Mailings Already Sent

Cemetery Maintenance Campaign To Begin

On September 12, 2011 our Board of Directors voted to increase the corpus of the Sacramento Pioneer Cemetery Trust in order that it can earn enough to support our historic and beautiful Pioneer Grove. Mailings were sent in September to all members asking for help in achieving this important goal.

The cemetery is maintained by a board committee led by Joan Kibbey Taylor, and that care is funded currently by your dues. In 2004 that year’s board created the Sacramento Pioneer Cemetery Trust in the hope that it would grow in time to the point where its interest could fund cemetery maintenance. That was slow in coming, and in 2007 President Dick Frink inaugurated a fundraising campaign for the trust with a goal of raising the trust’s corpus to $250,000 that would have supported the maintenance at that time. While dramatic progress was achieved, the effort fell short of the goal. Now our board has determined that a greater amount is needed to earn adequate funding for the cemetery in today’s uncertain markets. They ask for our generosity. Paying for maintenance with our dues is no longer sustainable without a considerable raise in dues. Making the trust viable is the better answer.

Our Pioneer Grove, located within the Old Sacramento City Cemetery at 10th and Broadway, was established by our members in 1861. Floods had made higher ground necessary for burials of members. For 150 years the Association has taken good care of this treasure. Many illustrious contributors to our city’s history are buried there. The Mark Hopkins monument is the centerpiece of the entire cemetery; the graves of James McClatchy, founder of the Sacramento Bee, and Nathaniel Goodell, architect of the old Governor’s Mansion, are examples among many. Today’s members may purchase plots in Pioneer Grove … See pg 2
Dear Pioneers,

Sacramento may not be in New England, but the leaves are changing colors, temperatures are dropping, and the wafting breezes after light sprinkles of rain are welcome and refreshing. Fall is a wonderful time in Sacramento.

There are two exciting pieces of news to report, both of which you can read about much more within this newsletter.

The first is that we have succeeded in leasing the second floor of Pioneer Hall! I want to extend a warm welcome to The Push Agency, a marketing firm under the leadership of Matt Kolbert and David Flanagan. We wish them nothing but the best as they launch their new business amidst the positive developments that are occurring on the K Street Mall. I want to thank Steve Huffman, chair of the leasing committee, David Herrara, our capable real estate broker of Colliers International, and Jack Diepenbrock, our extremely competent attorney on the project. Each of these fine men put in many hours of hard work that resulted in congenial negotiations and a fair, well-written contract. Everybody wins!

The second big topic that is dear to my heart is our Board of Directors’ determination to fund the Cemetery Trust once and for all! Each of you received a letter from me that announced our short fund drive. I am very excited about this ambitious endeavor and hope that we can count on you – the members of this association – who are historically minded and fiscally responsible. Let’s all chip in so that this wonderful organization can rely on the fact that perpetual maintenance for its beloved Pioneer Grove will go on long after we are gone.

We have much to be grateful for. Enjoy the fall season.

Ann Doersch

Pioneer Cemetery Article

Continued from page one

for their families, though there are very few plots remaining.

Names of major donors will join those of 2007 on a granite permanent plaque to be installed at Pioneer Grove commemorating the successful funding of the trust by the end of this year.

The fund development committee members are Toran Brown, Ann Doersch, Tom Hammer, Lynda Otto, and Howard Stagg. Contact any of them for more information. Send your tax deductible donation to Sacramento Pioneer Cemetery Trust, 1721 Second Street, Suite 100, Sacramento CA 95811. If you choose to include the trust in your estate plan or make a pledge payable over as many as five years, please notify Lynda Otto, 447-7411, so that your name may be engraved on the permanent plaque.

Thanks.

*****
John Marsh - First To Practice Medicine In California

By Judy Gamble

As Sacramentans, we often assume that John Sutter was the first Anglo European settler in the Central Valley, but the first settler in the overland migration was “Dr.” John Marsh who predated Sutter by several years.

John Marsh had a very ambitious, colorful and controversial life. He attended Harvard University and graduated with a B.A. in 1823. He then went on to a frontier military post to teach and “read medicine” under the mentorship of the post surgeon. During this time he fell in love and married a young woman of mixed French-Canadian and Sioux parentage, and together they wrote the first Sioux dictionary. After the sudden death of the post surgeon, Marsh was appointed an Indian agent to the Sioux, but because of his partiality to his wife’s people against their tribal enemies, he was discharged. Later, a warrant was issued for his arrest because he had sold guns to the Sioux in violation of federal law. In flight from the arrest and in deep depression from the death of his wife, he moved to Missouri and then drifted to the southwest.

When he arrived in the pueblo de los Angeles in 1836 he was destitute, and sought permission to practice medicine offering his Harvard B.A. as credentials. Since any qualifications were better than none, and few spoke Latin to question the credentials, he became the first American to open a medical office in California. His medical charges were exceedingly high and in less than a year he was able to buy a rancho. He moved north where land was cheaper, and bought Rancho de los Meganos, at the foot of Mt. Diablo. Marsh became the first successful landowner in the Central Valley, but he charged as much as 50 head of cattle for medical fees. He was getting an undisputed reputation of being miserly.

Situated in his Rancho de los Meganos, he began a letter campaign to bring American settlers to California. He was an advocate of Manifest Destiny, and the belief that California should become a part of the United States. From behind the scenes, he advocated for the revolt against Mexico, but always pursued a peaceful method. In 1851 he married Abigail Tuck and built a grand stone house with the intention of receiving dignitaries to his home on the western frontier. Several months before its completion his wife, Abby died from an illness, and John Marsh himself lived in his grand home for only three months before his untimely death. In 1856 while in route to Martinez he was murdered by workers who felt they had been cheated.

Since 2006, the John Marsh Trust has worked to restore the Stone House as well as dedicating the surrounding land as a state park….a dedication to John Marsh and his prominence as a founding father. Among historians John Marsh’s contradicting life experiences has labeled him, “the most mysterious of California’s pioneers.”

(Judy Gamble, who joined the Pioneers last year, is a fourth generation Californian and descendant of Marsh’s pioneer neighbor at the foot of Mt. Diablo. Her great-great grandparents were early settlers on Mt Diablo and neighbors to the Marsh rancho). *
By Bob Taylor

In August 1775, Lt. Juan Manuel de Ayala brought his sailing ship, the San Carlos, into San Francisco Bay, and anchored in what is now Ayala Cove. His mission was to develop an accurate description of the bay that future Spanish ship captains could rely on. Ayala gave the island its name: Isla de Los Angeles. In 1808, Russian sea otter hunting expeditions visited the island, establishing a storehouse there. The island was later used as a cattle ranch before California became part of the U.S.

With concern mounting over threats to the Bay Area from Confederate sympathizers and naval forces, the federal government established Camp Reynolds on Angel Island in 1863. After the Civil War, it became an infantry camp, serving as a depot for recruits, and as a staging area for troops serving in campaigns against the Apache, Sioux, Modoc, and other Indian tribes. U.S. Army presence on the island increased in 1899, when a quarantine station was built at Fort McDowell on the eastern end of the island. This new facility made it possible to isolate troops who had been exposed to contagious diseases while serving overseas in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection. In 1900, the army designated the entire island as Fort McDowell. 200

It was expanded into a major facility for receiving recruits and processing military personnel for overseas assignment. Construction included a huge 600 man barracks, a mess hall, and a hospital. It became the world's largest and most elaborate military induction center, and was used in WWI as a prison for “enemy aliens” (mostly German citizens).

Through the 1920s and 1930s, Fort McDowell inducted and discharged about 40,000 men per year --- more than were processed by any other U.S. military post. The reason for much of this activity was that from 1900 to 1941, the only U.S. military bases outside the continental United States were in the Pacific, and Fort McDowell was the nation's only military overseas processing station. Because of this overseas orientation, the ordinary, routine military life of the fort acquired a unique international atmosphere.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the fort’s abandoned Immigration Station was turned into a prisoner of war processing facility. Before the war was over, hundreds of Japanese, German, and Italian prisoners were temporarily detained here. At the same time, Fort McDowell itself served as a major point of embarkation for troops headed toward the Pacific war zone.

As troops began to return home, a 60-foot-high illuminated "Welcome Home, Well Done" sign was erected on the south-facing slope of the island. The rush continued into 1946, and then tapered off rapidly, so that in July of that year, the army decided to close down Fort McDowell, and declare the entire island surplus property. (Bob Taylor and Doug Yee co-chaired the Angel Island trip on October 15th). ***
The Immigration Station was designed to process Chinese immigrants whose entry was restricted by the Chinese Exclusion Law of 1882. Immigrants from Europe were all expected with the opening of the Panama Canal. International events after 1914, including the outbreak of World War I, cancelled the expected rush of Europeans, but Asians continued to arrive on the West Coast and to go through immigration procedures. In fact, more than 97 percent of the immigrants processed on Angel Island were Chinese.

When it opened in 1910, the new detention facility on Angel Island was considered ideal because of its isolation. There were buildings to house and care for detainees, a pier, and regular boat service to the mainland. During the next 30 years, this was the point of entry for most of the approximately 175,000 Chinese immigrants who came to the United States. Most of them were detained on Angel Island for as little as two weeks or as much as six months. A few however, were forced to remain on the island for as much as two years. Interrogations could take a long time to complete, especially if witnesses for the immigrants lived in the eastern United States. Some detainees expressed their feelings in poetry that they carved into the wooden walls of the detention center. Others simply waited, hoping for a favorable response to their appeals, but fearing deportation. Many of the poems that were carved into the walls of the center are still legible today.

In 1940, a fire that destroyed the administration building in August of that year hastened the government decision to abandon the Immigration Station on Angel Island. On November 5, the last group of about 200 immigrants (including about 150 Chinese) were transferred from Angel Island to temporary quarters in San Francisco. The so-called "Chinese Exclusion Acts," which were adopted in the early 1880's were repealed by Federal action in 1943, because by that time, China was an ally of the US in World War II.

Today, most visitors to Angel Island find the Immigration Station a place of reflection. While often called the Ellis Island of the West, the Angel Island Immigration Station, was in fact quite different. Arrivals at Ellis Island were welcomed to this country by the nearby Statue of Liberty and screened primarily for medical reasons leaving an average of 2-3 hours of arriving. At Angel Island, the objective was to exclude new arrivals, the memories of many returning visitors are therefore bittersweet. A museum has been established in the old barracks building. It includes a re-creation of one of the dormitories, and highlights some of the poems that were carved into the station's walls.

***
Marketing Firm Leases Our Hall

The Pioneer Hall Leasing Committee is delighted to announce that the Push Agency, a new marketing firm led by two well-known advertising executives, has leased the entire second floor of Pioneer Hall.

Steve Huffman, leasing chair, said the agreement came after almost two years of effort to find the right tenant. “We are proud to have such distinguished tenants, who will bring renewed life to our historic building.”

The owners of the Push Agency are David Flanagan – once named Sacramento’s Advertising Executive of the Year – and Matt Kolbert, who serves as chief executive of the firm, which officially launched in July. Flanagan is widely respected in the Sacramento region for his career accomplishments that include serving as creative director for the Sacramento Bee, and building some of the area’s top advertising agencies. Kolbert served as lead strategist and head of sales/business development for the agency which acquired David’s previous firm (Crocker/Flanagan).

The partners bring an impressive array of experience to the region, previously working on accounts ranging from Ben and Jerry’s, Wendy’s and WebEx to the CA Department of Consumer Affairs, the California Earthquake Authority and the CA Governor’s Office. Kolbert said their goal is to create a new kind of marketing agency that “truly pushes clients beyond what they can accomplish on their own.” Recently joined by Carol Gleeson, a respected media executive, the agency provides a range of services, including brand development, marketing strategy, media placement, public relations, social media web design and more.

Huffman said the 64-month lease was handled by the Pioneers’ broker, Dave Herrera of Colliers International. Pioneer Jack Diepenbrock drafted the lease. Two other retail tenants, which occupy the ground floor, are G. Rossi Florist and Max Nutrition, a seller of vitamins and supplements. The Push firm is authorized to use the lobby for access and promotional purposes.

Pioneer Hall was built in 1868 on the east side of 7th Street between J and K Streets. The architect was Association member Nathaniel B. Goodell, also the architect for the original Governor’s Mansion. The building provided space for a meeting hall and library. It was the center of early Sacramento activities and continued so for 120 years when the Association undertook a complete restoration and renovation. In 1987 the building was gutted and rebuilt to its former splendor.

“We know of no building in the state continuously owned more than 142 years by the original owner,” Huffman said. ***

Pioneer Life Membership

The Board of Directors has approved in principle the idea of life memberships at $2,500, offering the benefit of waiving the $500 membership fee and annual dues.

Mead Kibbey, who proposed the idea to the board, said life memberships would be advantageous for members who wish to protect their ability to cover dues over a long period of time. He came up with the “magic number” of $2,500 after researching other organizations and projecting an increase in dues at 4 per cent compounded annually.

“Many organizations dislike the idea of life memberships because they spend the money up front. In our case we will be sure that the money is invested carefully and held until the death of the life member. At that point their investment can be sold and put into the general fund,” Kibbey said.

Life memberships would be beneficial to the association which would receive income from investments. At the same time, it would allow continuity of membership for those who enjoy the association but do not wish to be encumbered with annual dues in their retirement years.

The board is considering whether the amount would be for an individual or a couple, and whether it could be passed on to children of life members. Suggestions from the membership are welcome. ***
Picnic Amongst The Planes - Aerospace Museum

Photos from the Pioneer Picnic at the Aerospace Museum of Sacramento, at McClellan Air Park.

Bill & Millie Stone

Bob Taylor checks out an Aircraft cockpit.

Lynn Gray examines an exhibit of the California Women in Aviation.

Ex-Pres Steve Huffman looks over a cut-away of a piston aircraft engine.

L: Ex-Air Force Navigator Dal Darraaq gives us a proper salute.

Sally Huffman and Joan Calkin

Judy Herringer and Lynda Otto

Aircraft Cockpit control panel.
Have a Great Halloween

![Pumpkin](image-url)