

**SIGNALS FROM TELEGRAPH HILL
SAN FRANCISCO CORRAL
WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL**



October 2012

Vol. 19

Number 7

**Our Tuesday October 23, 2012 Corral meeting will be held at
L'Olivier, French Restaurant,
465 Davis Court, San Francisco.**

The restaurant is very accommodating to our group as the attendance varies from meeting to meeting. When we are a small group, the side room is quiet and very nice for speakers. When we have a large group we hold our meetings in the open dining room with no public and is equally quiet but roomy.

Our meetings there have been well received by the members, not only for the wonderful food but also the great staff they have. Davis Court is located between Jackson and Washington. If taking Bart, a 5-block walk down Davis St. brings you right into Davis Court. Parking is available in the area. The menu is French & American with a well-stocked wine cellar, beer and spirits.

We will be gathering at 5 pm, Dinner will be served at 6:15pm. The cost is \$35 and checks should arrive by the 18th.

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Our Speaker for Tuesday October 23

Paul Mazza

The San Francisco Water System will be the topic of the speaker. From the Valley of Hetch Hetchy to the Streets of San Francisco.

The Raker Act passed by Congress was signed by President Woodrow Wilson, December 19, 1913, and it gave the City and County of San Francisco rights to store water in the Hetch Hetchy Valley and Lake Eleanor in Yosemite National Park. In 1914 the construction of Mather Hetch Hetchy Road began. In 1915 the camp and reservoir site were established and in 1916 construction of the Hetch Hetchy railroad was put

through. Actual construction on the dam started in 1919 and was completed May 1, 1923. The Dam was raised an additional 85 feet during the years 1935-1938.

Paul will cover the development of the SF water system from its early days prior to the gold rush, to the current system which serves 2.5 million people in 27 Bay Area communities. He has been a drinking water professional for 35 years, focusing on water treatment and transmission.

Paul states; *I've spent most of my career with the San Francisco Water Dept. running their treatment facilities, as the Regional Water System's Operations Manager, and now as the Manager of Program Development for the Water System Improvement Program (WSIP)*

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Please mail dinner reservations to:
Judy Van Austen, KOC
1789 Northwood Court Oakland, CA 94611

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News in the West

Added information to the insert in your newsletter.

Carol Jensen is working on another forthcoming book that should be noted here. *The Maritime History of Contra Costa County*. I hope I have the title right, or close to it. We will give you a run down when the book reaches circulation. I think we will see names and places not mentioned in a while. Did you know in Jackson's Map of California -1850, it states that ***New York of the Pacific***, is located on a very eligible site on the south side of the upper extremity of Suisun Bay, and at the junction of he Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. It possesses some good buildings. Ships can lay along side the banks opposite the town. (Near the Antioch Bridge.) We look forward to this book.

This may be news to some, others may already have known. The wooden ship sitting by Fisherman's Wharf, the **Balclutha** was once named the *Star of Alaska*. The ship sat in the mud flats of Alameda in the late 30's, owned by the Alaska Packers Association.

I recently admired a red dynamite lamp that was given to a young man back then, removed from the *Star of Alaska* and given to him one afternoon. It then became the *Pacific Queen*. No name on the lamp but it is authentic. Most of the remaining ships on the mud flats were salvaged by WW II.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness to report the passing of a Westerner. When the SF Corral knows the person it touches a light to the years gone by and the ones who once sat with us at our tables. One member from the grand state of Oklahoma who had ties with our former inkslinger and the International was **Revere A. Young**. They have been on our mailing list a long time and although he and his wife Mary have not been to our meetings, I feel they wanted to be here. How can you write about someone you have never met? You can tell from the

correspondence and words. A true westerner like Revere had a wealth of knowledge of the west and a heart of gold, that I know.

Revere had forty years of military service and retired with the rank of Brigadier General. Our sympathies to Mary Young.

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Submitted by Bob Van Austen

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The Miners Dream

The miner when he goes to sleep, soon begins to snore;
Dreams about his friends at home, whom he may never see no more.
A lovely wife or sister dear he may have left behind;
Perhaps a father old and gray, a mother good and kind.

Chorus:

Now will you, say will you, listen while I sing. A song that's called the miners dream 'Twill joy and comfort bring.

His boyhood years return again, his heart is filled with joy--
Is rolling hoops of playing ball as when he was a boy.
'Tis winter time--he's skating now, of which he was so fond;
'Tis summer now-- he's swimming in the old familiar pond!

Chorus: Now will you, say will you, & c.

His boyhood days are past and gone, for now he is a man--
Is going to California to try the pick and pan;
Bright visions now of happiness are dancing o'er his mind;
Disturb him not, but let him dream so long as he's inclined.

Chorus: Now will you, say will you & c.

His mind is home among the fields of wheat and yellow earth--
Sits down beneath an apple tree, all shady in the morn!
But morning comes-- and at his door a neighbor gently knocks;
He wakes and finds himself in bed among the hills and rocks

Chorus: Now will you, say will you & c.

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News, Information and Future Events

It is still a long way off, but mention should be made for the up- coming *California International Antiquarian Book Fair* in 2013.

It will be held February 15-17, 2013 at the Concourse Exhibition Center at 8th and Brannan in San Francisco.

The Sacramento Book Fair held last month (the 15th) was a good one. It was packed with people and many had bags of new first editions and other treasures. All the usual suspects were there and could have been rounded up all at once. Look forward to March 23rd 2013 for another event. Information may be obtained at www.sacbookfair.com or 916 849 9248.

If you are near Walnut Creek on Sunday November 18, 2012 head to the *Vintage Paper Fair*, held the Walnut Creek Elks Club, 1475 Creekside Drive. They have free appraisals and free parking.

www.vintagepaperfair.com

SF Corral

The last meeting of 2012 for our Corral is Tuesday December 4. We will not meet in November. *Dave Bond* will be our new Sheriff for 2013. We thank *Sheriff Roger Weed* for his fine service and dedication and *Bob Lawhon* our Program Director, Meeting Slate Advisor and future Web Site Analyst for his service to the Corral.

Those of you who could not make the last meeting of the SF Westerners missed out on a copy of the latest *California Territorial Quarterly #90*, handed out by Bob Chandler. It features our own *Richard Dillon* (Special Tribute Issue) and highlights his career with photos and interviews. Gary Kurutz has a great article in it also, *The Library of Libraries: The Formation of the Adolph Sutro Collection and the Library of Woodward's Gardens*. I am sure Bob Chandler would hold an issue for you if you missed the meeting.

Romance is getting back into the Wild West. *Wild West History Association's Journal* that is. Author *Joseph Rosa* has an article,

The "Loves" in the life of James Butler Hickok (Wild Bill).

John Boessenecker has one also, entitled, *The Countless Love Affairs of Tiburcio Vasquez*.

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Folk Lore & Western Humor

There are trees in Louisiana near New Iberia Parish that resemble our California Redwoods. They grow tall and with a wide diameter reach the sky and the heavens. The name of this type of tree is *Stewartia Zelkova*. These trees have a peculiar thing about them that differs from our redwoods. Some of these marvelous trees grow to twice the height of the redwood trees. How is that possible you may say?

The Cajun legend goes something like this. How these trees are different is that they get their moisture from the clouds, not the ground. They reach the clouds and grab hold of the moisture from them and soak it up. It then radiates to the ground, opposite of a normal tree. The wood from these trees is known for its hardness and beautiful grain; it gives off fine perfume radiance like a morning on the French Riviera. It has been reported that the natives have cut some of the trees down due to the fact that a drought has hit the area and the trees are responsible to some extent. *"I know we have to keep this a secret, me"* said a Cajun, *"don't ax me questions."*

A docent at the site asked a California couple if they understood the way the tree grows? The young man responded: *"Yes, its like a reverse mortgage."*

As the prison social worker was passing his cell, she asked the prisoner, “ Was it your love of drink that brought you here?”

“No, ma’am,” he replied. *You can’t get nothin’ in here”*

The Little Big Horn Battle Field Site is having a ***General George Armstrong Memorial Dinner*** on the 1st of November. The admission is free if you are wearing an Arrow shirt.

The summers are long over here in Walnut Creek, with crime on the rise. Here is an interesting item from a Walnut Creek Police Report for one evening in August.

Drunkenness-

A woman was arrested after vacuuming a hotel lobby of which she was not a guest or employee, in the 2300 block of North Main Street.

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SF Westerners Posse 2012

Sheriff *Roger Weed*
925 381 3836

Trail Boss *David Bond*
415 751 4588

Keeper of the Chips *Judy Van Austen*
510 339 1298

Registrar of Marks & Brands

International Rep. *Bob Lawhon* (Sheriff 2011)

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Inkslinger Emeritus *Mary Lou Lyon* *HM*

Book Reviewer
Richard H. Dillon *HM* *“Dillon on Books”*
40 Camino Alto #13205
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Dillon on Books will return in December.

Inkslinger errors; We have a correction in our reporting of meeting speakers for 2013. We have only the first four months set with speakers, not the whole year as stated in the blue insert last month. In the review, Panama Canal should read just Panama.

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