





Santa Clara County Rural Development Early 1900's

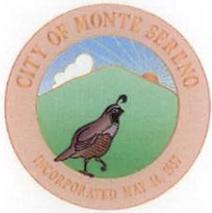
In 1900, there were 4,788,615 Orchard Trees in Santa Clara Valley. There were 525,030 apricot trees and 127,165 Cherry trees in the Santa Clara Valley.

41,000 acres of orchards, and by 1915 the valley was producing 1/3 of the worlds Prunes.

By 1925, California Produced 96% of the apricots nationwide.

In 1925, farming reached a peak of 6,959 farms.

28 of these farms were located in the La Rinconada De Los Gatos



Picture of El Sereno Mountain Early 1900's





Santa Clara County Rural Development Early 1900's

The "Valley of Hearts Delight" attracted many newcomers to the area. Many of the first land owners arrived after the gold rush & civil war ended.

New Railroads and roadways ventured west as the first Railroads arrived in Los Gatos around 1877.

By late 1880, these 28 parcels in West Santa Clara Valley would later become the City of Monte Sereno and today, home to the 3,500 residents of the Silicon Valley.



City Founders

Admiral Thomas Inglis visits the Santa Clara Valley in 1919. The Inglis family moves to West Santa Clara Valley foothills in 1951.

Thomas Inglis forms the West County Improvements association (WCIA).

In the interest of preserving the rural nature of area, maintaining the serene ranch style living and low taxes the community evaluates annexation options.

Not favoring commercialization growth the city votes (777 residents) to incorporate in April 1957 becoming the 16th new district in the Valley.

The first council meets on May 14th, 1957 which includes: Thomas Ingles, Mrs. Charles Lockwood, Robert Hannas, Hal Statler and James Allen.

The first council meeting takes place in the Dave's Avenue School house.



City Name

The name Monte Sereno gets its name from the “El Sereno” Peak Located southwest of the city. Elevation 2,587 Feet

Named for the Sereno over-looking mountain. Some early historical References to the mountain peak as the “guardian” or “night watchman”.

The original name for the peak showed up on an 1866 United States General Surveyors Map as “Mount Pleasant” and was changed over the years.

Street name, “Pleasant View Avenue” was named for the unobstructed Views of this mountain range.



City Beginnings

The Annexation campaigns begin between Mayor A.E. Merrill (retired Army Colonel) and USN (retired) Admiral Thomas Inglis between the Cities of Los Gatos and Monte Sereno.

The lines are drawn and the “Battle for Peaceful Mountain” begins.

Faced with ongoing annexation city, commercial growth pressure, new freeways route proposals, airports and school expansion proposals, increased population and traffic in the Silicon valley, Thomas Inglis commits himself to public service for the next 25 years to serve and protect.

We owe our quality of life to his dedication to preserve what he saw during his visit over 90 years ago on a trip to “The Valley of Hearts Delight”

**4.5 Millions of pounds of fruit shipped from
Los Gatos early 1900's**



El Sereno Mountain



Prune Orchard of 300,000 Trees in Los Gatos



Great Prune Orchard of 300,000 Trees, Los Gatos, Cal.

1831

Los Gatos Apricots Label



Los Gatos Creek Orchards Early 1900's

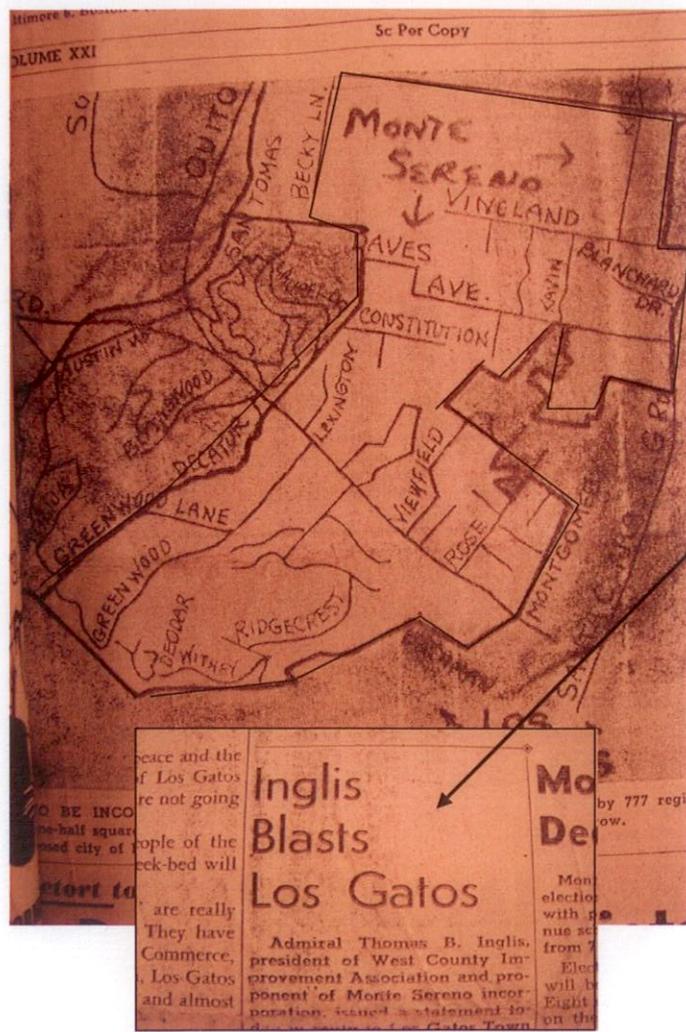


Gatos Brand Peaches





The Annexation Battle Begins and The Lines Are Drawn April 1957



Admiral Thomas Ingles works tirelessly from 1957 to 1967 to preserve the local rural setting by annexing residential areas along the Los Gatos, Saratoga and Campbell borders.

The two mayors of Monte Sereno Ingles (Navy) and Merrill (Army) Los Gatos engage battle plan for control annexation, preservation and taxation rights.

Robinson Heights was one of the more notable annexation battles which included Pleasant View Ave, Rancho and Vineland Avenue.

Source: LG Times Saratoga Observer



First time city name appears in local paper

By GENE JOHNSON
Monte Sereno, proposed city named for a serene over-looking mountain, will go through the labor of birth by popular democratic vote Tuesday, April 23. If it survives the ordeal, it will become Santa Clara County's 16th incorporated city.

May 1957 Los Gatos Times – Saratoga Observer
Named for “Sereno over-looking mountain”
Named “Mount Pleasant” in 1866 Map (C.J. Henley)



Eight Vie For Monte Sereno Council April 1957

EIGHT VIE FOR MONTE SERENO COUNCIL

PAT MCINTIRE
Council Candidate

ROBERT F. HANNAH
Council Candidate

JAMES S. ALLEN
Council Candidate

PHIL WOOD
Council Candidate

ADM. T. B. INGLIS
Council Candidate

MRS. C. A. LOCKWOOD
Council Candidate

HAL C. STATLER
Council Candidate

PAUL S. OLIVER
Council Candidate

GENERAL SCORES
Summit League
Yak 5, Woodstock 3,
Chico 3, Philadelphia 1,
Chicago 1, 1957.
American Legion
and T. Farnum City 4, 1957.
James S. Smith 4, 1957.

Mostly Fair
Fair tonight and Tuesday
with a weekend temperature
of 62-82. Five inches. Saturday
high will be 80-84. Sunday
68-80. Today, 68-80. Rainfall
Saturday, .35 inches; at San
Jose, .33 inches.

LOS GATOS TIMES-SARATOGA OBSERVER

LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA, MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1957

Page 22 Six-Pin Copy Eight Pages NUMBER 11

Editorial
On Monte Sereno

The Times Observer believes in the future of Los Gatos and the West Valley—and that the people of the area know the charms of the community which make it a desirable place in which to live.

All of the citizens here value the quiet, the peace and the protection of the hills, and those in the Town of Los Gatos who are not opposed to well-planned development are not going to "sell out" this charm and beauty of our place.

A commercial area is needed to serve the people of the community—and the good light industry at the creek bed will use change Los Gatos.

We feel that the people of "Monte Sereno" are really people of Los Gatos by choice and by location. They have moved and do serve on the Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce, Los Gatos Youth Center, Los Gatos Art Association, Los Gatos Community Center Association, Los Gatos YMCA and about forty other local organizations.

Incorporation Election To Be Held Tomorrow

Inglis Blasts Los Gatos

Monte Sereno Voters Decide Area's Fate

Monte Sereno incorporation election will be held tomorrow with polls open at Seven o'clock and 1957 Ballot Box from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Admiral Thomas B. Inglis, president of West County Improvement Association and president of Monte Sereno incorporation, today denounced the plan of the city to incorporate the area.

He said that Monte Sereno voters will be asked to vote on the plan to incorporate the area into the City of Los Gatos. The plan would give the city a new area of 1,000 acres and a population of 10,000. Mr. Inglis said that the plan would be a "sell out" of the area's charm and beauty.

Source: LG Times Saratoga Observer



Monte Sereno Incorporates April 1957



Admiral Ingles, Mrs. Charles Lockwood, Robert Hannas, Hal Statler and James Allen

Source: LG Times Saratoga Observer



Estimated Home values in 1957 for 777 voters

The fate of Monte Sereno lives with its 777 registered voters. These voters live in 450 to 500 households in the approximately 1000 acre area. Assessed valuation of Monte Sereno is \$2,240,000. A rough measurement of the real value of Monte Sereno is three and a half times this amount, or \$7,840,000.

May 1957 Los Gatos Times – Saratoga Observer
777 Voters, 1000 acre area, \$7,840,000

Today's estimate @ 1,200 homes times x 2,000,000= 2,400,000,000

Source: LG Times Saratoga Observer



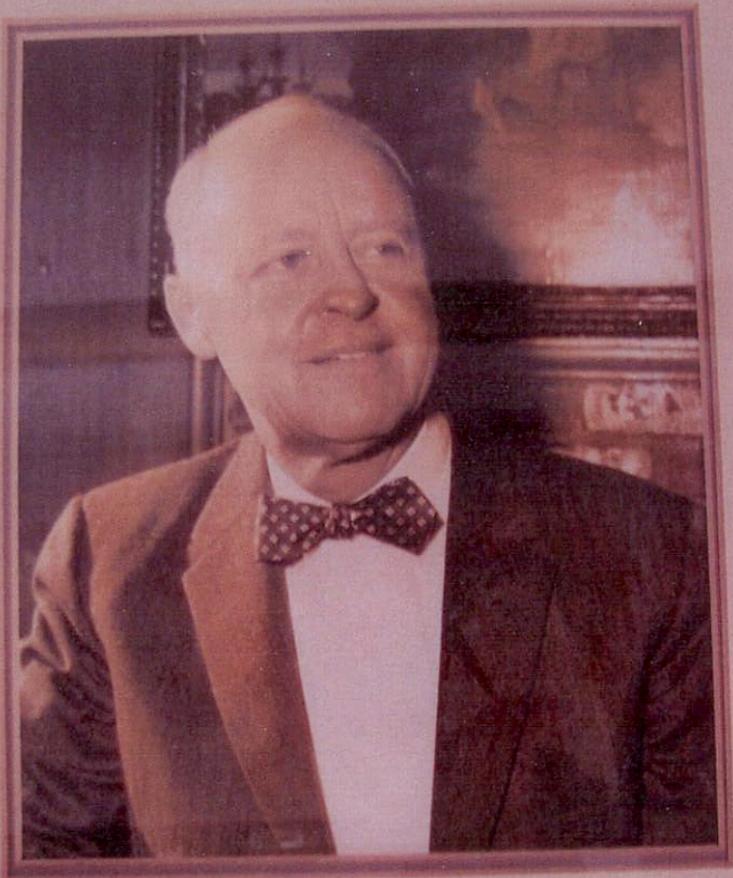
Estimated residential growth since WWII

MOST OF THE RESIDENTS
of Monte Sereno moved to Santa Clara Valley since World War II. Most of the residences in Monte Sereno are less than 15 years old.

The planning department of Santa Clara county predicts continued population growth.

It is not to stop that growth, but to control its direction, that proponents of Monte Sereno urge incorporation.

Most of the residences less than 15 years old.
Most of the people moved to Monte Sereno since World War II



Thomas B. Inglis

FIRST MAYOR OF MONTE SERENO

1957 - 1967

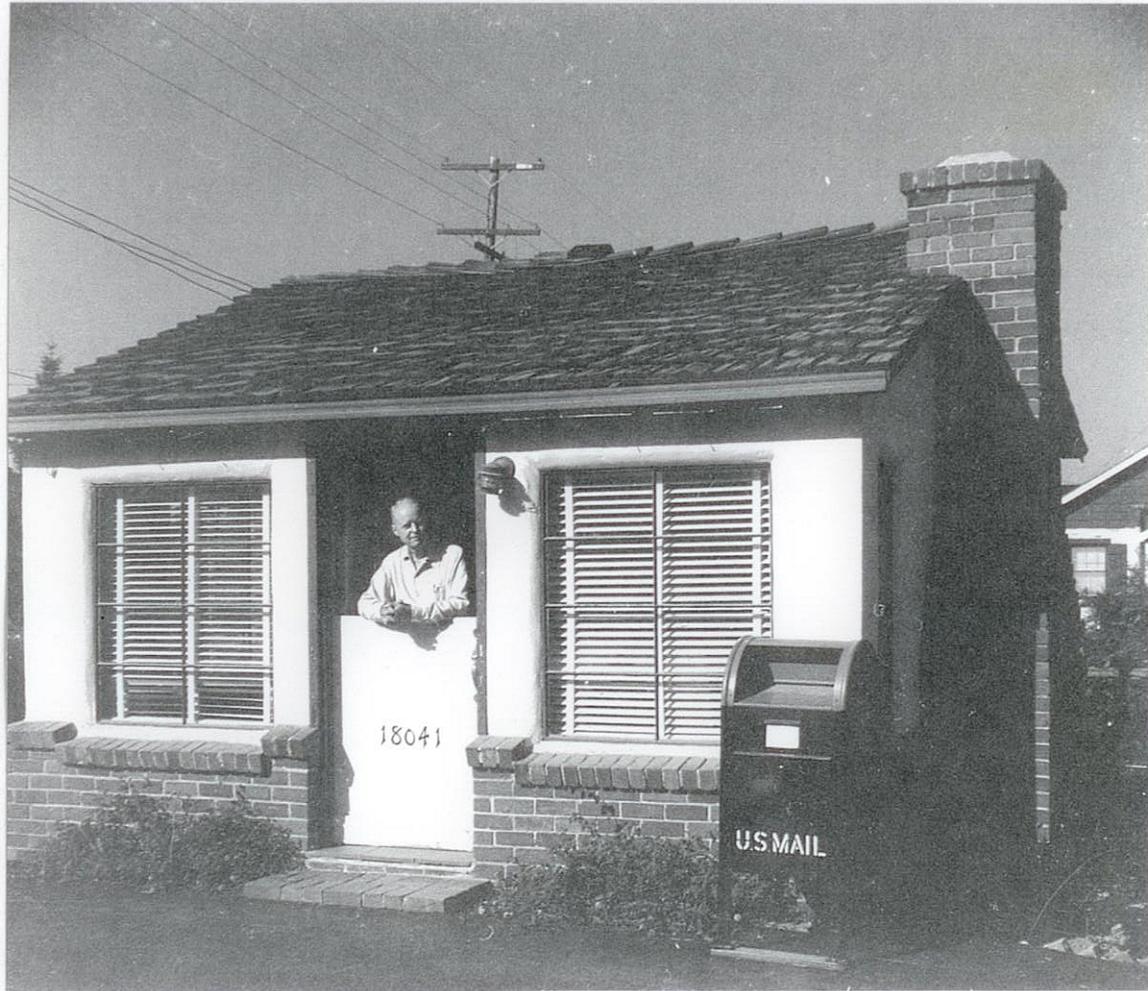


Who lived in the area during incorporation?

Who are the people who live in Monte Sereno? There are a great number of salesmen. More than an average number are retired Army and Navy people. Also more than an average number, probably, are physicians. There are sales managers, aviators, bookkeepers, secretaries, bank clerks, printers, farmers, teachers, electricians . . . they are a cross-section of America.

May 1957 Los Gatos Times – Saratoga Observer Who lived in Monte Sereno?

Source: LG Times Saratoga Observer



Source: LG Times Saratoga Observer



MONTE SERENO
CITY OFFICE

US POST OFFICE
MONTE SERENO BRANCH

M S

S M

Thomas B. Inglis . . .

At one time Thomas Jefferson said: "Each generation must fight its own revolution." Mayor Thomas B. Inglis of Monte Sereno fought his--and won.

Some five years ago the area that is now Monte Sereno was faced with the choice of going with "mother country" Los Gatos or seeking its "independence" as an incorporated entity.

Mr. Inglis and a small group of "revolutionaries" presented the issues squarely to the residents. They could go with Los Gatos, and this would be the easy way, and their affairs would be run for them, and they wouldn't have to be concerned with making and

implimenting their own hard decisions.

Or, they could stand alone, run their own affairs, assume their own responsibilities, maintain the sort of life and environment they had come to this valley to seek in the first place.

The "Battle" (which was fought in the courts) was long and sometimes bitter, but Mr. Inglis rallied his forces time and time again, and, as a result, on May 14, 1962 they could celebrate the fifth anniversary of their "victory."

That the first Mayor of Monte Sereno should be so skilled in tactical maneuvering comes as no surprise to those who know of his background.

For the now "Mayor" Inglis was for many years "Admiral" Inglis. He retired from the U.S. Navy in 1951 after a distinguished career.

"Yes," reflected the mayor, "my wife and I could have settled any place in the world, but we chose Monte Sereno because it has everything we want." But he spoke familiarly of many places he had been on this globe.

For, in his honor-filled 37 years with the Navy, he had been in many places and done many things. Most recently, he was Chief of Naval Intelligence, a post that made it vital for him to be aware of just about every area on earth and

Monte Sereno Revolutionary

in close contact with many fast-erupting trouble spots, since the U.S. Marine Corps, which is a part of the Navy, was also an essential consid-



eration of his command. From the time Mr. Inglis graduated from Annapolis until retirement, he

served his country with honor and many times with considerable personal sacrifice. W.W. I found him with the Atlantic Fleet, W.W. II with the Pacific. His commands have included everything from a destroyer to a cruiser; his awards include the Purple Heart, the Naval Cross, the Silver Star, and many others.

That skillful political strategy should emanate from such a background, therefore, should not be surprising, but that such a career should emerge despite severe obstacles certainly is noteworthy.

Mr. Inglis was left fatherless at the age of seven, and his widowed mother took her family to

a farm in Michigan where, at an early age, he learned the importance of self reliance. That today he is quite vocal on "the dangers of too much government," that he should forcefully express dissent against what he calls "the trend towards socialism and over-security that kills incentive, and will destroy our way of life."--this is understandable when one learns of the stern background that produced his philosophy.

On the eve of Independence Day, July 4th, the mayor reminisced of spectacles and parades and speeches of past years that had made this day significant and memorable.

He mentioned addresses

he had made extolling the greatness of our Declaration of Independence, of our Constitution ("The most perfect and ingenious instrument of government yet devised,") and interpreting our way of life, warning of dangers to it.

The mayor sat quietly behind his desk at the Monte Sereno Municipal Building, and remarked, "But I am old-fashioned, I suppose."

Looking at him one got the idea that while some thunder might have left his voice, there was still lethal lightning glinting from his eyes. One felt that Mayor Inglis would hold fast tenaciously to his ideals of duty, service, and self-reliance even if they were as old as 1776.

Metropolitan government versus home town rule

T-O
4 Apr 63



Thomas B. Inglis
Mayor,
Monte Sereno

Community Viewpoint is a regular feature on the editorial page of the Times-Observer. It is written by a panel of 10 community leaders in Los Gatos and Saratoga. The views expressed are those of the author, and not necessarily of the official organization he represents or of the newspaper.

My last piece in the T-O gave reasons for preferring home rule to Metropolitan Government. Herewith is additional comment on some interesting questions which have since been raised.

My compliments go to Miss Newcomer for her interest in the subject and for her careful homework. First, let me agree with her that local self-government is less than perfect (it can and should be improved); that consolidation or re-organization of some special districts is desirable (not difficult, if the people wish, without going to Metro); that the Air and Water Pollution Boards are necessary and that their jurisdiction is properly regional rather than limited to city or county lines (nor should they be the same as Metro's limits); that tax bills should be itemized (less complicated than your monthly bank statement—Metro would be worse).

Some unkind inferences have been made about the intellectual capacity of the electorate and their apathy towards elections. If valid, these inferences would apply even more to Metro than to home rule. However, I cannot agree that the electorate, if fully and honestly informed, is incompetent to vote intelligently on, for example, a question as important to all of us as whether a third high school is wanted. Dr. Gualtieri's suggestion that the question be put to a vote was perfectly reasonable and it should have been taken seriously.

When the people become sufficiently aroused apathy disappears, the right to vote suddenly becomes quite precious and a large vote follows. This being America and not Russia, the right to vote is fundamental and should never be abandoned even though it is not routinely used as conscientiously as it should be. I agree with Mayor Lincoln that more, not less, public participation in government is desirable. Metro would discourage such participation.

Articles IV and XXIII of California's Constitution establish the principle of Initiative, Referendum and Recall. These basic rights **should** be taught in our high school civics courses. The Recall applies to all elected officials. Initiative and Referendum apply to State, County and City legislation and to some Districts. Whether they apply to all Districts is not clear. In my opinion they **should** be made to apply to all Districts. Sometimes we seem to be overwhelmed with referendum "proposals" as was the case last November. Nevertheless, these powers which are reserved to the people are our ultimate weapons to correct abuses on any level from the Governor down. They should never be abandoned. With Metro most officers would be appointed and not subject to recall by the people.

Special Districts are formed to provide specific services to specific areas of common benefit. They are equitable because the beneficiaries, only, pay for the services which benefit them. Metro would change all this. We would be paying taxes for San Jose's police protection, San Francisco's sewers and Santa Rosa's parks, for examples. Our tax bill would be one big un-itemized package, nobody knowing who is paying how much or what.

The present statutes make it possible to consolidate several districts into one, if that is what the people concerned really

want. For example, Miss Newcomer's Saratoga Fire District could be consolidated with the Central Fire District. I can see advantages to such a consolidation but when the question was raised a few years ago apparently her neighbors wanted no change. Their wishes should prevail over the Grand Jury's suggestion. Under Metro they would have no choice.

In some Districts the governing boards are elected, in others they are appointed, in others the Mayors and Supervisors serve ex officio. The statutes could stand some revision in favor of more uniformity. I believe that the boards should, in general, be elected to make them more directly responsible to the people (and subject to recall). Others disagree. It may be argued either way but Metro would be no cure — it would make matters worse.

The City is the basic unit of local self-government. Each City has its individual characteristics. Mayor Brazil has written in these columns a very fine article on the unique character of Miss Newcomer's Saratoga, for example. Metro would destroy this individuality, eliminating our privilege to select a community to our liking. Metro would make our pattern of living uniform, drab and faceless.

Here are some interesting figures which compare Miss Newcomer's taxes with a typical tax rate in San Jose:

Code	15-28	40-68
Area	Saratoga	(SJ)
County	\$1.77	\$1.77
Library16	—
City10	1.54
Schools	4.44 (3)	4.59 (2)
All other Districts82 (6)	.76 (5)
Total tax rate per \$100 assessed value	\$7.29	\$8.66

Thus we see that a merger of Saratoga into a Greater San Jose, while reducing the number of Districts from 9 to 7, might be expected to increase the tax rate by \$1.37, or nearly 20 per cent. The comparison discredits the theory that an industrial tax base (San Jose) is necessary to support schools.

We also may draw the inference that "bigness" does not bring economy nor efficiency. We may further infer that a Metropolitan Megalopolis would be even worse than a Greater San Jose Metro.

The table also shows that schools consume 60 per cent of our taxes. If substantial economies are to be realized it would seem that the School Districts would be a more fruitful subject to investigate—rather than sniping at the Cities and other Districts. Yet schools were explicitly avoided by both the Governor's Metro Commission and the Grand Jury. I am glad to note that Assemblyman Milias, the Inter-City Council, Dr. Rafferty and the T-O editors have had the courage to raise some questions about our schools.

Finally I must disagree that home rule is unrealistic. Cities have been realities since long before the birth of the Republic. Metro is also a reality, Dade County, Florida, for example, though unattractive. The question is not which is realistic — they both are — but rather which is to be preferred. I prefer home rule, local control and self-determination, with continued efforts to improve cooperation among the Cities, the Districts and the County.

Thos. B. Inglis
Mayor, Monte Sereno

When Adm. Inglis Talks, He Talks

MONTE SERENO — This could happen only in Monte Sereno, a city of homes and of retired military men who haven't forgotten the use of strategy.

The City Council, meeting as its own planning commission, held a public hearing Tuesday night on whether to grant a use permit for the controversial Karl avenue site proposed for a third high school by the Los Gatos Joint Union High School District.

Mayor Thomas Inglis opened the hearing at 8 p.m. by setting a two-hour time limit on debate.

Then he talked steadily until 10:10 p.m. and announced that the hearing would be continued until 8 p.m. May 21.

Inglis, a retired Navy admiral, takes the view that Monte Sereno is fulfilling its community obligations by providing space for a church, an elementary school and the Red Cross offices where the Council holds its meetings.

During the two-hour filibuster, Inglis meticulously reviewed every step in the events which led up to the hearing. The only other remarks came from Vice Mayor James Sullivan, who accused the school board in passing of deciding upon the site during a secret meeting, and the president of the school board, William Silker, who denied the charge.

Inglis described his presentation as the "staff report," or, "As lawyers would say, the events leading up to the crime. . ."

Approval of the site,

which includes portions of unincorporated area and Los Gatos as well as Monte Sereno, has already come from the Los Gatos and County planning commissions and the State Department of Education. It lies on the eastern flank of Karl avenue west of Winchester boulevard and south of Zena avenue.

Inglis said he suggested to the board that the Monte Sereno Council might accept the site if buffer strips could be leased to the city for trees and fences.

But it was clear that Inglis was following a strategy of delay.

On July 1, two new school board members will be seated. For the board to overrule the city's objections, a vote of at least four of the five members is required by law.

If the Council as a planning commission denies the permit May 21 the board must ask the Council as a council to overrule the commission, and new hearings must be scheduled in June. If and when the Council issues a final, formal denial, then another 60 days must elapse before the board can proceed with purchase of the property.

Reaction of the two school board members at the session was calm, although one described the hearing as "a star-chamber meeting." He didn't elaborate.

As another spectator left the hearing, he remarked: "Now I know why we won the last war."

The Little City That Could

Monte Sereno beat the odds to become a city 35 years ago

By BOB ALDRICH

Monte Sereno, the cozy residential community between Los Gatos and Saratoga, is such a quietly respectable enclave that few visitors would suspect the political turmoil that lay behind its creation 35 years ago.

Monte Sereno, population 3,297, is a model of upper-middle-class living—a tiny, tidy city of mainly high-priced homes situated on some of the most expensive Santa Clara County real estate. It is a community without a downtown, shopping center or business, unless you count Kenneth Peake's dairy farm on Bicknell Road. It has no police, fire or parks departments of its own. It does have a new City Hall—until this year, the Red Cross building served in that capacity—giving the city administration more elbow room than its former cramped quarters.

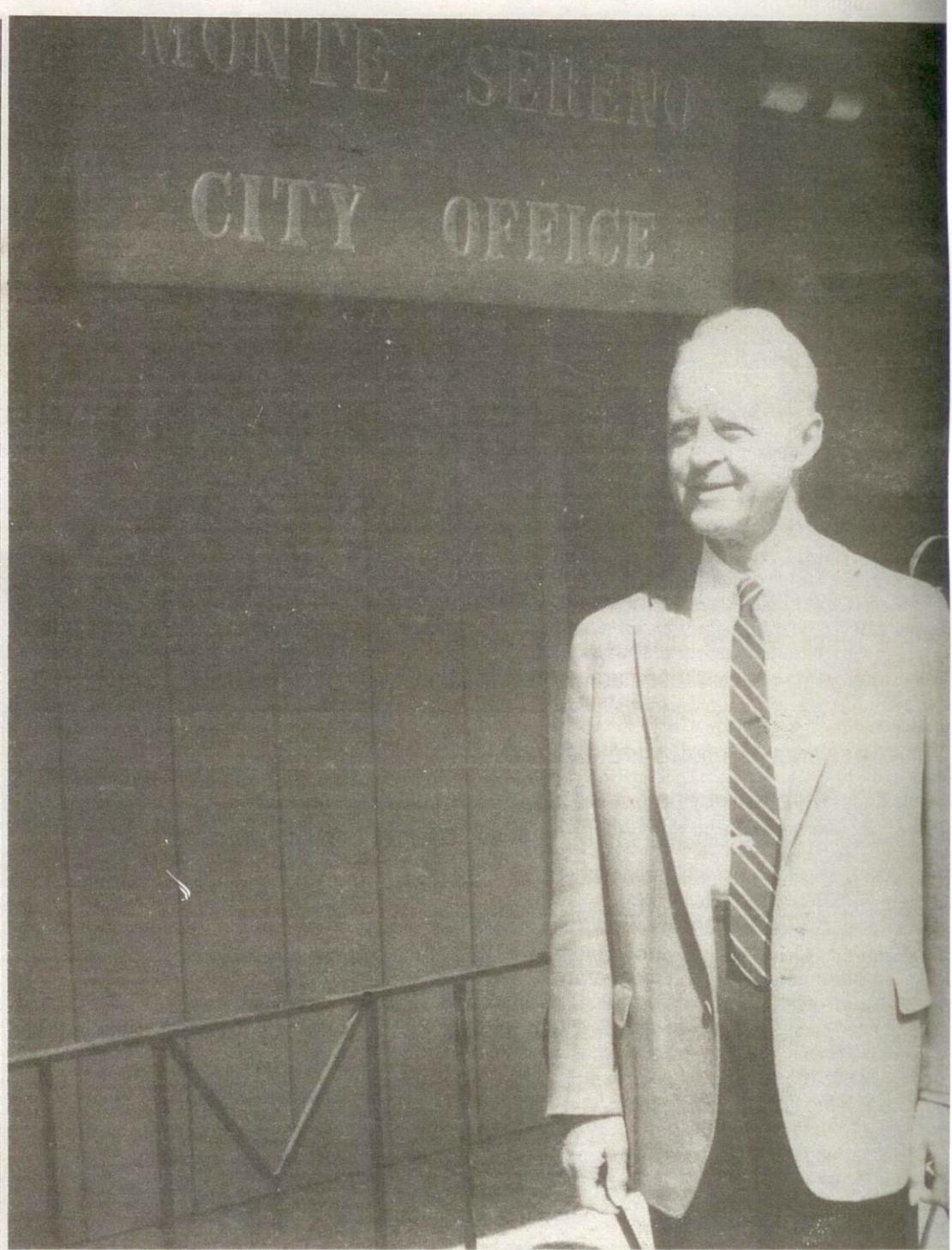
It has traffic. A movie about Monte Sereno might be called *A Highway Runs Through It*. Highway 9 (Saratoga-Los Gatos Road) carries heavy traffic daily. Drivers who are tempted to sneak a short-cut through Monte Sereno are discouraged by stop signs seemingly placed every few feet along side roads.

La Hacienda Inn and Restaurant, the only business in the immediate vicinity, sits on county land, not in



Please turn to page 26

Adm. Thomas B. Inglis Sr. spearheaded the incorporation effort.



Adm. Thomas B. Inglis Sr. stands in front of the old Monte Sereno city offices.

Monte Sereno proper; an effort to include it in the city was defeated.

Monte Sereno, with an area of 1.5 square miles, is in many ways a dream come true. The original dream was that of the late U.S. Navy Adm. Thomas B. Inglis Sr., who moved to what is now Monte Sereno in 1951. Son Thomas B. Inglis Jr., an economics consultant who took over the little city's accounts for a few years after his father left the City Council in 1967, says, "I think my father would be pleased at the way it has turned out today."

Monte Sereno confronts "issues rather than problems," says Mark Fredkin, the tiny city's second-term mayor. Fredkin has appointed a committee to report on whether Monte Sereno should contract with Los Gatos for police protection or continue its arrangement with the county sheriff's office. Another issue is a demand by the county's Central Fire Protection District for sprinklers in hillside homes, a plan costly to homeowners.

"There is discussion over subdivisions," says Fredkin, 46, a San Jose attorney. New two-story homes under construction at Winchester Boulevard and Vineland Avenue have brought criticism from neighbors, he adds.

A continuing issue, says Barbara Winckler, a retired 17-year city councilmember and former three-time mayor, is land use, particularly the size of homes that can be built on given lots. A city ordinance calls for three zones. A 3,000-square-foot house can be built on a minimum of 8,000 square feet; a 4,500-square-foot house must

stand on a half-acre, and a 6,000-square-foot house must occupy a full acre, says City Manager Rosemary Pierce.

Pierce was assistant to city administrator Don Wimberly before appointment to her present position. Dorothea Bamford, Jack Lucas, Pamela Bancroft and Nancy Hobbs serve on the City Council with Fredkin.

Wimberly, chief administrative officer from 1981-1986 and now Campbell's public works director, says, "With the rise in real estate during [my] time, there are now more large houses. Some people in modest ranch-styles who had been there 30 or 40 years were removed.

"It was a very meaningful six years for me," explains Wimberly. "The people I worked with were wonderful."

Increased traffic was another problem Winckler faced in her council service. She served on the county's Route 85 Task Force, hoping, like other Monte Serenans, that the new freeway would help relieve the situation.

"It's a low-key government," Winckler says. "There's not much interference with peoples' lives."

The legal labyrinthine twists and turns that gave birth to Monte Sereno in 1957 would defy the understanding of a Philadelphia lawyer. Adm. Inglis, the founding genius behind the little city, published a book when the fight had ended. *The Battle of Peaceful Mountain* may be a one-sided account—the admiral naturally saw the fight from his perspective—but it is thorough and detailed, reflecting his unflagging persistence in bringing the dream to life.

There were attacks and counterattacks in the mid-1950s as

Los Gatos sought to annex county land that Inglis and his neighbors had staked out for their own. The West County Improvement Association, formed by Inglis and friends to protect their homesteads from Los Gatos Town Council domination, sued Los Gatos to stop "strip" annexation.

Los Gatos, with Mayor A.E. Merrill, Town Manager Karl Baldwin and Town Attorney Rainey Hancock leading the charge, countersued. Subpoenas and writs of mandate flew like missiles.

Behind it all was San Jose's expansionism, spearheaded by ambitious City Manager Anthony P. "Dutch" Hamann. One proposed San Jose strip annexation extended to Morgan Hill, which alarmed Los Gatos, which, in turn, tried to push through strips in unincorporated land west of town.

Los Gatos' ambitions aroused the anger of Inglis and his neighbors. A number of them, like admirals C.W. Styer and Charles Lockwood (who led World War II submarine warfare in the Pacific under Adm. "Bull" Halsey) and U.S. Army Col. Louis Hutton, were retired military officers.

Public-spirited, Inglis had served on a Lexington Dam committee and on the county traffic commission.

Inglis, who had commanded a cruiser in Leyte Gulf in the Philippines and had served in Washington, D.C. as director of naval intelligence, chose the Los Gatos area for his home after looking all

over the country. A fierce defender of individual liberties, he was not about to let Los Gatos leaders or anyone else roll over him. His opinion of most town officials was not high. "All through the year-long [1957] battle," he wrote, "Los Gatos Councilmember James Stoops was decent, courteous, understanding and reasonable. I cannot say the same for Mayor Merrill or the [Los Gatos] staff."

Inglis organized a military-style campaign. Not content to defend the area in a general way, he saw to it that each important street, like Ridgecrest Drive (where he lived), Fruitvale Avenue, Quito Road and Glen Una Drive had its own "captain" and "lieutenant." (A later reduction of boundaries excluded some of these streets.)

Los Gatos officials tried every means they could to prevent a new municipality from being created out of "uninhabited" land. The latter was defined in the county code as an area with less than 12 inhabitants. In areas with designations "Northwest No. 1 and No. 2" and

"Wedgewood 1 and 2," the county-controlled areas most under assault, residents opposing Monte Sereno's formation withdrew their voting registration to reduce the number to less than 12. Inglis charged that this group was inspired by "real estate subdividers."

Riled by Los Gatos Town Attorney Hancock's contention that the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors lacked jurisdiction (and therefore could not permit Monte Sereno's incorporation), Inglis wrote, "This of course was part of a determined plan of Los Gatos and subdividers to prevent an election and to destroy Monte Sereno." The proposed election was to include residents of the proposed Monte Sereno area.

Complex legal skirmishes were fought in and out of the County Superior Court in 1956 as Los Gatos sought to curb the supervisors' jurisdiction and squash plans for the city's formation.

A second threat loomed as

Saratoga was in the process of incorporating. Its plans included close to half of the territory staked out by Inglis' West County Improvement Association for Monte Sereno.

The embattled homeowners first pinned their hopes on a ballot referendum in the November election that allowed organization of a borough within the county. A borough could determine lot sizes and would be impervious to annexation by any city. The borough idea was dropped under pressure from new developments.

A Los Gatos effort to take over Northwest No. 1, a large section of unincorporated land, was quashed by an injunction after a trial. It was one of the incorporationists' first victories.

Following a series of suits over various county uninhabited areas, the 5-square-mile city site was reduced to its present measurement, 1.5 square miles.

At one point in the involved legal battle, Los Gatos seized on a minor error in a detailed

boundary description, claiming that this made the claim worthless and so should end supervisorsial control. Judge Salsman's decision in January 1957 restored the board's authority and opened the door for Monte Sereno's incorporation.

As a public hearing before the supervisors was scheduled, opponents canvassed the area for petitions against the new city. A meeting before the county board Jan. 21 was jammed with proponents from both sides. The supervisors announced they would make a decision in two weeks.

The dramatic conclusion of the crisis came with an election of Monte Sereno area residents April 23, 1957. Of 614 votes cast that day (out of 777 registered voters), 356 favored incorporation, 258 were against. The five first members of the Monte Sereno City Council elected were Inglis, Hal C. Statler, Phyllis Lockwood, Robert Hannah and James Allen.

On May 4, 1957, California's

secretary of state confirmed the incorporation. Inglis, normally unemotional in his written accounts, allowed himself three jubilant exclamation points: "The War Was Won!!!" he wrote.

Monte Sereno—named for Mount El Sereno to the west of Los Gatos—became a community for gracious country living. Its spacious homes, scenery, private riding stables and lack of such eyesores as billboards and undesirable commercial enterprises gave it a unique atmosphere that attracted coverage in magazines such as *Sunset*. Inglis and his neighbors had fought the good fight. Los Gatos had lost.

In another way, however, it won. It now had a peaceful and much-admired close neighbor. As Inglis put it after the battle smoke had finally cleared, "The election will soon be forgotten, and Los Gatos and Monte Sereno will be united culturally, though not physically."

Monte Sereno—named for Mount El Sereno—incorporated to protect its rural character in the face of Los Gatos and San Jose's annexationist and pro-development policies.

LOS GATOS **TIMES-OBSERVER** **SARATOGA**

Mostly Fair
 Fair through Thursday. Temperature at 7 p.m. at L.G. fire house, 75; low last night, 43.

1c Per Copy

LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1957

Twelve Pages

NUMBER 154

MONTE SERENO TO INCORPORATE

Tragedy Told



Accidental Killing Described

County Bureau
SAN JOSE—The 10-year-old companion who accidentally shot Harry Roy Lantz, 12, in the Almaden hills last Tuesday and kept his secret for a week is in juvenile hall today hoping to go home soon.

Andrew Jose Ros, step-son of a laborer on the ranch owned by the dead boy's father, Arthur L. Lantz, 28229 McKean road, admitted yesterday he accidentally shot Harry in the back with a .22 caliber pistol while the pair were shooting birds only three-quarters of a mile from home.

THE LANTZ BOY'S BODY was found yesterday morning by Jerry Smith, 21, who lives at the home of his parents at 21351 Fectini road, and his brother-in-law Lloyd Hartman of San Jose, after all search had been abandoned by sheriff's deputies.

Under questioning by sheriff's inspectors Cecil Hooden and Fred Goudy, the small crew cut boy told the following story:

The two boys left home Tuesday for a day of shooting, carrying a 30-30 rifle and a 22 automatic target pistol. Lantz gave Ros the pistol.

WHEN THEY HAD CLIMBED half way up a steep hill the rifle slipped. Further details they

Monte Sereno Council



Inglis Gets Most Votes For Council

Monte Sereno will be Santa Clara county's 15th city.

By a 329 to 256 vote yesterday, residents of the area decided that the all-residential city should be legally incorporated. Completion of details that make incorporation official will take 25 to 40 days, it was estimated this morning.

SERVING ON THE CITY council of the new city will be Admiral Thomas B. Inglis, Hal Stalter, Robert Hannah, James Allen and Mrs. Charles Lockwood.

Approximately 80 per cent of the 777 registered voters in the Monte Sereno area voted, including the approximately 40 absentee ballots yet to be counted.

Final tallies for council candidates showed Allen, 267; Hannah, 274; Inglis, 332; Mrs. Lockwood, 293; Mrs. C. E. McIntyre, 137; Paul Oliver, 217; Stalter, 301; and Phil Wood, 161.

ESTIMATED POPULATION of the new city is 2,331.

Tentative budget set by proponents of the area is \$28,000. A 25-cent tax rate has been predicted by West County Improvement Association, pro-Monte Sereno group headed by Inglis.

INGLIS PREDICTED A P. for the Monte Sereno station

From left to right: Hal Stalter, James Allen, and Robert Hannah.

Photograph courtesy of the city of Monte Sereno

The founding of Monte Sereno warranted a banner headline in the Times-Observer on April 24, 1957.

Rosemary

Monte Sereno's
city manager
Rosemary Pierce
does whatever
circumstances
require—from
picking up
dead animals
to formulating
the city's annual
budget

By WES PEYTON

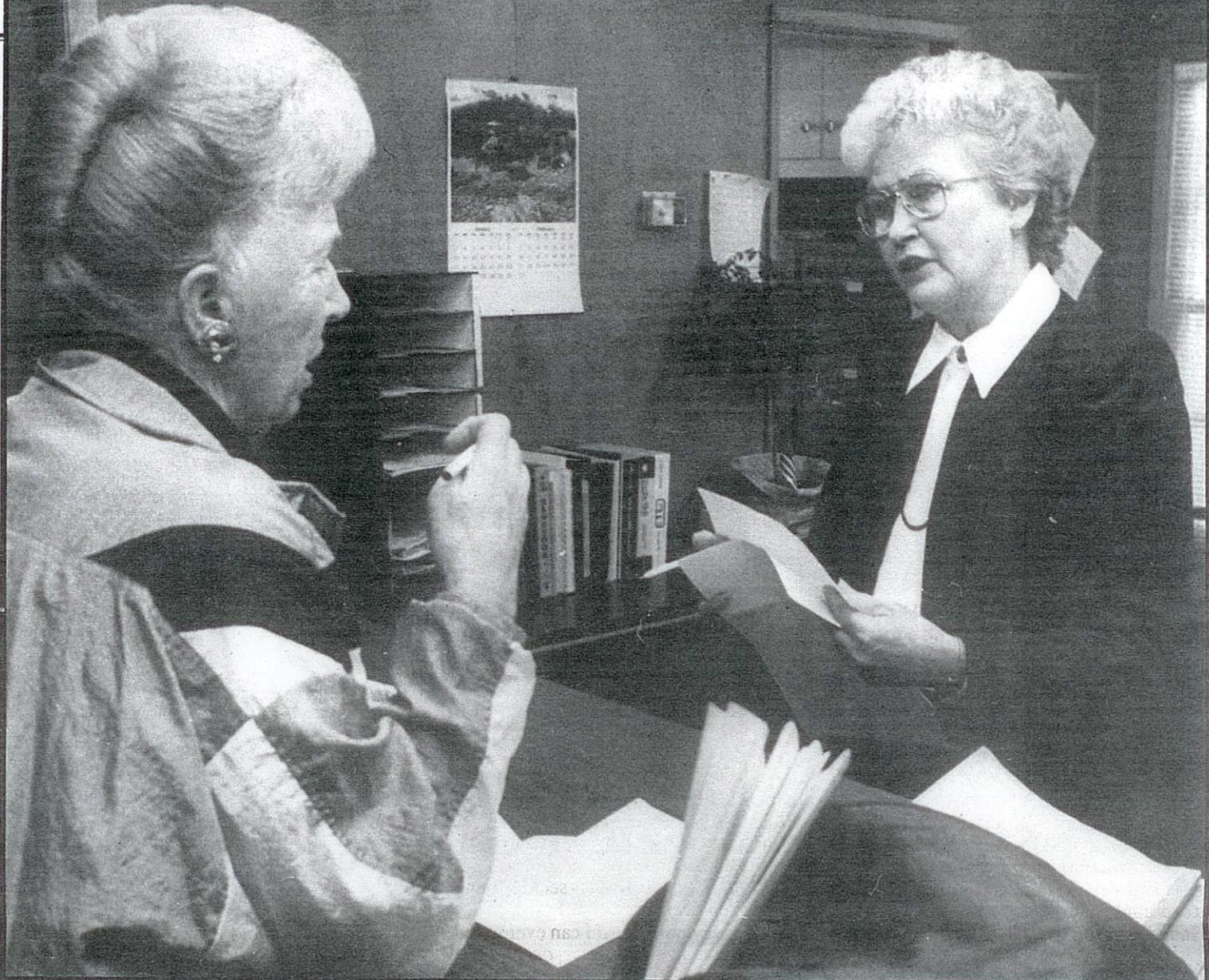
• PAGE 20

Rosemary Pierce began her tenure at the city of Monte Sereno as a part-time counter clerk.

Serene Boss

After more than ten years with the city,
Rosemary Pierce contemplates retirement

By WES PEYTON *Photographs by* GEORGE SAKKESTAD



Pierce spends some of her time helping residents, like Pat Clemens (shown here), at the City Hall counter.

Rosemary Pierce flashed a sparkling grin, leaned back in her executive chair and waved expansively.

"How do you like our new offices?" she inquired. "Quite a change, eh?"

Indeed, the Monte Sereno city manager's office, in the northeast corner of what formerly was the Los Gatos-Saratoga Red Cross chapter house, is nearly as large as the entire 960-square-foot former City Hall building next door.

"We're really proud of our new building," Pierce announced with quiet satisfaction. The city bought the building from the Red Cross last year for \$475,000 and moved in only recently after minor remodeling. Change is acceptable in Monte Sereno so long as there is not too much of it and it does not come too fast.

The new City Hall meets both these criteria. It was 35 years in coming, and its 3,100 square feet appear appropriate to the city's population growth.

Monte Sereno incorporated 35 years ago to preserve a rural status quo in the face of an expansionist Los Gatos to the east and an about-to-incorporate Saratoga to the west. It had an estimated 2,331 residents when it became a city on April 23, 1957, and it counts 3,297 residents today.

One of them, City Manager Rosemary Pierce, has lived there for all but ten of those 35 years.

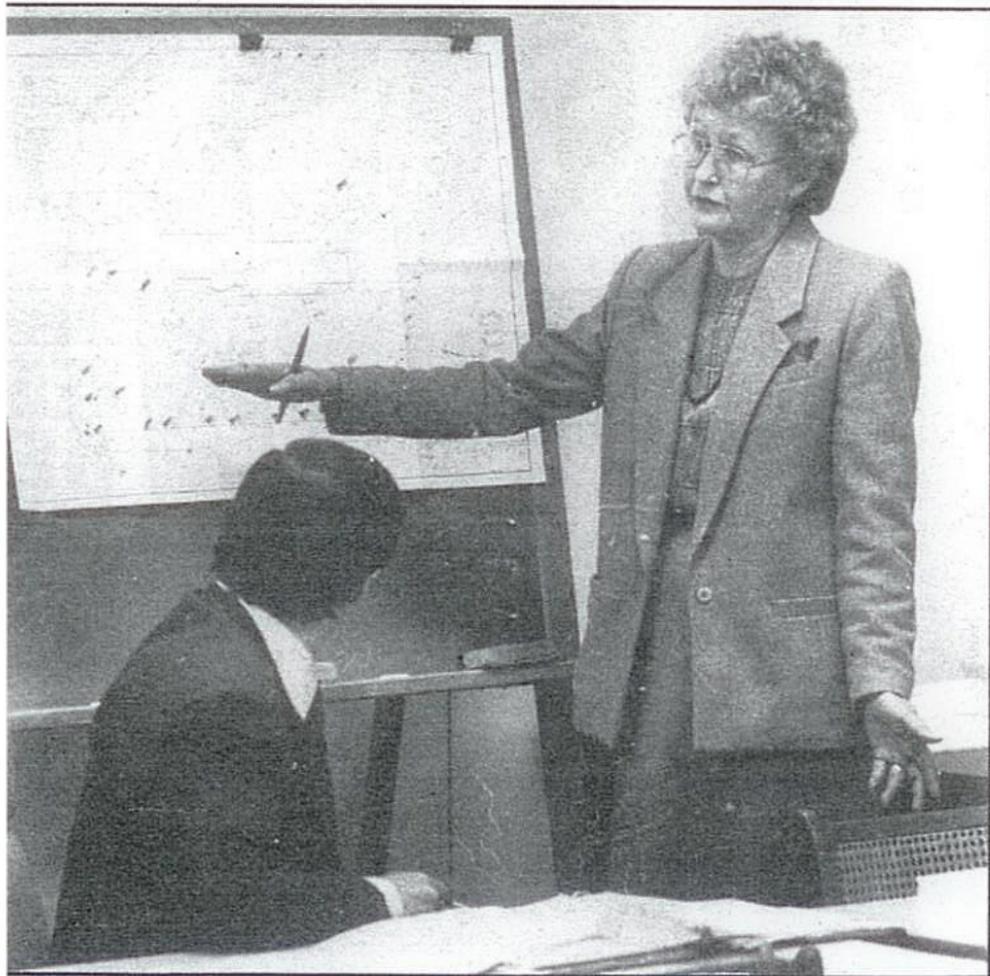
The Pierces—Rosemary, husband Burt and their five children—arrived in Monte Sereno in 1967 when the U.S. Navy assigned Chief Warrant Officer Burt Pierce to its Polaris missile development office at Lockheed

in Sunnyvale. Burt Pierce retired from the Navy a year later and joined Lockheed as an electronics engineer, retiring from that position only last year.

In February 1980, with her children grown, Rosemary Pierce joined the Monte Sereno city staff as a part-time counter clerk, progressing through the ranks as, successively, a secretary, assistant town administrator and, in 1986, city manager.

"I love this little city," she confided with a broad smile. "I can walk to work, even in the rain. And I do."

Why not? She and her husband of 40 years live two doors west on Saratoga-Los Gatos Road, and, as she points out, "you can't make a left turn from my driveway."



Pierce, who attends all City Council meetings, explains landscaping plans at a recent meeting.

But as much as she loves the city "and all the wonderful people" she has come into contact with over the past dozen years, Pierce is looking forward to retirement, "maybe as early as this summer."

Is the city actively seeking her replacement?

It would be "if I can ever find time to get a flyer out," she responded. With the building inspector on disability leave and a recuperating city clerk working only part-time, Pierce finds herself doing double, or triple, duty, even though Monte Sereno theoretically employs five full-timers.

But wearing more than one hat is not something new for Pierce. When she went to work for the city in 1980, she was 25 percent of a staff of four—two part-timers, a full-time city clerk and city administrator David Bates.

"Everybody did a little bit of everything then, too," she recalled.

Things have not changed much.

As city manager, Pierce prepares the city budget (\$722,000 in fiscal year 1992-93), doubles as planning director ("we hope to hire one this year"), oversees zoning issues, checks subdivision and construction plans (in the absence of the building inspector), manages the city staff's day-to-day operations, responds to nighttime emergencies ("like putting out flares and cones when a fallen tree blocks a road") and does whatever else events dictate.

"I picked up my first dead cat the other day," she observed with mild distaste, "now that the county's animal-control people aren't doing it anymore."

But Pierce's heaviest, and

sometimes most delicate, responsibilities are those handed her by Monte Sereno's five-member City Council. It was Pierce, for example, who was left to negotiate with an unbending Central Fire Protection District when the council balked last year at imposing new, expensive fire-safety requirements on new homes or on houses being remodeled and enlarged in the hillsides. The outcome of this issue remains in doubt, and city-district talks continue.

Officially, Monte Sereno continues to resist what it considers unwarranted governmental intrusion, and Rosemary Pierce earns a healthy chunk of her \$4,333 monthly salary by making this point with would-be intruders.

Not that the rest of the job is a piece of cake.

"It can be emotionally draining at times," she agreed, "but it's emotionally rewarding, too. Take the matter of the Daves Avenue Child Care Center."

In the mid-1980s, the Daves Avenue Baptist Church operated a small center that accommodated about 50 children of working parents.

"It was a temporary sort of thing," Pierce recalled, "until the community could find some place bigger. But the right location never seemed to pop up, and the church finally applied for a permit to expand the center to care for 75 children. That's when the neighbors began to complain about the noise and all. It got real emotional."

At Pierce's urging, the Monte Sereno City Council and the Los Gatos Union School District fashioned a compromise that still works today: The city put up \$77,176 for a portable building



City manager confers with certified arborist Eric Turner about the removal of trees at a local residence.

to be located on the grounds of Daves Avenue Elementary School, which was having space problems of its own. The expanded day-care center is gradually repaying the city and the school district. Each jurisdiction periodically splits a percentage of the center's surplus funds after operating expenses have been subtracted.

"I really think that was the most memorable project I was involved in here," said Pierce.

That it should be memorable is hardly surprising. Rosemary and Burt Pierce are the parents of five children—three girls and two boys—who have produced nine grandchildren among them. All but one of the Pierce children, and all nine grandchildren, live in Los Gatos or San Jose.

Monte Sereno's city manager has come a long way from the southeast Missouri town of Doniphan, where she was born 59

years ago. After high school, a civil-service post in the U.S. Army took her to Washington, D.C., and the Pentagon, where a mutual friend introduced her to her husband-to-be, Burt Pierce.

Twenty years in the Navy—with Burt serving in submarines most of the time—took them to ports from the Eastern Seaboard to Scotland and saw the Pierce family grow along the way.

“I really don’t think the travel and the foreign-duty stations harmed the children in any way,” Pierce reflected.

Perhaps it was the flexibility bred of balancing the competing interests of five children, as well as an openness to new experiences, that led Rosemary Pierce to seek a career in municipal government at an age when other women might be ready to welcome a slower domestic pace.

For whatever reason, Pierce, who wears her 59 years with grace, dignity and visible energy, plunged into public administration. Looking back on the past dozen years, she is full of praise—and appreciation—for those who helped her succeed in her career: former City Engineer/City Manager Burt Olmsted, “who showed me how things are done in government”; a later city manager, Don Wimberly, “who trained me as his assistant”; the staffs of the county public works and communication departments, “who are always there when we need them”; and to “all the wonderful people of this wonderful little city.”

Yes, she agreed, she will miss them when she retires this summer—or whenever.

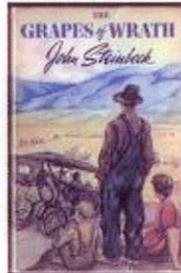
“I can’t leave while we’re still short-staffed,” she said firmly.

That, in essence, is Rosemary Pierce.

John Steinbeck lived in Monte Sereno Foothills Known as Arroyo Del Ajo or “Garlic Gulch”

"People don't take trips
... trips take people."
— John Steinbeck

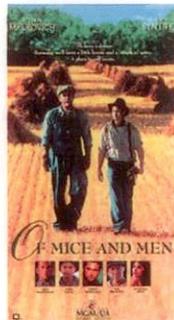
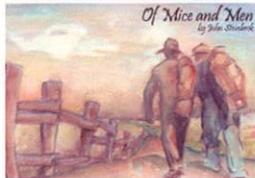
John Steinbeck lives in Monte Sereno
In 1936. The home site is located on
Greenwood Drive.



Writes:

“Grapes of Wrath” and finishes draft of
“Mice and Men”

Entertains Charlie Chaplin &
Burgess Meredith



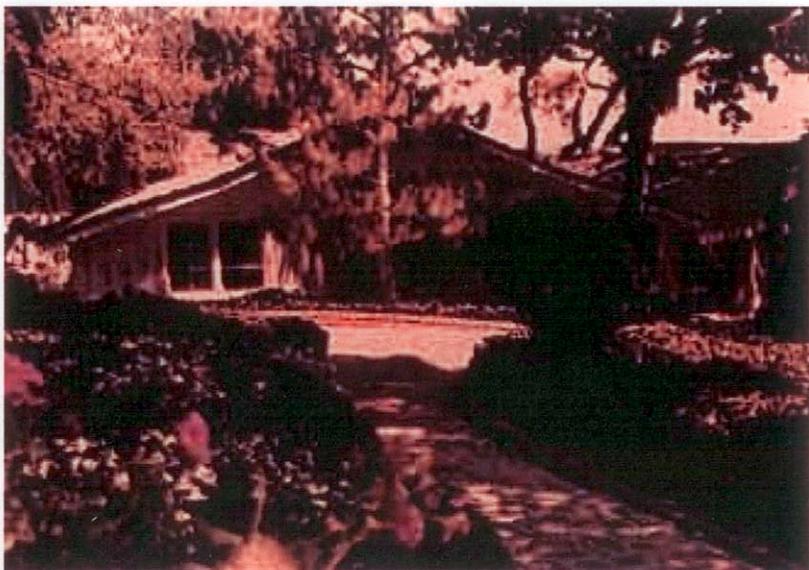
Builds cottage and plants garden

The winding used brick walkway
leading to the cottage is still intact

“



History of Garlic Gulch



"We have a dream. Someday, we'll have a little house and a couple of acres. A place to call home."

- John and Carol Steinbeck purchased a 1.639 acre plot of land in what was then Los Gatos, California (now Monte Sereno) in May 1936.
- In the summer of 1936 Carol and John Steinbeck's 1,452 square foot home was built.

This small, single story, wood home was the first owned by Steinbeck. An eight-foot grape stake fence was built around the property to ensure Steinbeck's privacy.

A carved wooden plaque, "Arroyo del Ajo" or "Garlic Gulch" was placed on the entrance gate.
- Steinbeck completed *Of Mice and Men* and *The Grapes of Wrath* while living in his first Monte Sereno, California home. He also entertained Burgess Meredith and Charlie Chaplin in this home.
- John and Carol Steinbeck sold this house in September 1938 because they began to lose their privacy as other homes were being built near by. In December 1989, this house was added to the National Historic Registry.

Courtesy San Jose State University



Fireworks Manufacturing in Monte Sereno ?

Manufacturing companies produced fireworks pyrotechnics and blasting powder in Monte Sereno. From 1920 to 1948.

Fred Hitt produced fireworks under the name Pacific Fireworks company.

The Ross house was built some time in the 1890s. Although the original builder is unknown. The second owner, a Fundamentalist Baptist Minister named Fred Hitt, bought the property in 1923 and converted it into the Pacific States Fireworks Company. In the 1940s, the state deemed the fireworks production too dangerous, but allowed Hitt to continue working with the same materials to produce a product called "Rodent Destroyer Bombs." Hitt sold the property to the Ross family in 1963.

A neighbor of Fred's ran the Columbia Powder Company the exploded in 1953 when the boiler caught fire.



Thomas and Fred Hitt

Fred Hitt produced fireworks under the name Pacific Fireworks company.

Fred learned this trade from his brothers business in Seattle WA.

Thomas, Fred & Raymond Hitts work caught the eye of Hollywood in the 1900's after producing the following shows;

1909 Opening of the Yukon- Alaskan Exposition

1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco

1926 Philadelphia Sesquicentennial

1939 New York Worlds Fair

Fred's family was hired for all the special effects for the movies, "Gone with the Wind", "All Quiet On The Western Front" and "What Price Glory"

Fred performed stunt flying in his spare time and performed an acrobatics show in Oakland California where he mounted magnesium flares on his Curtis Jenny Biplane. Fred Stole the show when his Jenny caught fire from the flares and he successfully crash landed his plane after a spectacular show for the crowd.



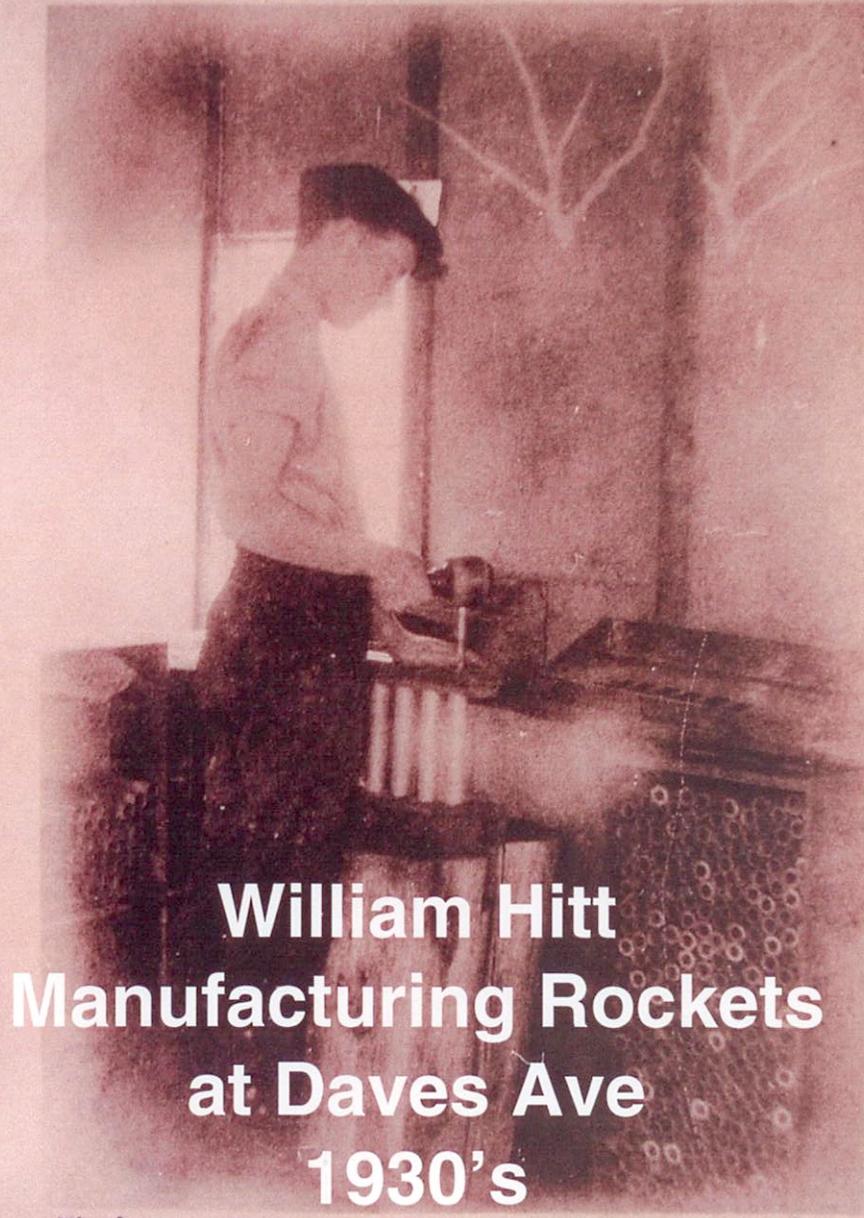
**Hitt Family's Famous
Pyrotechnic Cinema Contribution
The Burning of Atlanta
"Gone With The Wind"
1931**

1925



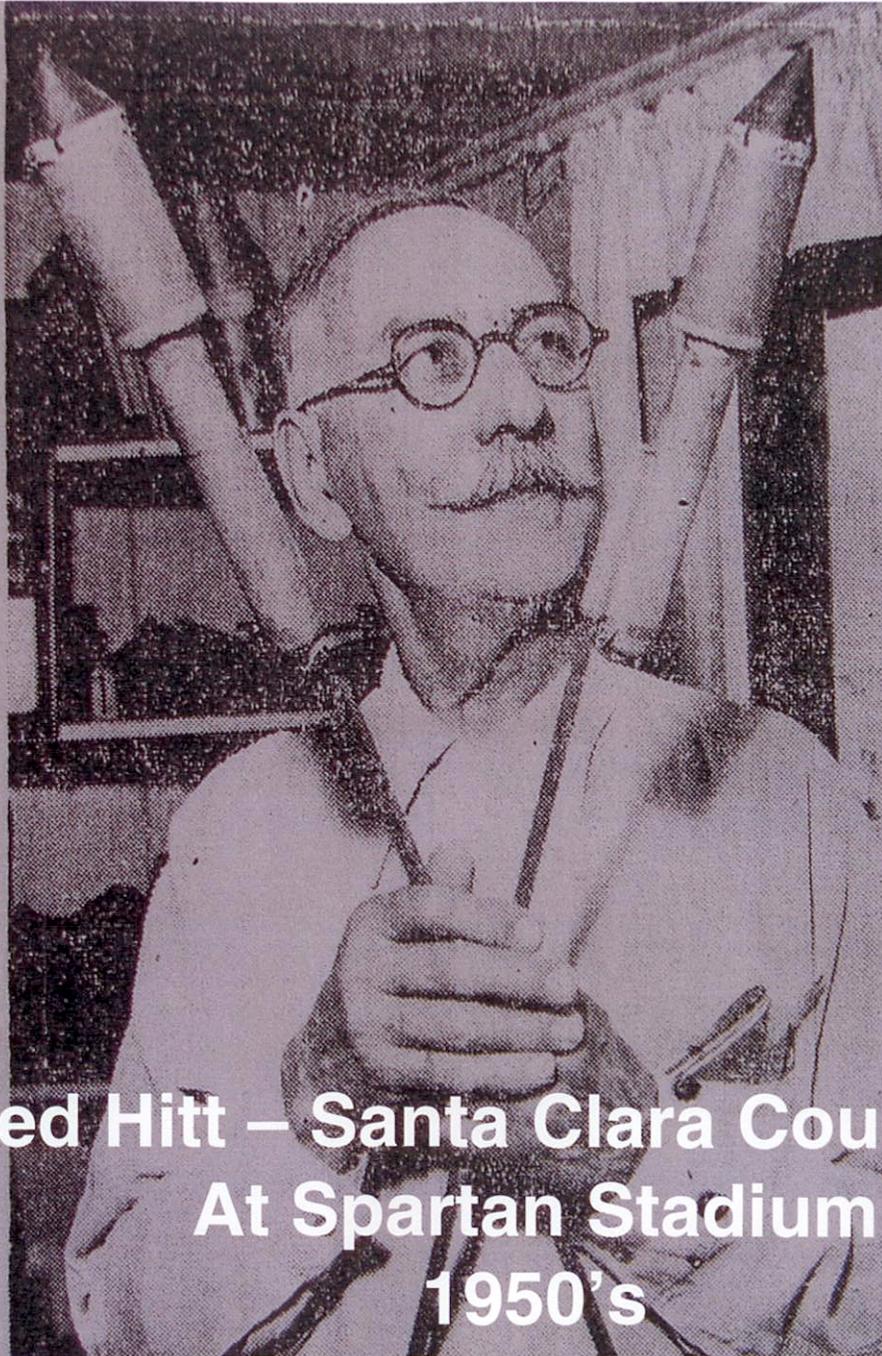
**Fred Hitt's Home and Fireworks Factory
1925 to 1963**

ROCKET SHOP.



**William Hitt
Manufacturing Rockets
at Daves Ave
1930's**

Filling 2 Pound Rockets. "120 Blows Each"



**Fred Hitt – Santa Clara County Fair
At Spartan Stadium
1950's**

MAKES BIG BANGS—One man who has probably had more fun with fireworks than anyone else in Santa Clara

Then there will be exhibitions of drill team work by Joann DeSoto's Top Hatters, the San Jose YMI Drum Corps, the Parks Air Force Base Band and the Gilroy VFW Girls Drill Team.

Retreat will be sounded at 9:10 p.m. It will be followed by the formal program for the evening.

FORMAL PROGRAM

Mark Alexander, general chairman for the evening, will be master of ceremonies. He will introduce the Rev. Mark Rifenburg, pastor of Trinity Episcopal Church, who will give the invocation.

The audience will then be led in singing "America" by Ed J. Ferguson. Guests will be introduced and Mayor Parker Hathaway will give a brief address on the "Significance of Fourth of July."

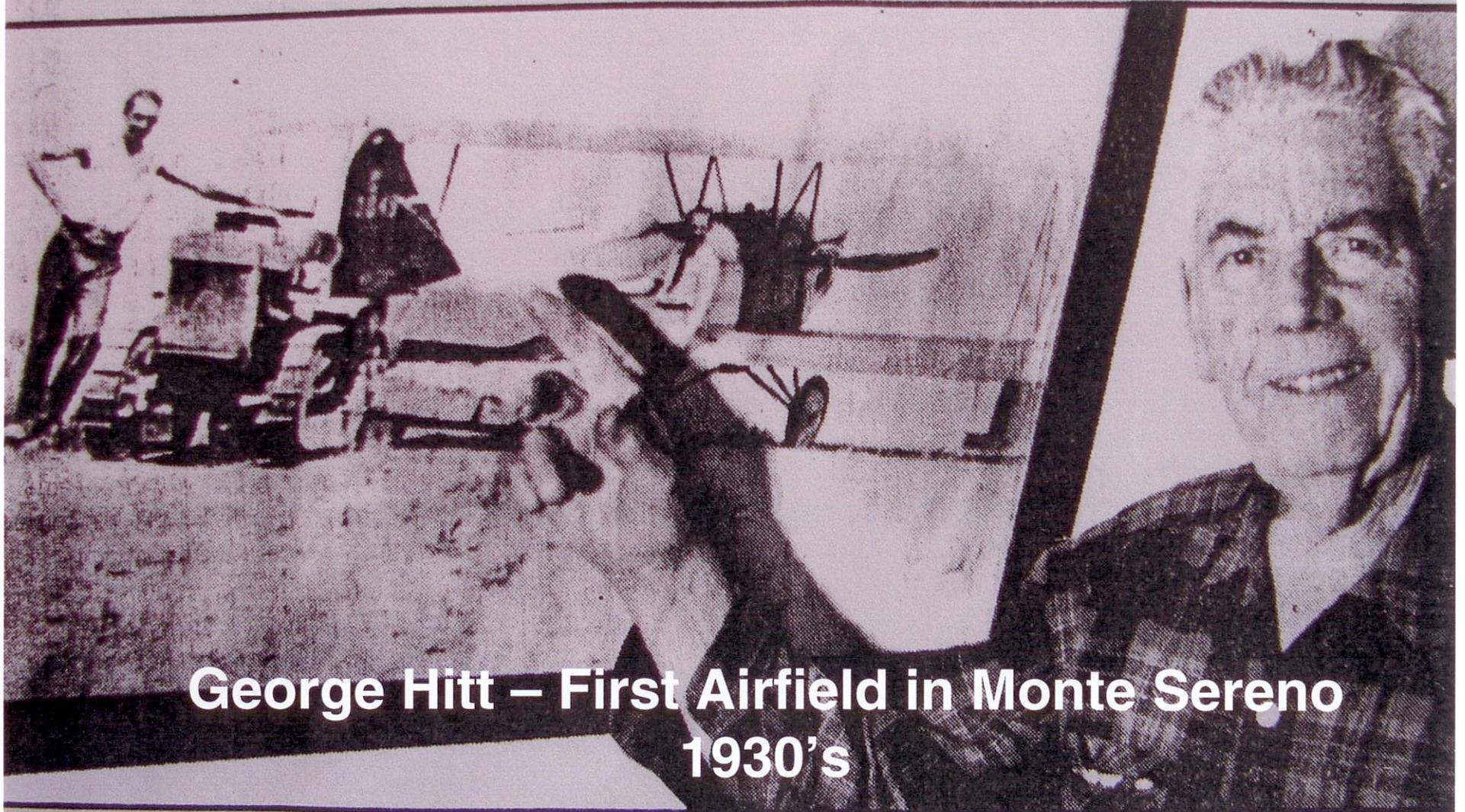
The audience will join in singing "God Bless America," and then the firing of aerial rockets will begin the fireworks display.

Included in the program scheduled by the Atlas Fireworks Co. will be skyrockets and displays which will show President Eisenhower, the American flag, palm trees, a lattice of silver blossoms, a revolving globe, Roman candles, fireworks and a giant fountain of molten metal.

Parents and children have been asked by the Chamber of Commerce not to bring sparklers to the stadium. In past years they have caused some difficulty.

Traffic control to and from the Spartan Stadium will be enforced by the San Jose Police Department. Areas near the Municipal Ball Park have been set aside as

family firework tradition



**George Hitt – First Airfield in Monte Sereno
1930's**

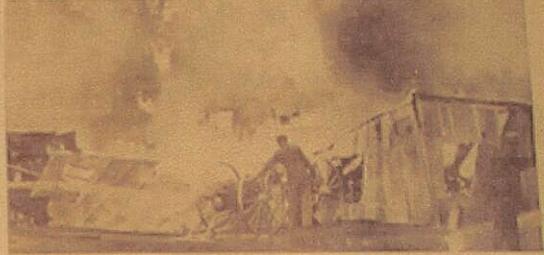
Some shows in the early 30's we liked to open with the airplane rigged with flares on the wings struts. I did wear a parachute and tried to stay over water – just in case,' – George Hitt.

Ron Dean/The

Fred Hitt's Fireworks Factory explodes

September 25, 1953

40 County Firemen Save 10 of 15 Buildings



Los Gatos Daily Times

Printed in the beautiful "Piedmont" region, overlooking the Pacific Ocean Coast, in the heart of California.

Fair Weekend

For more news and information, call 451-1111. The Times is published daily, except on Sundays and public holidays. The subscription price is \$1.00 per month, \$10.00 per year in advance. Single copies 10¢.

of Papers

For a list of all papers, call 451-1111. The Times is published daily, except on Sundays and public holidays. The subscription price is \$1.00 per month, \$10.00 per year in advance. Single copies 10¢.



HITT - Fred Hitt, owner of the fireworks factory, is seen in a photograph. He is wearing a suit and tie, and is looking towards the camera.

for NEWS of the CAMBRIAN Area. Read it First.

Railway Signal Company Fire Damage \$75,000



New York Silent 15 Minutes

A 15-minute period of silence was observed in New York City today to honor the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The silence was observed from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in all schools, churches, and public buildings. The President died on September 28, 1953.

On Nightman Road Presbyterian Church Building



Torpedoes, Fuses Feed Spectacular Early Morning Blaze Here

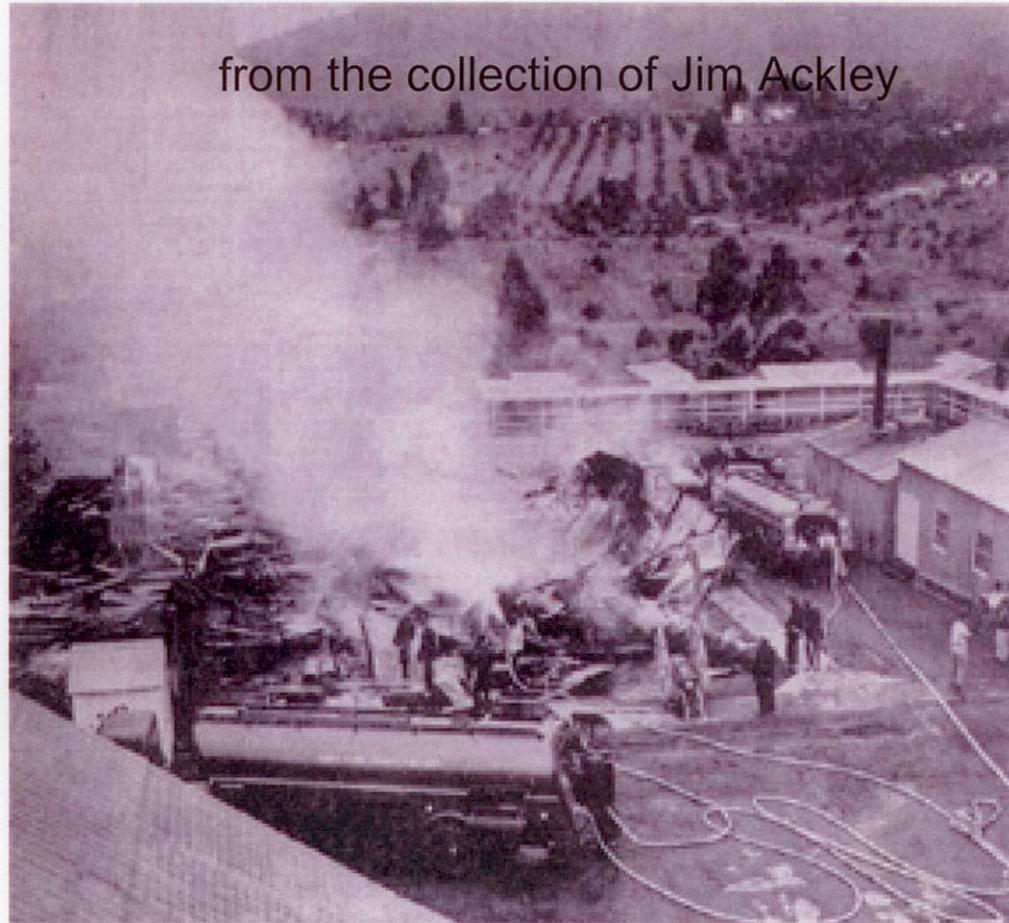
A spectacular fire broke out at the Fred Hitt fireworks factory in Los Gatos, California, early this morning. The fire, which started at about 5:30 a.m., was caused by a fuse that had become too long and had ignited. The fire spread rapidly, and within a few minutes, the entire factory was in flames. Firefighters arrived at the scene at about 6:30 a.m. and worked for several hours to bring the fire under control. The fire destroyed 15 buildings, but 10 buildings were saved. The damage to the buildings is estimated to be \$75,000. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Jet Pilot Killed In Mid-Air Crash Over Las Vegas

A jet pilot was killed in a mid-air crash over Las Vegas, Nevada, today. The pilot, who was flying a private jet, crashed into the desert shortly after takeoff. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.



Hitt Factory Fire



A rare photo showing two of County Fire's tankers together, here at the ruins of five buildings of the Pacific Railway Signal Co., Los Gatos, destroyed by fire on 25 September 1953. The fire started in a vat containing paraffin wax, used in preparation of red signal flares for the railroads. From a San Jose News clipping.



Walt Disney Visitor at the Billy Jones Ranch

Walt Disney was a frequent visitor to the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad on Dave's Avenue. It has been said that the story of "Casey Jones" is based on the life of Billy Jones

Walt Disney offered to buy the BJWR to relocate it To the new theme park.

Billy Jones purchased the number 2 and 3 engine From the Venice Beach Railway. The number 2 steam Engine was restored in 2004.

Billy Jones also owned four other engines which he sold to a close friend by the name of Albert Smith (Orchard Supply stores) which are now a part of the railway. One of the engines is on display in the California Railroad Museum in Sacramento.



Billy Jones Wild Cat Railroad

Daves Avenue Orchard





Walt Disney, Billy Jones alliance was a close one

By John S. Baggerly

You may sit next to a man who professes that he preferred the old steam engines to modern diesel jobs. Sip a cup of coffee in downtown Los Gatos, and you may chat with a newcomer who asks where the old railroad ran through Los Gatos, into the hills and through tunnels to Santa Cruz. Return a telephone call, and you--at least if you're this writer--are talking to Steve Tickes, a Los Gatos Weekly-Times subscriber who offers to show his 15 reproductions of photographs involving Walt Disney. For Los Gatans, the prize photo is the one of our own Billy Jones visiting with Disney at his Southern California estate.

Another prized photo in the collection is that of a reconstructed horse barn on his estate that Disney recalled fondly from his youth in Missouri. It was on the outer walls of the original barn that young Walt used tar and a stick to draw his first cartoon figures. Tickes acquired his photo collection in an unlikely manner. On the job at Lucky Supermarket, he met a woman with a slide collection of the Disney ranch and home in Southern California. From her slides, he produced his collection.

It is no accident that Tickes settled in the West Valley. Born in Sacramento, Tickes' father tired of the heat and moved his family to the San Jose area, partly because great-great grandfather Edwin Cox had farmed in Saratoga, where today a street--Cox Avenue--bears his name. Tickes' interest in Billy Jones' railroad came naturally. Tickes' father-in-law, Karry Derrington, helped lay tracks when the Billy Jones engine was moved to Oak Meadow Park and into adjoining Vasona, a county park.

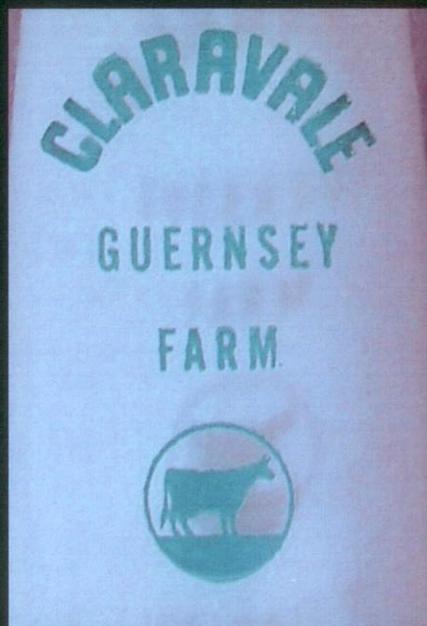
Tickes made his first trip to Disneyland in the 1950s. Trips south became annual events for him and wife, Donna, and children Brian, Jennifer and Kevin. The Disney-Los Gatos connection is actually an old one. Back when there were service stations on downtown corners, the late Louis "Lou" Sporleder--or perhaps it was Ed Malatesta--called the local press to inform that a limousine driver had asked the way to Billy Jones' Railroad, which ran along his fruit-tree orchard on outer N. Santa Cruz Avenue at the corner of Daves Avenue. The limo may or may not have contained the future monarch of the Magic Kingdom, but Disney was contemplating creating a passenger-carrying miniature railroad at that time. Disneyland may have been in the back of his mind, but the park idea was not yet common knowledge.

The Disney-Jones alliance became a close one. Jones was at the throttle when the Disneyland train made its first run. Himself a steam-engine nut, Disney built a miniature line on his estate, and, true to rail procedure, he acquired a right-of-way through his wife's garden. Jones had originally been a working engineer who met his wife in a coffee shop during a water stop at Wright's Station, which was between Los Gatos and Santa Cruz.

Romance rode the rails more than once. A Los Gatos man riding the old Interurban Street Car from Los Gatos to San Jose courted a pretty co-rider by bringing her spring wildflowers. Marriage resulted.

Not everyone loved Billy Jones' orchard railroad, particularly fathers who tried to get Sunday garden work out of their children. When the kids heard the train's whistle, they would whine to take a ride. Jones ran his railroad free of charge on Sundays for the benefit of local groups. He kept donations in a large glass jar. Child work crews did not reassemble easily after a train ride, but at least the snookered dads gained a happy memory.

Claravale Milk Bottle





WEST

Farms? In Silicon Valley?

Mr. and Mrs.
Peake and
Claravale Dairy
make a last
stand.



WEST

FEATURES

The happy warrior

4

By Michael S. Malone

For everyone from secretaries to CEOs, Silicon Valley is a minefield. Sid Wilkins takes in wounded ex-employees and rehabilitates them, particularly the potentially dangerous ones.

Cover story: Milk and money

12

By Tim Larimer



JUDY GRIESEDECK

For a glimpse of the way we were, drive up to Monte Sereno and Mr. Peake's Claravale Dairy. But don't wait too long to make the trip.

MILK and MONEY

By TIM LARIME

O

N A CHILLY WINTER DAY, MIST ROLLS DOWN FROM the Santa Cruz Mountains onto the valley below. A gentle rain begins to fall on rooftops and street lights and cars. All the noise of the people hurrying about the streets of the busy communities, all of this loudness begins to dissolve into a quiet blur, creating a vision of a beautiful place that once was.

Kenneth Peake is driving his 1969 green Chevrolet pickup truck down from his hilltop in Monte Sereno. It is Tuesday, so in the back of the truck Mr. Peake carries dozens of bottles of clean, white milk, milk that his 81-year-old hands, big and strong, coaxed from his precious

Guernsey cows just hours before. He delivers the milk to customers in Los Gatos and Saratoga every Tuesday, when he goes to town to buy groceries, drop off his suit at the cleaners and do his banking.

Mr. and Mrs. Peake have a dairy. It sits, all four acres, on a knoll on the edge of Los Gatos, in the tiny residential town of Monte Sereno. Some of this valley's wealthiest and most successful entrepreneurs live in Monte Sereno. Some of them go to sleep at night with the rhythmic tolling of the bells that hang around the necks of Mr. Peake's cows. Some of them share a backyard fence with a cow pasture, their million-dollar homes on one side, Mr. Peake and his cows on the other.

Cows have grazed and calved and been milked on this land since 1931, a remarkable record of endurance in a valley where the landscape seems to change with each season. Mr. Peake watched the prune orchards topple one by one. He saw the houses go up in the valley below, near the grocery store and the bank, down the road, and finally, on his hill. Soon, another house will be built even closer; in December Mr. Peake sold another acre of his land to raise money. If he loses any more, he will shut down the dairy and leave his hill for good. Nearly six decades after leading his cows, one by one, across the Santa Clara Valley and up to his hilltop, Mr. Peake clings to his last four acres, to life on the farm that long ago slipped away from this valley.

So this is not only Mr. Peake's last stand. It is a last stand for the agricultural heritage of an entire community.

"Look around you, son," he tells me.

He has stopped the truck at a nursery where he deposits four bottles of milk at the doorstep. The rain trickles down his large yellow hat, runs across the rim and drips before his eyes, which are focused on the mountains.

I try to imagine the world as Mr. Peake sees it, a world that was here



Photographs by JUDY GRIESEDECK ~



Flanked by Monte Sereno mansions, Mr. Peake's dairy shows what this valley once was. But here in its last outpost, the pastoral dream is threatened by financial reality





THE MILK must go through, rain or shine, despite Mr. Peake's age—he's 81—and the state of his health: He underwent foot surgery last June after years of having his toes stepped on by cows.

before people like me moved in. But the cars racing by obstruct my view of the past.

"This is a beautiful place we live in," he says. "Look at those mountains. We are so lucky to live here. But nobody takes the time. Nobody stops to notice.

"I want to die here," he says. "I never want to leave my hill. I just want to hold on to it as long as I live."

We drive away, in silence. We stop at a ranch where a family still maintains an orchard of apricot and cherry trees. He drops off two quarts of milk. Mr. Peake stands for a few minutes, admiring the orchards. "These people are good; they are hanging in there," he says. The house and barn sit back from the road several hundred feet, so that from here, all that the eye can see are trees, rows and rows of trees.

He drives on down to Saratoga, maneuvers his bulky Chevy truck among the BMWs and Volvos and Mercedes-Benzenes, and parks outside the bank. He has deposited his money and borrowed money from this bank for many years. But in September, the bank, a branch of Barclays Bank of California, became a branch of Wells Fargo. Most of the tellers who knew him no longer work here. He once brought bottles of milk with him on his runs to the bank. The tellers would all take a break and have cookies and milk and chat with their friend the dairyman. He doesn't do that anymore, he says, because the atmosphere isn't as friendly. The week before, he had tried to deposit a check to pay off a loan. Nobody in the bank knew who he was or what loan he was talking about.

The people in the bank had to make five phone calls before someone could find the proper record. "No way to treat people," he says. So now, he tells me, after all these years, he just might take all his money out and do his banking somewhere else.

"I just can't take it," he says.

He walks inside, his big black boots plodding across the beige carpet, leaving tracks of water, and takes a plastic pouch from the pocket of his blue denim overalls. A little sign tells customers to wait for the next available teller. Mr. Peake ignores it, and walks to the edge of the counter. A young woman, a teller, looks up at him with arched eyebrows. She takes the money and returns to her computer terminal.

An older woman walks over and reaches out to Mr. Peake. It's Min, the last employee of the old bank who still works for the new managers. She clasps his hands and smiles. Then she hands him an empty milk bottle. Mr. Peake beams.

"Things just aren't the same around here," she says.

"What has happened to people?" he asks. "When did things change so?"

The younger woman looks up from her computer terminal and just stares at him.

THE REASON MR. PEAKE IS A DAIRYMAN IS THAT he couldn't see very well in 1927.

He was a student at San Jose State, studying business and journalism, when his eyesight began bothering him. So his professors suggested he pursue a career that would require less reading. "I told them I loved



'G LASS AND MILK PEAKE, 'ARE COMPATIBLE HAD TURNED IN THE BOTTLES, WE WOULD PLASTIC CARTONS.'



animals, and one of them suggested, 'Why not a dairy?' " he says. So a dairy it was. He was barely 20 years old and had not a dime to his name, so he went to a man who worked for one of the packing and canning companies and asked him for enough money to buy a cow and a pail. He borrowed \$140. In a barn on his mother's ranch in Campbell, he started milking the cow and peddling the bottles of milk.

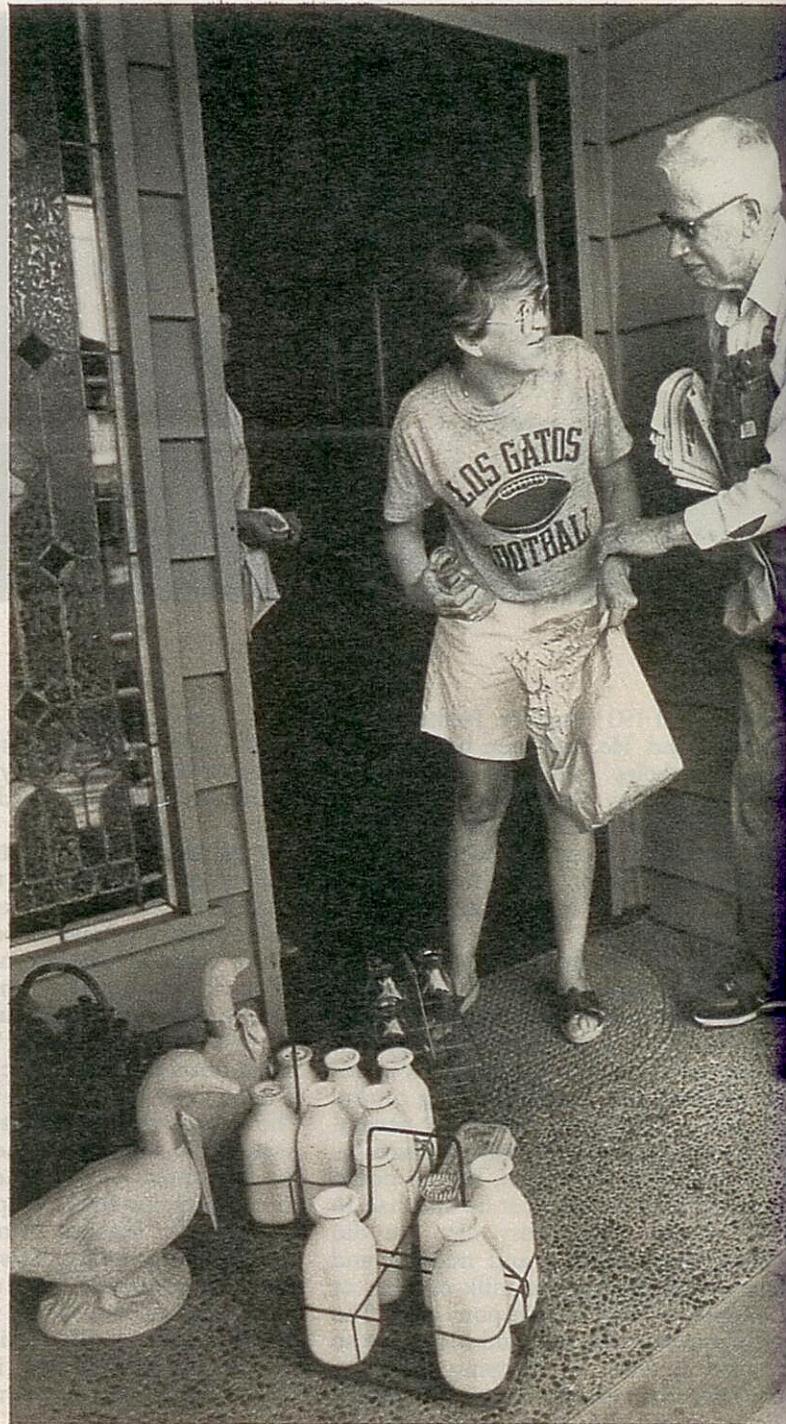
"Oh, Mr. Peake, he didn't know the first thing about dairies," says Mrs. Peake. Everybody calls him Mr. Peake. Even Mrs. Peake. "That cow, she was a Jersey. And she poured out a great quantity of milk. Well, when she did that, she poured out all her body's calcium and she came down with milk fever." Mr. Peake didn't know what to do, and the cow died. He had owned her for just 10 days.

So Mr. Peake went back to his lender and asked him for more money. The man agreed on one condition: He wanted to name the dairy. He had once seen a label on a box of fruit that read "Claravale," a contraction of the place he loved, the Santa Clara Valley. Mr. Peake agreed, went back to his mother's barn and began his devotion to his cows and to his land.

MR. PEAKE worries about his bottles. Because his bottling machinery is designed for a size of bottle no longer made, he needs to recover empties.

AT THE BANK, above, he makes a delivery to Min Welch, the only employee who remains from a recent change in management.

EMPTIES ARE gratefully received from Bonnie Knopf, a Los Gatos customer.





HELP FOR the dairy's endless chores comes from neighbors such as Diane Lynch as well as employee Michael Murphy.



MRS. PEAKE, who suffered a stroke and a bad fall last year, now spends her time writing a story about life on the dairy.

It wasn't until 1931 that Mr. Peake looked for his own land. He had been born on top of a hill in Berkeley, in a large house with a view of the Golden Gate. But his parents divorced when he was a teen-ager, and his mother moved to Campbell with the children: Kenneth; Marion, who lives in Carmel; Cedric, who died in 1938; and Graham, who died in 1953.

Now that Kenneth needed his own land, he gravitated toward another hilltop, one in a wheat field with few other people or farms around. There was a house on the property, a two-story salt box that had no glass panes in the windows and doors swinging on the hinges, and a dilapidated barn. For several weeks, he rarely slept. He had to move his herd of cows from Campbell, but he could move only one at a time. Yet he still had to milk all of the cows every day. He did everything, then, feeding and milking and bottling and delivering the milk on foot or on a bicycle or with a little pony cart. The winter nights were so cold and his house so drafty that he took to sleeping with the calves in the barn. Finally, he tore down the old house, saved the wood and nails and

built a new house.

Miraculously, his eyesight improved. It was as if the serene valley that stretched out before his eyes had cured his vision.

"MY PARENTS," SAYS MARILYN DAVALOS, THE Peakes' daughter, "have the lowest cholesterol levels of anyone I know."

The Peakes appear to be living testaments to the value of wholesome milk. Mr. Peake drinks it by the gallon, and has every day of his life. So they don't quite understand all the fuss about skim milk. The non-fat dilemma is not a pleasant topic around Claravale. It used to be that nobody wanted skim milk. The Peakes practically had to give the stuff away. Now, after all the health reports about the fat content of milk and what that can do to one's cholesterol, people don't want the whole milk. Making skim milk is difficult and time-consuming, however, so Mr. Peake discourages people from drinking it.

"He figures this is the way God intended for us to drink milk, straight from the cow, no messing around with it. Why could people do anything to it to make it better than milk in its natural state?" Marilyn says.

He sells raw milk. The six cows give him 125 quarts a day. It's not homogenized or pasteurized, so it can't sit around for very long. "I've got 30 hours to bottle it and sell it, that's the law," he says. He washes the glass bottles in soap and water, rinses them in an iodine disinfectant and steams them to sterilize them. "Glass and milk," he says, "are compatible." Perhaps they are, but gathering bottles for the milk has become an obsession at the dairy. The bottles are now collectors' items. They are worth more sitting on someone's shelf empty than they are in the refrigerator filled with milk. A neighbor found one of their bottles, imprinted with "Claravale Dairy," for sale in an antique store. Customers sometimes fail to return them, and Mr. Peake frets that the world will run out of glass milk bottles before the world sees the last of Mr. Peake. The people who keep them are trying to hold on to a treasured piece of the past, at least that's the way the Peakes figure it. The Peakes keep them to sell their milk.

The bottles have dictated Mr. Peake's approach to retailing. If he sold to stores, he could sell more and make more money. But if he were to do that, he'd lose control over his inventory of bottles. By selling directly to the consumer, who comes to the farm to buy the milk, he increases the likelihood that the bottles will be returned.

So why not just buy more bottles? Because there aren't any. His bottles have a 56-millimeter top. Nobody manufactures those anymore. Bottles with 38-millimeter rims are more widely used. Simply switching from one size bottle to another isn't so easy for Mr. Peake, because the machinery he uses for bottling and capping dates back to the 1940s. Nobody manufactures it anymore, either, and nobody makes parts for it. So he would have to invest in entirely new equipment. Instead, he prays that his customers will be responsible and return the bottles. A few years ago, the situation became so serious that neighbors spent hours making telephone calls around the country, looking for the right kind of bottles. Finally, 2,000 empty bottles were located in Indiana.

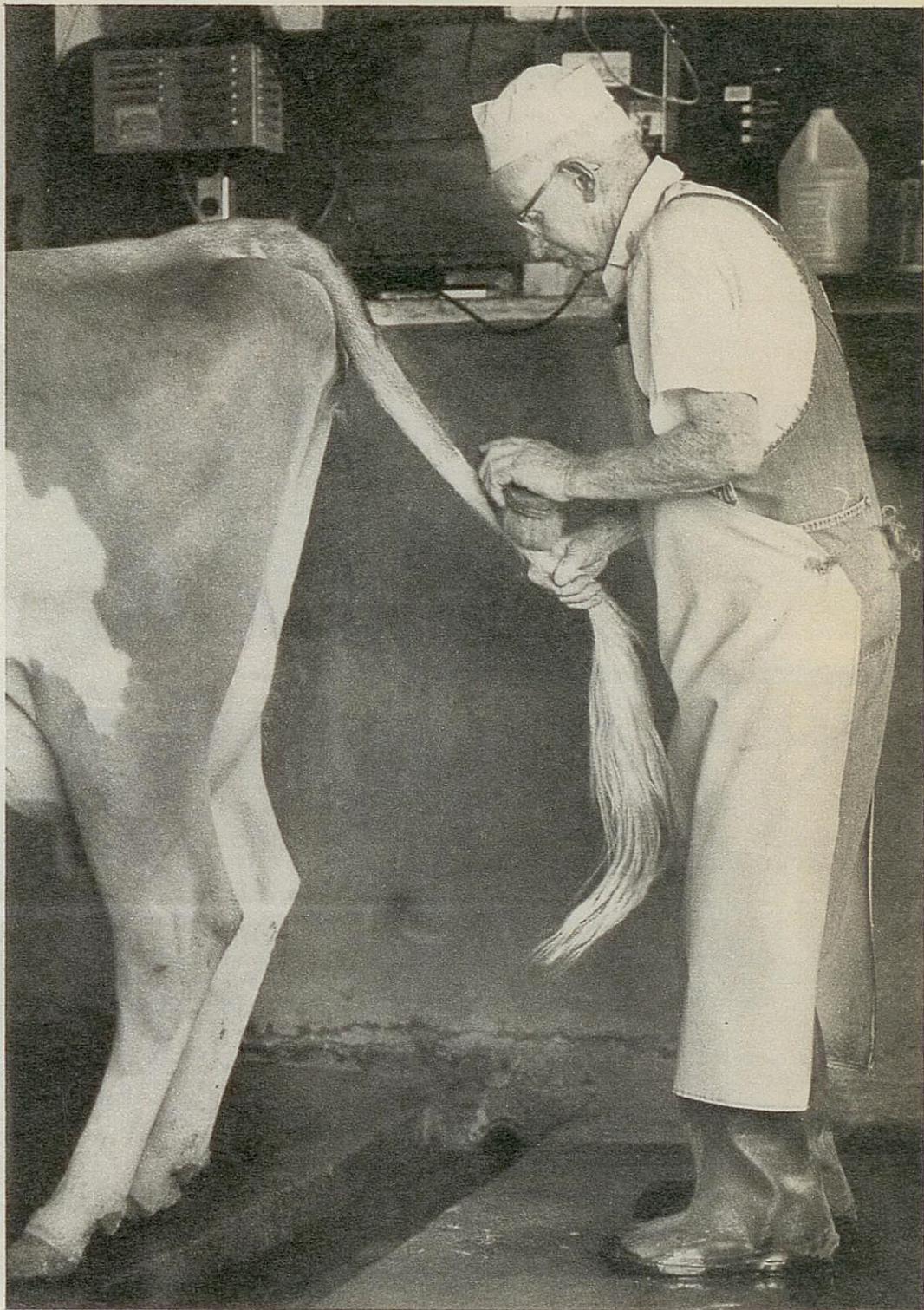
"If people had turned in their milk bottles all along," Mr. Peake says, "America wouldn't have plastic milk cartons."

Mr. Peake thinks most people are rather ignorant about their food. They don't know where it comes from, don't bother to find out and care more about convenience than quality. Mrs. Peake delights in telling a story of a schoolchild who came to visit the farm on a class field trip. He looked up, wide-eyed, at an apple tree.

"Mrs. Peake, why do you hang those apples on the tree? It's not Christmas."

So setting children straight occupies much of their time. Mrs. Peake last year suffered a stroke, fell, hit her head on the bedroom bureau and cracked her head open. She cannot move as easily as she once did and cannot work on the farm as she once did. So she has devoted hours to writing a story about life on the dairy that she hopes to have published.

As much as selling milk, and quality milk at that, to an appreciative clientele, the Peakes have made it their mission to edu-



CLEANLINESS is essential in a dairy that sells milk that's not pasteurized or homogenized. Neither customers nor state health inspectors have ever found reason to complain about Mr. Peake's dairy.

OWNERS OF LARGER DAIRIES THINK MR. PEAKE PAMPERS HIS COWS, MAKING IT HARD FOR THEM TO ADJUST TO LIFE OUTSIDE OF CLARAVALE.

cate. Not just anyone can buy the milk. One of his farmhands told me that people sometimes call to inquire about the milk, to ask how they can buy it.

"Mr. Peake won't sell any to them," said the farmhand. "You have to drive up here and meet him in person and ask him to buy some. That's the way he does business."

His customers each have a day when they are scheduled to pick up their milk. Every afternoon during the week, they come out to the farm, a line of cars making their way up the steep driveway like devoted followers on a religious pilgrimage. Several Orthodox Jews buy the milk because their rabbis have watched the milking and bottling and determined that Mr. Peake's milk meets their standards of cleanliness.

He offered me a quart of his milk, which he sells for \$1.25.

"You'll bring back the bottle, won't you?" he reminded me.

The next day, I returned to the farm.

"Did you bring back the bottle?"

I explained that there was still a pint of milk, at least, inside the bottle. He looked puzzled. To a man who drinks two or three quarts of milk a day, this sounded odd.

"You haven't finished it yet?" he asked.

I told him that I didn't drink a lot of milk. He frowned.

"Well, I hope you'll remember the bottle."

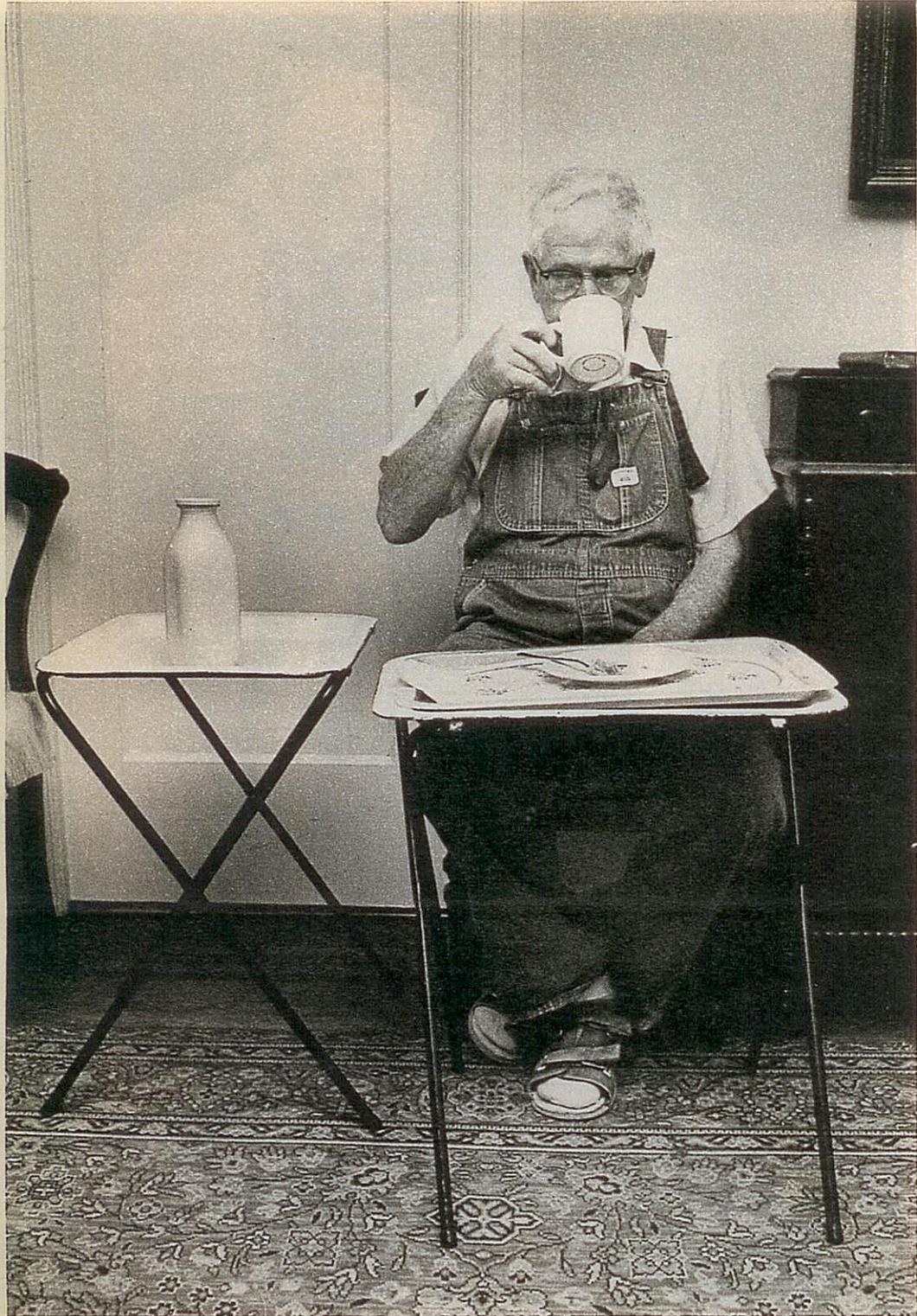
MR. PEAKE USED TO DELIVER ALL OF HIS MILK. It's how he met Mrs. Peake. Margaret Pringle visited her grandparents on their farm in Los Gatos from the time she was a baby. It was a summer ritual that the child from San Francisco dearly loved. Her mother died when she was 9, and during the Depression, when her father's Oriental rug business failed and they lost the family home, she came to live with her aunts on the farm.

When she began to grow into a young lady, she had kidney surgery and dwindled to a ghostlike 87 pounds. "Everybody," she says, "thought I would die." A friend of her aunt's suggested that milk might help build up her strength. So the aunt contacted Kenny Peake. The young dairyman agreed to deliver the milk every week. One day, her aunt bundled her up and set her in a big chair on the front porch. Along came Kenny with the milk.

"He introduced himself, and I think right then and there, he made up his mind that that would be it, and he would marry me," Mrs. Peake says. "And he did. Mr. Peake usually does get what he sets his mind to."

For years, the two of them, with some help from a milker named Tony Pinheiro who died last year, managed the farm. Mrs. Peake cleaned bottles, capped the milk and helped feed the cows. Their daughter kept the books. The dairy's reputation spread, and customers from all over the Bay Area began driving up to the hilltop in Monte Sereno to buy their milk every week.

Such homey endeavors, it seems, rarely make much money. The Peakes didn't really care. They had their home and their land and their cows, and for a long time, that was enough. Few dairies bottle their own milk; it's too expensive. Most dump it in huge vats that are carried by truck to factories where



CLEANLINESS
essential in a
daily that calls
milk that's not
pasteurized or
homogenized.
Weather
insurers and

A SNACK is
invariably
accompanied by
milk. Mr. Peake
drinks two or
three quarts of it
each day.

IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY, 1,306
ACRES OF FARMLAND DISAP-
PEARED IN 1987. THAT'S EQUIVA-
LENT TO ABOUT 1,200 FOOTBALL
FIELDS OF OPEN SPACE.

the milk is processed and packaged. Mr. Peake believes that food, and certainly milk, is best consumed in its natural state. To bottle raw milk requires much more attention. He washes down the cows' udders and wipes off their teats before milking them. He rations their food individually, according to each cow's needs. He scrapes the barn floor clean every night and spreads scented wood shavings. State regulators inspect the operation and test the milk carefully, largely because of the public's fear of salmonella poisoning from raw milk. In more than 60 years, no inspector has ever found anything wrong with Mr. Peake's dairy; no customer has ever come back to the dairy ill.

His cows are famous throughout the California dairy industry for their quality and for the way they are tended. "There are none other like him, none left who can give the cows the attention he does," says Dennis Nelson, a dairyman south of Turlock. Owners of larger dairies think Mr. Peake pampers his cows, however. Nelson bought four cows from Mr. Peake a few years back. "It's quite a change for them. They can't believe they have to go out in the field with 200 other cows. I prefer to buy them young from Mr. Peake rather than full-grown cows. They're too pampered," he says. "I still have one of them. Maggie. She still comes over to the fence and waits for somebody to come along and pet her. So the kids have kind of adopted her as a pet, because that's what she is."

In 1983, the Peakes decided to shut down the dairy. They were both getting older and had trouble finding dedicated help. Financially, they were hurting. So on a rainy day in February, they sold the entire herd. Mr. Peake, in tears, watched his beloved cows led into large trucks to be taken to the San Joaquin Valley. Five years later, he still has trouble talking about that day.

"Oh, that terrible day," whispers Mrs. Peake. "The day those big trucks drove off with part of the family. I hope we never have to endure that again."

The weeks passed, and Mr. Peake could not stand being separated from his cows. So he drove down to the farm to visit them. Out in the pasture, his cows spotted his green truck, and as he slowly walked to the fence, the cows began to walk, and then run, toward him. He returned to Claravale with six of his cows. The dairy has not shut down since.

HALF OF ALL OF THE LAND OF THE SANTA CLARA Valley has been preserved as agricultural territory. "At least two-thirds of the eastern foothills," says Jaunell Waldo, an associate planner for the county. "And big chunks of the west side." Almost all of the land that has been set aside is in the foothills. We can look up to see it. There isn't much left in the places where we live and work.

As the farmland began to disappear from growing areas like Santa Clara County, the state started to worry that none would be left. So in 1965, legislators passed the Williamson Act, which gave tax breaks to property owners who signed contracts not to develop their land for 10 years. The effect was to establish a "green bank," in which open space would be held in reserve. For doing this, property owners didn't have to

pay the escalating property taxes. They received tax breaks of from about 62 percent to 83 percent. It was a dandy deal for farmers, especially farmers in urban areas like San Jose, until Proposition 13 of 1979. Then, all of a sudden, those tax breaks weren't so lucrative.

So in the 1980s, more and more of the remaining farm land began to disappear again. Usually, the landowners wait until the 10-year contract expires and then simply choose not to renew it. Often, however, they lobby to be annexed into one of the cities. If a landowner can show that development would be compatible to what's going on in surrounding land, he can get out of the preservation agreement. Since most cities are developed, it's easier to show such compatibility in a city. So many landowners were taking their farmland out of reserve and developing it that in 1987, state legislators increased the tax penalties for removing land from Williamson Act contracts.

This, unfortunately, had an immediate impact that was exactly opposite to what legislators intended. In the last months of 1987, many owners rushed to cancel their contracts to avoid the new penalty. In Santa Clara County, for example, 1,306 acres were taken out of farmland contracts in 1987. That's equivalent to about 1,200 football fields of open space.

Mr. Peake was one of the landowners who put his property under a Williamson Act contract. His hilltop property was among some of the priciest in all of the valley; property taxes alone would have run him out of business. But it later created more problems. In 1985, needing cash to pay off debts and support the dairy, Mr. Peake sold five acres, which were divided into five lots for five large houses. Because he was taking land out of a Williamson Act contract, he had to pay back taxes on the property at the market-value rate. And because he apparently received some questionable legal advice, the sale agreement did not contain a prepayment penalty clause. This is a standard clause included in real estate deals to prevent buyers from paying for property in one lump sum and leaving sellers with a huge infusion of income, for which, of course, they have to pay even more taxes.

Last year, Mr. Peake sold off one last acre, to Michael Hsien-Jen Huang of San Jose for \$380,000. The other lots on his property are situated so that they would need road improvements, sewer hookups and water lines, all costs that would be passed on to Mr. Peake.

This is why he could sell no more and maintain the dairy. The road in front of his house would have to be widened if any more land is sold to a housing developer, and if the road is widened it will run right through the Peake home. It's an arrangement he worked out with the city of Monte Sereno years ago. The dairy, the only business in the city, was allowed to stay. It is a fixture of the community, after all, and perhaps better than any other parcel of land embodies the rural spirit that the founders of Monte Sereno hoped to engender. Of course, that rural spirit now includes mansions with swimming pools.

"Don't just stand there," Mr. Peake says to me. "Pick up a shovel and help her."

Obediently, I find a pitchfork and help shovel manure from the cow's barn. Mr. Peake is gone, back to the milking room.

The same sort of thing happens to just about anyone who visits the Claravale Dairy. One other night, while I was talking to some of his customers who were picking up bottles of milk, he asked me to go to the barn and help. The artificial inseminator was there. A cow was in heat. The man needed some help holding her while he tried to help her conceive the modern way.

Larry and Diane Lynch live down the road on a cul-de-sac with split-level homes. Larry was one of the engineers from Atari who founded Worlds of Wonder, the toy company that enjoyed spectacular success with Teddy Ruxpin. He now runs a consulting business out of his home. Diane runs a pet-sitting business. When they moved into the neighborhood six years ago, Diane started walking her dog up the hill toward the dairy, drawn to the cows and the land and the quiet. It wasn't long before she was shoveling manure and baling hay. Now, she rises at 4 in the morning every Saturday to milk the cows. Last June, Mr. Peake had foot surgery (he had hammer toe, aggravated by years of enduring cows stepping on his feet) and was laid up for about three weeks. Diane supervised the milking.

Larry is the dairy maintenance man. He fixes the ancient equipment for Mr. Peake, paints the barn and its roof, and when the iodine dispenser stopped working, he spent hours on the telephone tracking down a manufacturer who sent him an operating manual over a fax machine.

Neither of them is paid, though Mr. Peake does give them milk and he gave Diane one of his calves.

"It's funny, but you work for him and you feel privileged to work," Diane says. "I was proud because he let me milk a cow. He won't let just anyone, you know. It's really special to help him because you know you're helping something from a time that is past, a time when I wasn't here."

"I grew up on a farm, so I was lucky, but most people around here didn't," Larry Lynch says. "But we all grew up reading about Grandma and Grandpa on the farm, and I think everybody dreams of recreating that life someday."

One day at Mr. Peake's farm, a family drove up in a station wagon. They were regular customers, but they brought with them some relatives who had never been to Claravale before.

"Oh! Look at that nice cow!" said one young girl. "Look, they act like they know what to do. They seem to know what's going on. What is going on?"

Her father explained that Mr. Peake was bringing them in to milk them.

"Why go to all that trouble?" she asked. "Why not just go to the store?"

Mr. Peake smiled.

W



Dave Elementary School Opening September 1953

Los Gatos Daily Times
Nestled in the Beautiful Wooded Western Foothills Overlooking the Famous Santa Clara Valley in the Heart of California
LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1953

8-Room Daves Avenue School Completed; To House 265 Pupils

Warren Won't Say Whether He'll Finish Out Term to

Governor On Possibility of Supreme Court



...ed and the re-located and re-located Lexington school in the remains will be ready for occupancy, Fisher said.

...y double sessions will be in kindergarten classes at Daves avenue and Louise Van Meter schools.

...pupils who did not attend school last year should be registered immediately, so they can be assigned to classes when school starts, Fisher said.

...pupils who will attend a new school from last year have been notified by card, he said.

...al district registration projections will show a slight increase last year, Fisher reported, attendance expected to be in the neighborhood of 1565.

...se Van Meter is expected to have the largest enrollment, 650 pupils, followed by Union avenue with 500, Daves avenue with 265 and Lexington with 150. Fisher said that first day registration figures for the last four years showed a slow but steady increase in pupil attendance for each district. They were: 1952, 1500; 1951, 1450; 1950, 1400; 1949, 1350.

Free Dance
Cambriana
September 12

Swim Carnival
Labor Day
Ends Season

A Swim Carnival with events for boys and girls of all ages will be held Monday.

About 265 pupils of the Los Gatos Union Elementary school district will be housed in the new building on Daves avenue when school opens September 14. The above view of the structure shows the modern, airy kindergarten rooms with fenced outside play yard. The entire building contains eight classrooms. Construction was completed and the building accepted by the board of trustees the middle of August.

— Daily Times photo.

SACRAMENTO, Sept. 4. (AP)—Governor Earl Warren today said whether he will remain in office for a second term in office.

He made this view known to newspaper men today after his announcement that he will not be a candidate for re-election in 1954.

The governor also discussed the possibility of any of the likely candidates.

Warren said his announcement yesterday was final about his future as far as they know. He said he will not discuss rumors or surmise plans.

Warren's refusal to answer questions about his future plans underscores rumors that he will seek a United States post as soon as a

8 room school to house 256 pupils

Source: LG Times



Monte Sereno High School site proposed for Karl Avenue

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(Continued on page 8, col. 3)

Road name may honor Admiral C.W. Lockwood

If the Los Gatos Joint Union High School Board of Trustees has its way, the access road to the new Monte Sereno High School will be named in honor of one of Monte Sereno's most outstanding charter citizens.

Trustees voted Monday night to recommend the road be officially designated Admiral Lockwood Lane, in honor of the late Vice Adm. Charles Andrews Lockwood, U.S. Navy.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Lockwood served in the regular Navy for 39 years, including a stint as leader of the Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet, during World War II.

Upon retirement in 1947 he made his home in Monte Sereno, and immediately became active in local civic affairs. He was one of the founders of the Los Gatos Youth Center.

He was a charter member and chief fund-raiser of the West County Improvement Assn., which later sponsored the incorporation of the City of Monte Sereno. (Mrs. Lockwood served on the city's first Council.)

Prior to his death last year Lockwood wrote a number of books about submarines and the sea including "Life Begins at Forty Fathoms," and numerous articles and short stories.

Lockwood's three children, Charles III, Edward, and Phyllis, were all graduated

Trustees also voted to expand the staff at the continuation school to include an additional certificated staff member. This will bring the staff total to two full-time teachers plus a part-time instructor and will increase state apportionment from \$16,200 to \$41,400.

Prior to the meeting, Continuation Education Director Jack Lucas conducted a tour of the continuation school for trustees and other interested citizens.

Lucas noted that the Continuation High School will have its first graduate next month. District Superintendent B. Frank Gillette will present the youth with his diploma.

Lucas, who is also the District Civil Defense Director, presented the new CD plan, for its annual review and approval, which the board granted. The biggest change in the new system, Lucas noted, is the phasing out of the use of bells and lights and substitution of radio signals for disaster warnings.

The resignation of Board President William H. Cilker, which was tendered at the last meeting, was accepted, and a resolution passed honoring Cilker. Trustees set a deadline of 5 p.m. on June 3 for receipt of letters from persons interested in serving out Cilker's unexpired term.

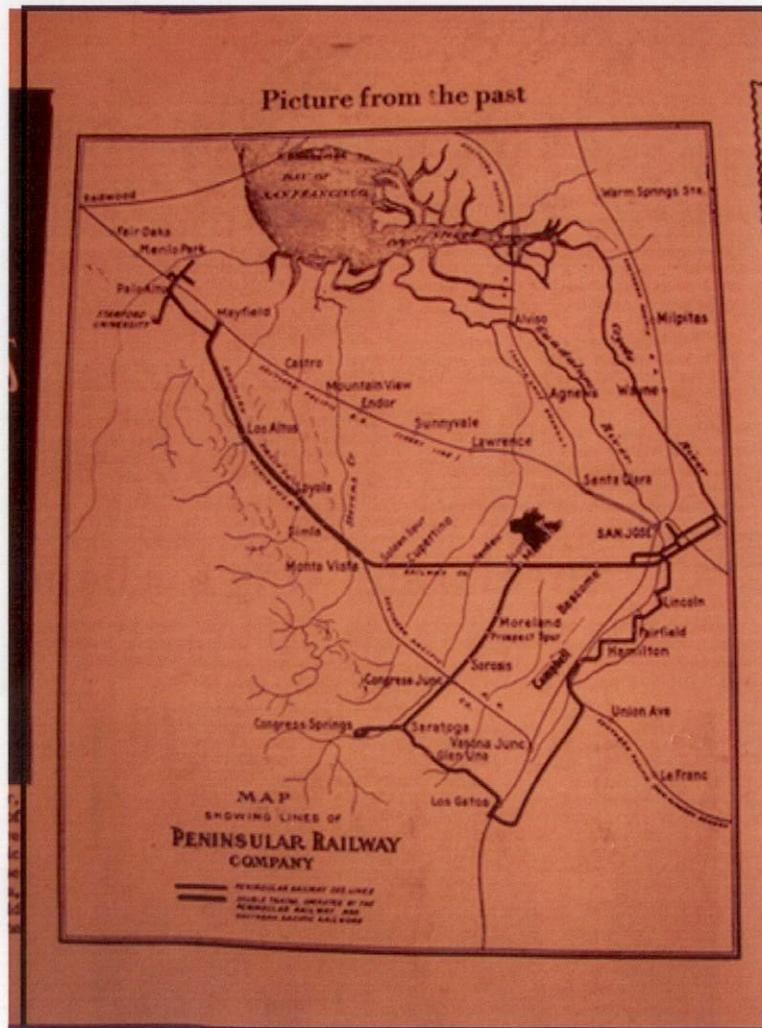
In other business, Trustees:
- Returned to Architect Frank Treseder
(Continued on page 8, col. 3)

The Los Gatos High School district Campaigned for an additional high school location on Karl Avenue- several school & street names were proposed



Light Rail in Monte Sereno?

San Jose & Los Gatos Interurban Railroad



Pennisular Railway 1902 to 1938

Trollycars operated for 36 years
Between Saratoga, San Jose and
Los Gatos.

The Trestle located at Daves Avenue
Shows up in several old photos as an
access road was required to enter
the parker ranch area.

Today the San Jose light rail is slowly
Returning to the Cities of Monte
Sereno & Los Gatos via Vasona
Junction extension.



Caption: "Downtown Monte Sereno" Intersuburban: Daves Avenue Over-crossing



Most of the people moved to Monte Sereno since World War II

Source: LG Times Saratoga Observer



Airports Proposed for Monte Sereno

Los Gatos Airmen Cancel Request For Airport

Howard Duncan, Los Gatos pilot heading a group of airmen interested in building a class 2 airport at Quito road and McCoy avenue, withdrew his application this week for a permit to proceed with the project.

The airport plan was originally approved by the County Planning Commission which voted to issue a use permit to Duncan. This action was followed by protests from residents of the area who claimed they were not given sufficient time to raise objections to the proposal. They asked for a rehearing of the application and their request was granted by the Board of Supervisors.

The supervisors were scheduled to reach a decision on the matter Monday, September 20. Meanwhile, a letter from Duncan was received by Richard Olson, clerk of the board, asking that the application be withdrawn. The board voted to make the withdrawal.

The action marked the end of the second attempt on the part of local flyers to establish an airport in the Los Gatos area. Climax of the controversial issue was reached September 13 when representatives of both the pro and con factions delivered their arguments before a meeting of the supervisors.

Two attempts we made by local flyers to propose Airports in the West Valley area (Monte Sereno area)

- 1) Colonel Parker proposed an airport to Los Gatos In the 1920's
(Fred Hitt flew his Curtis Jenny out of Parkers Ranch)
- 2) Howard Duncan proposed an airport off Quito Road and Mc Coy Avenue in the 1950's.
- 3) Several news paper articles in the late 1940's and 1950's chronicle inadvertent landings in orchards, ranches, etc as several jets were unable to make the destination at Moffett Field Navy base.



Saratoga-Los Gatos Road Designated Scenic Highway 1968



3.4 Mile Stretch officially designated
As state scenic highway in 1968.

Names used over the Years:
Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd
Highway 9

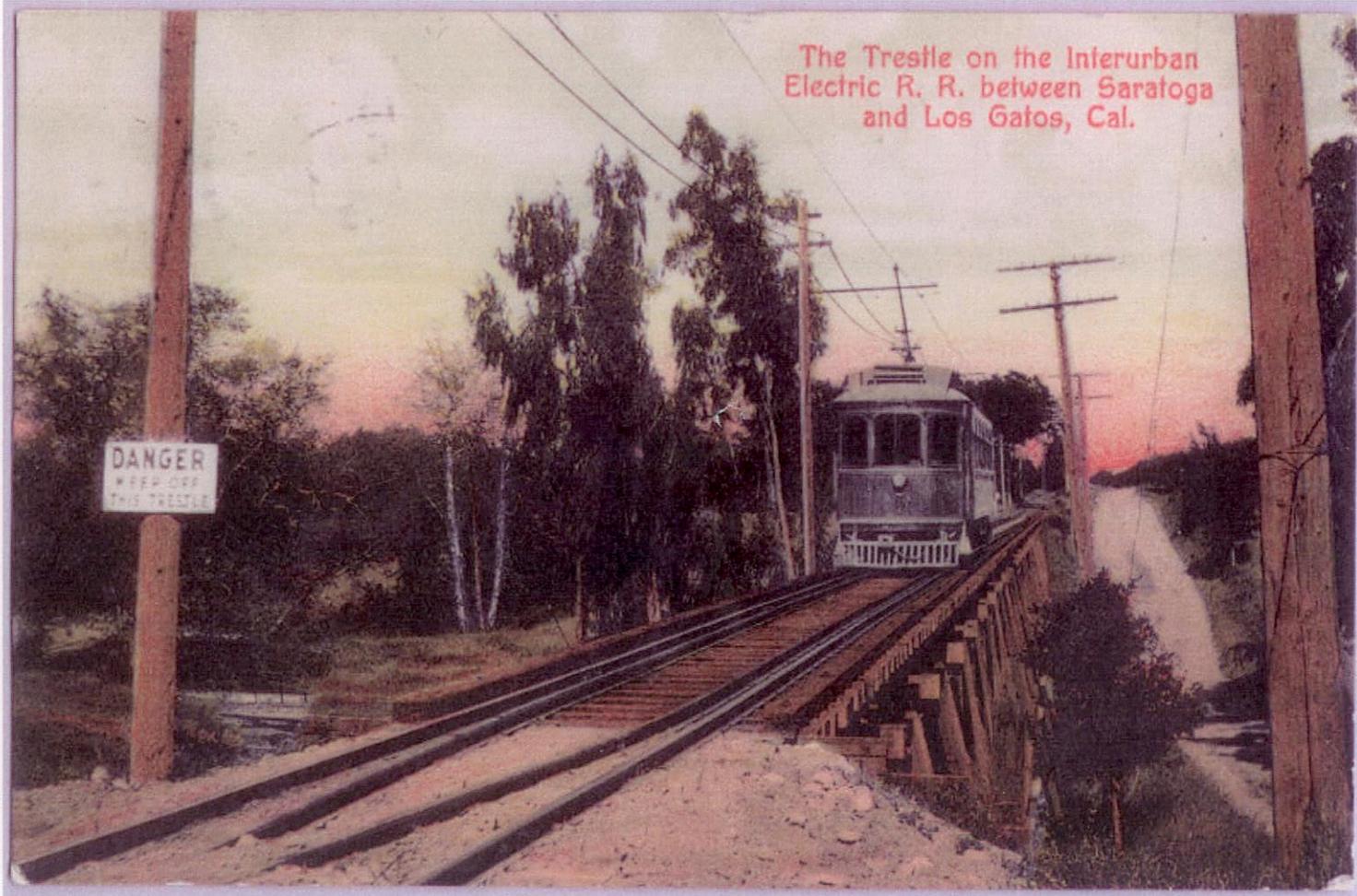
During the late 1950's and 1960's
several studies explored re-routing
The West Valley extension (85) over
this stretch of highway. Admiral
Ingles campaigned against this
Extension.

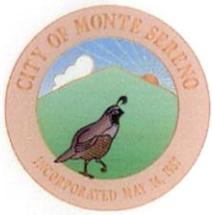
Protected corridor features
Villa Montalvo, Montalvo Arboretum,
Hakone Gardens and local scenery.

Source: LG Daily Times



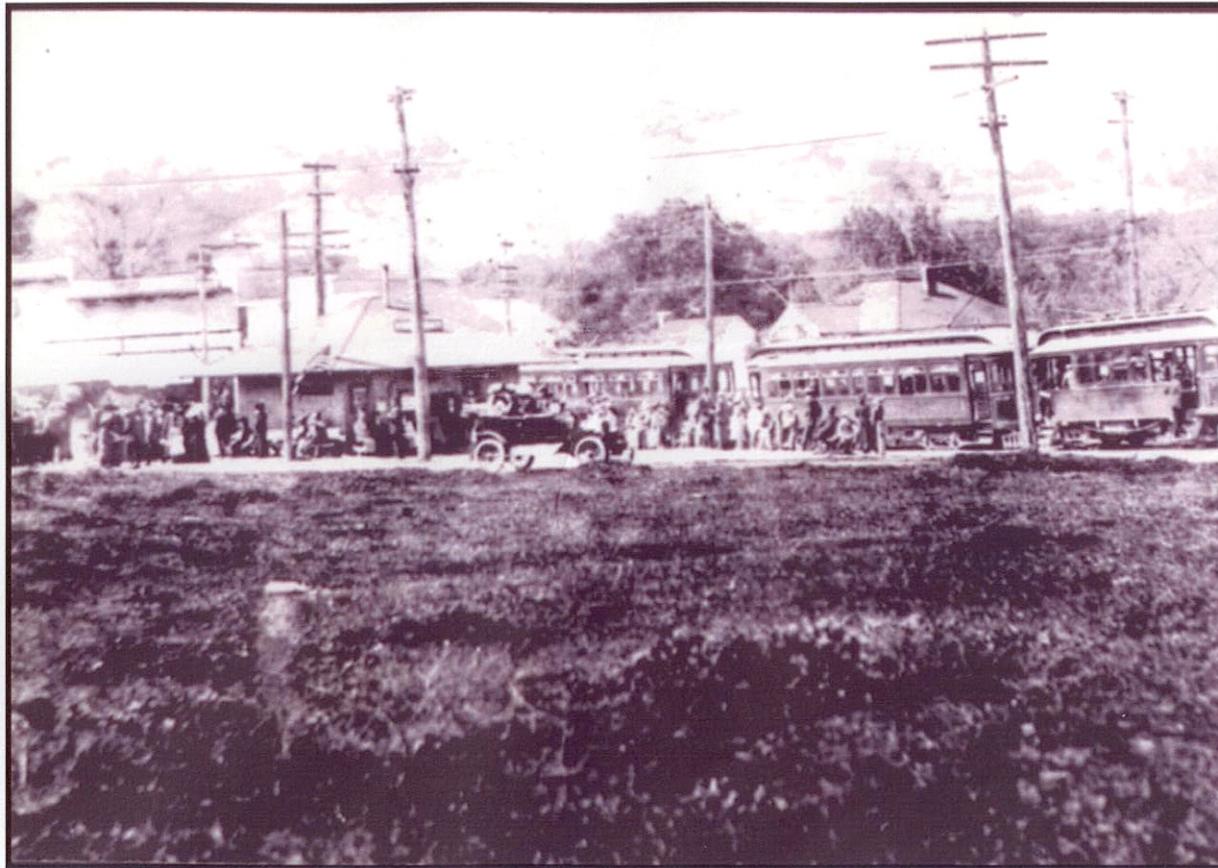
Trestle at Daves Avenue Highway 9 (Gravel Road) to the right





Light Rail in Monte Sereno

San Jose & Los Gatos Interurban Railroad





HIGHWAY 9 SCENIC ROUTE DEDICATION — The designation of a 3.4-mile portion of the Saratoga-Los Gatos Road between Los Gatos and Saratoga as an "official State Scenic Highway" was formally dedicated on Saturday morning with the unveiling of the glittering "Golden Poppy" symbol secured to all Rte 9 signs. Seen in the group picture are a few of the more than 50 distinguished guests who witnessed the ceremonies near Monte Sereno City Hall, including (L to R) Saratoga Park Commissioners Cole Bridges, Rose Aberle, Robert Lewis and Councilman Charles Robbins. In the foreground are Planning Commissioner Charles H. Smith and Parks Commissioner Katherine Duffy. The local scenic corridor survey for inclusion of Route 9 as a State Scenic highway was initiated in 1966 by former Mayor Thomas B. Inglis of Monte Sereno. The protected corridor, which will shield the area from effects of urban expansion, lies along the county road laid out in 1876 and incorporates Villa Montalvo and Hakone Gardens.



IN SARATOGA — Unveiling ceremonies of the Golden Poppy Symbol in Saratoga were conducted by T. Fred Bagshaw, assistant director of State Public Works, representing the Governor, Mayor Larry Tyler and Assemblyman George W. Milius. Visitors from Sacramento, San Francisco, and Santa Clara County were hosted at a luncheon by the Villa Montalvo Association, headed by Chester W. Root.

Scenic highway designation

T-0 Dec 13, 1967

A 3.4 mile portion of the Saratoga - Los Gatos road - on Route 9 in Santa Clara County - is progressing toward designation as a State Scenic Highway, according to a report made to the Governor's Advisory Committee on a Master Plan for Scenic Highways.

The cities of Saratoga and Monte Sereno, and Santa Clara County, in which jurisdictions this section of highway is located, have submitted to the Committee their program presently in effect for corridor protection.

With enactment of several additional provisions to which the county and cities have agreed, the program will meet protective requirements for a State scenic highway corridor. It is expected that upon adoption of ordinances by the local jurisdictions to enact necessary measure, the Committee will recommend to the Director of Public Works that this section of Route 9 be officially designated as a State Scenic Highway. A significant factor in the potential designation of this Route 9 section is that it traverses a desirable suburban area, whose scenic assets will thus be protected.

Corridor-protection plans and programs for the section of Route

35 in San Mateo County known as Skyline Boulevard have also been received, and are presently being reviewed by the Interdepartmental Committee on Scenic Highways, which will in turn make its recommendations regarding official designation to the Advisory Committee.

A corridor-survey report outlining suggested corridor limits along Route 38 in San Bernardino County between the South Fork of the Santa Ana River and Big Bear City has also been received at Division of Highways Headquarters for review.

Donald Van Riper, chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee, reported that Santa Barbara and Alameda counties have proposed certain segments of highway for addition to the Master Plan of Scenic Highways.

The Santa Barbara County locations are: Route 1 between Route 101 at Las Cruces, northeasterly to the intersection of Route 246 in the Lompoc area; and Route 246 from Route 254 near Santa Ynez westerly to the intersection of Route 101 near Lompoc.

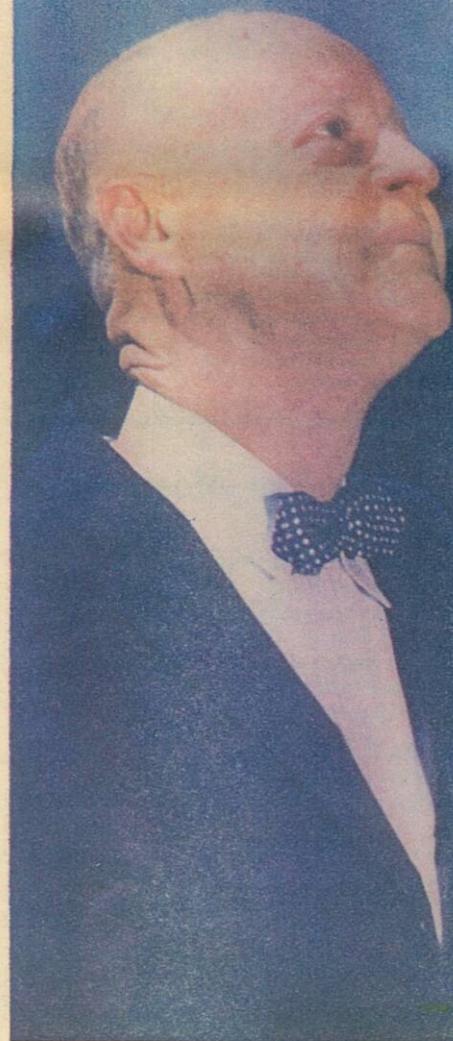
Those routes proposed by Alameda County are Interstate 580 from the San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge Distribution Center to the San Joaquin County line; and Route 680, which runs the full length of the County, extending into Contra Costa County on the north and Santa Clara County on the south.

Los Gatos Planning Commission
103 Church St.
Los Gatos, California

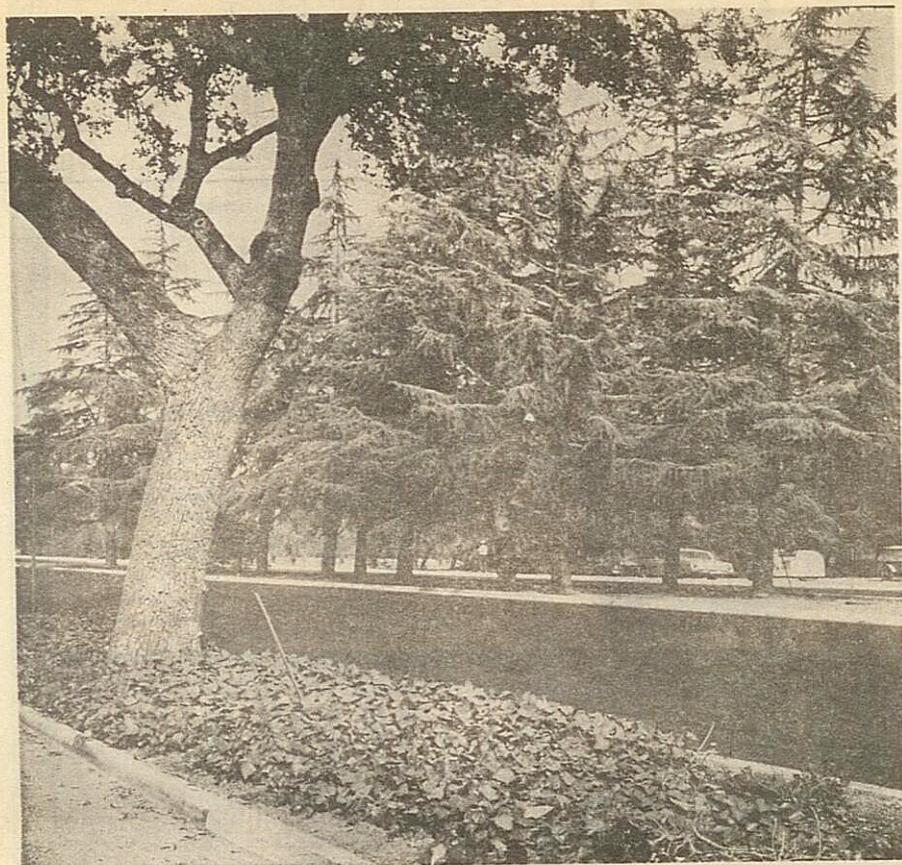
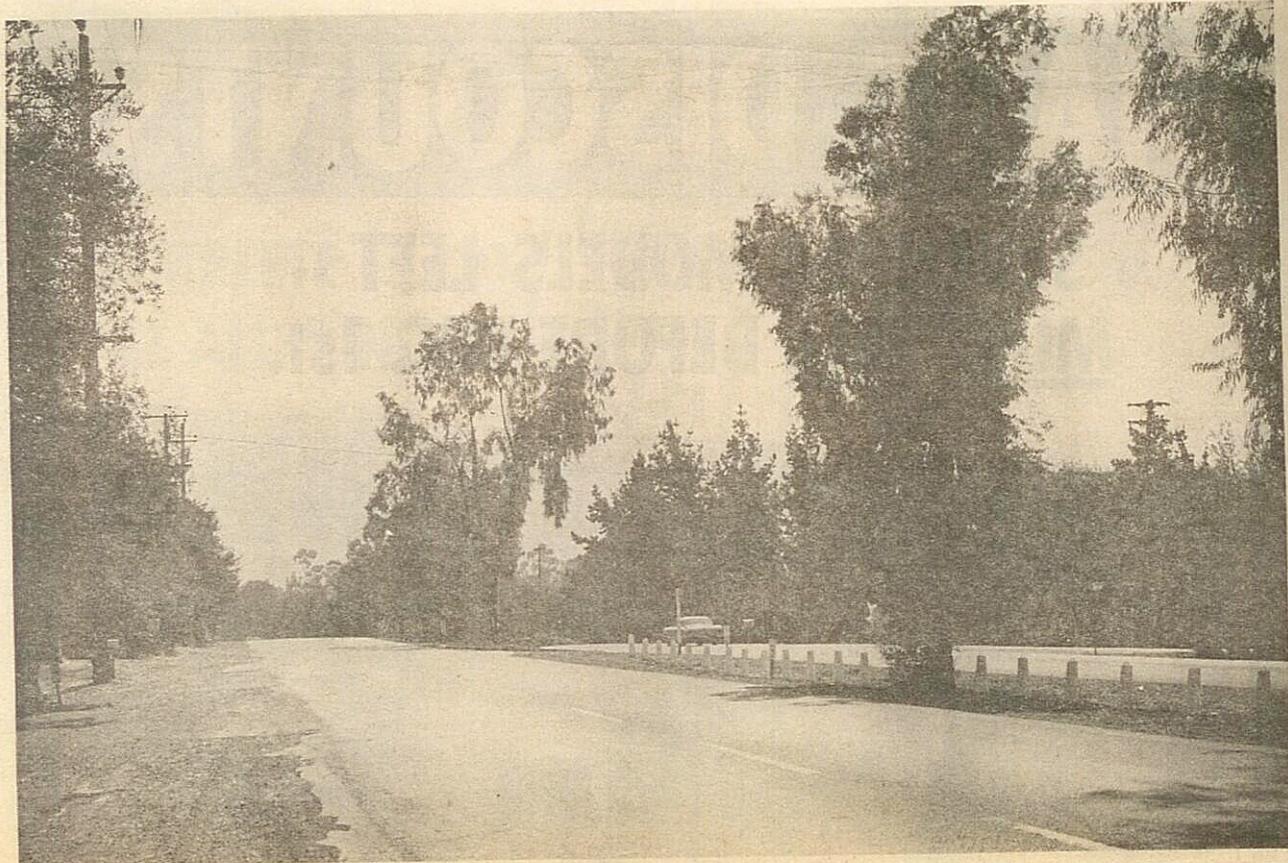
Mrs. Menard and Gentlemen:
Almost once a day I drive down the freeway from Lark Ave. into Los Gatos. It is a drive in such a beautiful set

San Jose
Mercury-News
**SUNDAY
MAGAZINE**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1968



West Valley Has A Scenic Highway. Story On Page 8.



Scenic Highway

A 3.4-mile section of Highway 9, the Saratoga-Los Gatos Road, has been designated a state scenic highway by the State Department of Public Works. The route extends from Monte Sereno to Saratoga. The stretch of highway was the fourth in the state to be accorded scenic status.

Photos on these pages, taken from the scenic highway, show why it qualified for protective status.