicians, farmers, owners and workers of packing houses and canneries, real estate developers and building contractors, owners of drug stores and retail clothing stores, lawyers, doctors, dentists, cattle ranchers, owners of race tracks, policemen and police chiefs, bankers and stock brokers, newspaper editors and radio station owners, and even mayors and city managers. What fun it was to work in the kitchen with the chefs. The prep work needed to be done, the fires for the barbecues started and the rotisserie brought to the right degree of redness. Sauces were prepared, veggies chopped and then it was time to taste all things on the stoves.

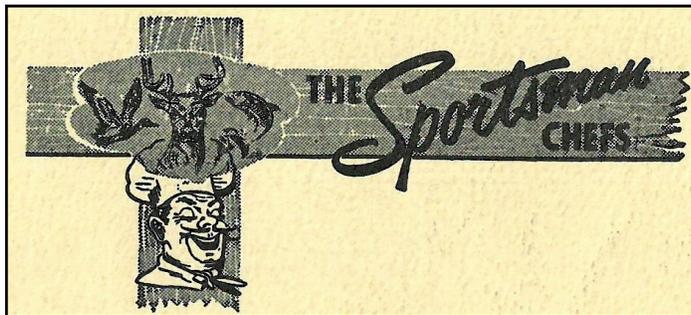
The fellows whose names were listed in the menu got to wear chefs whites while the rest just wore their work clothes. The master chefs stood by with their copy of Escoffier<sup>1</sup> to make sure that all was well. There was cussing, yelling, laughing and the opportunity to tell tall tales of hunting and fishing experiences. Some of the prize items, such as stuffed squid or Vic Corsiglia's Italian sausage were heavily sampled so only token amounts ever got to the actual dinner tables.

As it got closer to 6 PM the drones placed the items on the designated tables while Johnny's regular crew supervised. To whet the appetite when guests first walked into the Gardens that October evening in 1957, there were, among other things, Blue Point Oysters

on the half shell, breasts of Canada geese, smoked albacore and elk salami. The hot hors d'oeuvres included "smoked sperm whale meatballs," venison sausage, moose enchiladas, and charcoal broiled smelt. Entrees started with a barbecued side of Wyoming buffalo from the rotisserie, a baked 60 pound Alaskan salmon, a crown roast of venison, ring neck pheasant ravioli, Mahi Mahi, and several other game side dishes. Wines were provided by many of the local vineyards. Henry Harper and Gabe Long, both well known surgeons, showed a film of their African Safaris. At the end of the evening there was a mad scramble to grab the leftover food to take home. The next day was a work day.

By 1959, each of the dinners had a theme with occasionally a guest chef who added interest to the proceedings. The February, 1959 dinner theme was the old west. Called the "Wagon Trail Buffet," the guest chef was George Miladin who had, as the menu put it, been raised "among the Pomo Indians at Fort Ross and Point Arena, California and will prepare the steer heads according to their old original recipe; one that has been well kept and closely guarded for hundreds of years, dating back to the days of the Conquistadores." This particular dinner featured, in addition to the steer heads, RMO fritters (Rocky Mountain Oysters), green turtle soup, doves, filets of elk, a side of moose, Spring ducks, rainbow trout and mule deer.

*(Continued page 11)*



*Logo created for the Sportsman Chefs.*

## Chefs (Continued)

Then there was the "Feast of Simba" that featured the food of Africa. The menu read, "Many of the fascinating and exotic recipes used in this menu were furnished by members of The Sportsman Chefs who visited and dined with the mysterious cave dwelling Matamatas in Southern Tunisia, the Nomad Tribes of the Sahara and the Up-Country Natives of the Steamy Forests of Uganda. Our thanks, too, to the following famous Hotels: Semiramis Hotel, Cairo; The Shepherds Hotel, Cairo; The Anfa Hotel, Casablanca, West French Morocco." The Feast of Simba entertainment included a showing of Roy Butcher, Sr.'s film on the breeding habits of the various African animals.

We commemorated our 50th State by having "The Feast of Pele" for the third annual Ladies Night. The entertainment and music included "The Surf Riders, direct from the Kaiser Village, Hawaii." Kaiser also supplied a supervising Chef. At each of these feeds, the chefs and the helpers learned more about the art of the kitchen. We learned which animal was too lean, lacking in fat, and how to "lard" it to properly develop its flavor. Watching the masters use a knife and how to expand a recipe from family size to Sportsman Chefs size were two more of the skills we acquired.

The Feast of the Wild Boar featured the cuisine of Russia. The menu notes, "In our desire for authenticity in menu, recipes, and method of serving, our research was simplified by the splendid assistance of Representative Charles S. Gubser, House of Representatives, Congress of the United States, and the kindly cooperation of the Honorable Mikhail A. Menshikov, Ambassador, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics." Needless to say, the feast centerpiece was the whole roasted Wild Boar that was provided by Joe Lodato and Sam Rubino. The guest list, as usual, included celebrities but this time they were

political on the international stage. The USSR was represented by the Counsel from San Francisco who brought along vodka and caviar. The big boar, slowly turning on the spit was a wonder to see, looking like a picture from the middle ages.

Not so pretty was the event where we roasted a whole black bear. It looked like a human, all pink and trussed up and scared Johnny's waitresses!

Ladies Night, 1960, was, of course, "The Feast of Baccus." The recipes were tamed down but it nevertheless was successful. This meal featured a whole elk on the rotisserie, a giant, 120 pounds of Blue Fin tuna baked and stuffed, and pan fried Monterey squid with pine nut stuffing.

La Fiesta de Los Casadores was the Californios contribution. In addition to being the fifth Ladies Night, it is the first menu to mention the Gilroy Sportsman Chefs and the contributions of Glen Smith and Ron Hayes of Frontier Guides and Outfitters of Anchorage, Alaska. Gilroy sent a sea turtle from La Paz for the steaks. As usual, Norb Mirassou took care of the wines! The group from Gilroy (now known for founding the Garlic Festival) felt that the San Jose Chefs did not meet often enough so they started another club there.

The Feast of Scandinavia became the sixth Ladies Night and was very successful in that there was no traditional Lutefisk served! They handled the problem by serving it in a hot mustard sauce. There were Sienimureke and Lefse to go along with the "Hand Select Wyoming Mountain Oysters in Ecstasy Sauce" and the usual treats prepared in the Swedish and Norwegian manner, sometimes by adding tremendous quantities of "Aunt Penny's White Sauce." The female guest list on Ladies Night was restricted to the members' wives; most of

permanent guests attended with their better halves.

The menu for Wednesday, February 7, 1962 was called the Feast of the Aurora Borealis and again acknowledged "Ron Hayes and Glen Smith of Frontier Guides and Outfitters for their splendid contributions of Alaskan native fish and game, such as shellfish from Kotzebue Sound, Arctic Salmon from the Kuskokwim River, King Salmon from the Yukon River, and very delicious nut-like flavored Muk-Tuck prepared by the Eskimos from the outer skin of the Blue Whale. In addition, a side of Mt. Talkeetna Dall Sheep, from the only known white herd in existence ... " was served along with smoked Salmon, Russian Caviar, Pyramids of Fresh Alaskan King Crab Legs, and Alaskan Clam Bisque. A roasted Caribou Calf and an Alaskan Moose were among the entrees. Joe Bruckner provided a Sourdough starter that went back to the 1890's in the Klondike; he had worked along the Yukon River as a youth.

*(Continued page 12)*



*Invitation/menu for Feast of the Aurora Borealis on Feb. 7, 1962.*

## Chefs (Continued)

In fall of 1962, Jack Schwabacher, Frank Vessels, Jr., and I hunted near Cora, Wyoming. Among other things, we contributed a whole yearling buffalo (Bison) for the La Fiesta de Los Toros, an outstanding dinner concocted in the manner of the Basques. There were the usual tidbits, but it was more like eating at the Star Hotel in Elko, Nevada or the Wool Growers in Los Banos, two of the more famous Basque restaurants in the west.

We did have one Chinese Dinner, back in 1958, but we never tried that again. I guess it was because our kitchen was not supplied with woks and other necessary equipment.

By 1966, the Hawaiian Gardens was out of business and the DeBenedictis brothers invited the Chefs to Alpine Park, out on Canoas Garden Road. They had locker facilities and a kitchen so the Chefs said good-bye to Hawaiian Gardens. Das Fest Der Hirschjager was held on September 8, 1966, and featured Sauerbraten, Panierte Krabben, Ziguenergulasch mit Spatzle, and Hasenpfeffer. This was the first time we had served rabbit. The meal ended with Die Wiener Kremkasetarte. Needless to say, the members of Germanic extraction had a ball! The menu decorations were Durer woodcuts.

The menus by 1968 were more plain. The Ladies Day Chuck Wagon offered

Pheasant Stew, Barbecued Beans, Corn on the cob, garlic bread, and the Dessert was Apple Pie ala mode! I left the Board just before this dinner.

The last menu that I have was for Ladies Night, September 28, 1973. It was La Bella Cucina per La Bella Ragazza! Calamari, Smelt and Pheasant cacciatore were the only items that could remotely be wild game.

The Sportsman Chefs organization had fallen to designating officers such as "President," "Parliamentarian," "Sergeant at Arms," and others. The Board of Directors were now elected and evolved into a popularity contest. In the past, leaders had been selected because of their ability to cook and organize, as well as the time and the money to do the job.

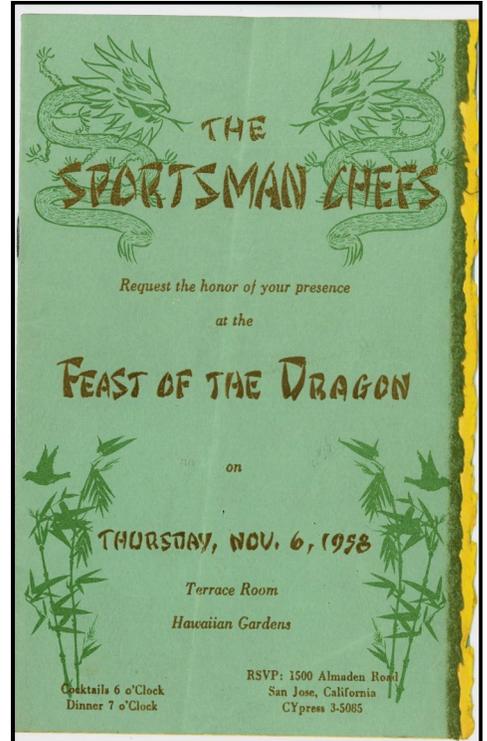
That signaled the end of the Sportsman Chefs. It was a bunch of guys having fun. Because of what is called "political correctness" this group can never be duplicated. Can you imagine the uproar if it got out that whale parts were served? Or Big Horn Sheep? But it was a grand run!

<sup>1</sup> *Georges Auguste Escoffier (1846-1935) was a French chef, restaurateur and culinary writer who popularized and updated traditional French cooking methods. He was referred to as the "king of chefs."*

## History Class Starts in Fall

This Fall, the Campbell Adult and Community Education (CACE) will once again offer the class, "Santa Clara Valley History," last taught faithfully by Mary Lou Lyon. The new teacher will be California Pioneers member Paul Boehm. The class will take place on Wednesdays, beginning August 23, 2017, at 1:00-3:00 PM.

The class will meet throughout the year, with each quarter lasting eight meetings. Tentatively, the class is scheduled to be held at the Blackford Center. Catalogs and registration will be available in late June. Cost will be \$60. If you have questions about the class, call Paul Boehm at (408) 893-1903. or Tim Peddy at (408-315-9614). ❖



*Invitation/menu for Feast of the Dragon on Nov. 6, 1958.*

*(Menus and logo courtesy of History San Jose)*

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# Members Tour Antique Car Warehouse

By Gayle Frank

On March 11th, Members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and their guests enjoyed a great morning tour of the John Bertilotti antique car warehouse in Santa Clara. We saw a collection of 50 beautifully restored antique cars from the early 20th century and 50 classic sportscars from the mid-20th century.

In addition we learned from our outstanding tour guide, Dan Erceg, all sorts of interesting tidbits about early antique autos such as...

1: Why do the early antique cars have the **steering wheel on the right**, then later, most cars switching to the left side? Dan told us that the most likely reason was that cars were driven by the person sitting on the right to keep an eye on the edge of the road. In those days, the roads were narrow, heavily crowned and drain ditches or muddy shoulders were dangers waiting for the unsuspecting vehicle. But as more cars travelled the roads, a greater risk was side-swiping a car coming from the opposite side of the road. So changing the driver to the left side enabled each driver to gauge the closeness of the vehicle coming toward him or her and decreased the number of accidents between two cars.

2: Early antique cars were often made of sheet aluminum, 1/16 inch thick, fastened onto wood. Pierce Arrow automobiles were manufactured, in Buffalo New York, with cast aluminum, ¼ to ½ inch in thickness, making the auto lighter and sturdier. Dan said the Pierce Arrow was one of the best and most reliable autos made in the teens and twenties. The Presidents of the United States rode in Pierce Arrows during that time. (Taft



*Dan Erceg in the driver seat of a 1907 Thomas Flyer automobile.*

ordered two and Pierce Arrow became the first official car of the White House.) Pierce Arrow operated from 1901 until 1938. The company did not switch their steering wheel to the left until the 1920s, years after most of the other companies manufactured their autos with steering wheels on the left.

3: Have you ever heard of a Biddle? It was a custom auto built between 1915 until 1922 in Philadelphia. We saw one on the tour and was surprised that it had no doors. Dan told us that if the top was up, it was impossible to climb into the car!

4: On our visit to the warehouse, we saw a 1907 Thomas Flyer with the same chassis and engine as the 1907 Thomas Flyer that won the 1908 race around the world! Dan talked a bit about that race, which started in New York (in winter), travelled to the West Coast, shipped across the Pacific Ocean, crossing Asia and Europe,

and ending in Paris. George Schuster, a master mechanic, and his team experienced a harrowing 169 days over 22,000 miles, made a multitude of repairs and welds, but finally won the "Great Race." What a feat that was.

To view a video on that race and a 1958 TV clip of "I've Got a Secret" with guest George Schuster, google "This Car Matters, the Thomas Flyer."

## The Great Race

This truly world class event included National Teams from France, Italy, Germany and the United States. The New York to Paris Automobile Race was to be driven across the frozen Bering Straits in the dead of winter 1908. (It was determined unsafe so the autos were shipped instead.) All this at a time when horses were considered more reliable than automobiles.

*From: I've Got a Secret' TV show, 7/16/58*

# March Luncheon—Railroad History and City of Campbell

Mike Kotowski, a former Campbell mayor, artist, and railroad historian spoke at the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County luncheon on March 4th. The fascinating presentation indicated that the arrival of the railroad helped develop the City of Campbell.

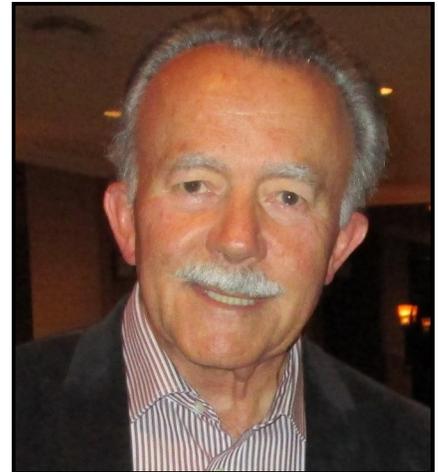
The Campbell clan became early Santa Clara County pioneers, arriving in 1846. The patriarch, William Campbell, was asked to stake out 70 blocks where Williams Road and San Thomas Expressway sit today. He also surveyed a portion of Santa Clara. William and two of his sons, Benjamin and David, established a lumber mill at Saratoga Creek (near what is now Saratoga Springs) and received permission from the county to build a road (now Campbell Avenue) for easier transportation of their lumber and produce.

Kotowski mentioned the San Jose/San Francisco train that was constructed in 1863-64 and then how the “Big Four” (Stanford, Crocker, Hopkins and Huntington) were concentrating on the

transcontinental railroad during the mid 1860s.

But by 1877, James G. Fair (Comstock Lode millionaire) and partners were interested in building a narrow gauge railroad to Santa Cruz. Benjamin Campbell granted Fair’s proposed South Pacific Coast Railroad a right-of-way through his 160-acre parcel of land, resulting in the area’s first depot and telegraph office to be built. Now there was a link between Alameda to Santa Cruz, giving the locals an efficient way to transport their products. Campbell was now an important rail center for shipping fruit and this is why major canneries and fruit drying companies developed here.

Other bits of Campbell history we heard about at the luncheon included: Teddy Roosevelt visiting Campbell in

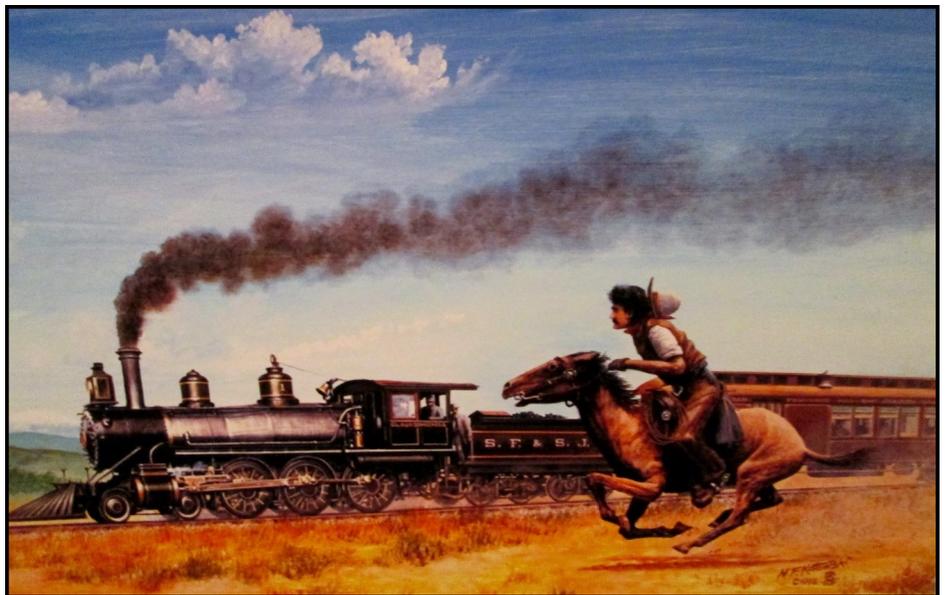


*Mike Kotowski*

1903 and planting a redwood tree at Campbell High School; J. C. Ainsley, of Ainsley Packing Co., designing canning techniques to facilitate transporting produce; and we even heard about a smokeless gun powder factory near Campbell that succumbed to a huge explosion. ❖

*Right, an illustration of one of Mike Kotowski’s paintings, depicting a race between the horse and the locomotive.*

*Kotowski was the artist for the Orchard Supply Hardware calendars, popular for many years.*



## New Nonprofit Supports Alviso Historic District

A new IRS approved 501 (c)3 nonprofit, the South Bay Historic Restoration Foundation, has been recently formed. The main goal of this new foundation is to support the maintenance of the old buildings in the Alviso Historic District. Initially, the foundation will concentrate on the historic South Bay Yacht Club facilities. The SBYC clubhouse was

built in 1903, and moved in 1982 to its present location due to flood control levee realignment. A renovation of an old boathouse is now needed to support a new Sea Scout Ship that the club is sponsoring. For more information contact Pioneer’s newest board member, Russ Robinson, at [southbaybrf@gmail.com](mailto:southbaybrf@gmail.com)

# CA Pioneers of SCC New Members—Welcome!

**Damian Bacich**  
Santa Clara

**Kristin Bacich**  
Santa Clara

**Barry Swackhamer**  
San Jose

## Membership Report

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

You can pay your annual dues for 2017 at the next luncheon or by mailing them to CA Pioneers, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 8208, San Jose, CA, 95155. Basic dues are now \$35 as of March, 2017.

Check your mailing label on the Trailblazer and it will indicate when your dues have expired. For example, if after your name it says, Dec-17, your Pioneers membership is up-to-date until the end of 2017.

Additional donations or higher membership levels are always appreciated.

Visit [www.CaliforniaPioneers.com](http://www.CaliforniaPioneers.com) for more details. Please don't forget the Pioneers in your estate planning and consider donating from your required minimum distribution.

If you have questions, please contact April Halberstadt at 408-293-2860 or email her at [aprilhalb@gmail.com](mailto:aprilhalb@gmail.com). ❖

## Time Travel *(Past News from Newspaper Archives)*

**San Jose Morning Times, 1880:** "Chicago is largely engaged in the manufacture of oleomargarine, sometimes known as "boarding house butter" and vulgarly called "bull butter." It is made of lard and other vile ingredients. The entire business is a loathsome proceeding."

**San Jose, Oct. 1881:** Under an amended ordinance, owners of cows, horses and other live stock were allowed to graze their animals on the sidewalks, if in the care of someone. "Poor people," it was noted, "desiring to give their animals a mouthful of grass can profit from this new ruling."

**San Jose Council, Oct. 1881:** The Chief of Police stated the police wagon needed painting and repairing. Also, authorization to purchase one dozen police badges was granted.

**Alviso, Jan. 1902:** "Hunters reported ducks were so plentiful at Alviso they could bag the limit in open boats without the need of blinds."

**San Jose, 1905:** "Twenty-five cents a week will bring you a \$20 kitchen gas range with inside connections free. Contact your United Gas and Electric Co., The Happy Home Maker at 18 So. Market."



## Pioneers Gone to the Golden Hills



*Ethel (MacLean) Reinegger*



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## California Pioneers of Santa Clara County 2017 Board of Directors

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Tom Kearney, Treasurer; [tpkearney35@att.net](mailto:tpkearney35@att.net)

Walt Gil, Business Secretary; [wgil@cpi-re.com](mailto:wgil@cpi-re.com)

April Halberstadt, Membership; [aprilbalb@gmail.com](mailto:aprilbalb@gmail.com)

Melita Kelly, Parliamentarian; [melikel@pacbell.net](mailto:melikel@pacbell.net)

Paul Bernal, Immediate Past President;  
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Bill Foley, Film Archives; [film@californiapioneers.com](mailto:film@californiapioneers.com)

Jim Campbell, Resident Artist for Calif. Pioneers of SCC

Madeline Streight; Sunshine Chair; 408-259-4422 or  
[madeline.streight@att.net](mailto: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.