

WALKING

from

SYLVAN

to

CITRUS HEIGHTS

1860-1960

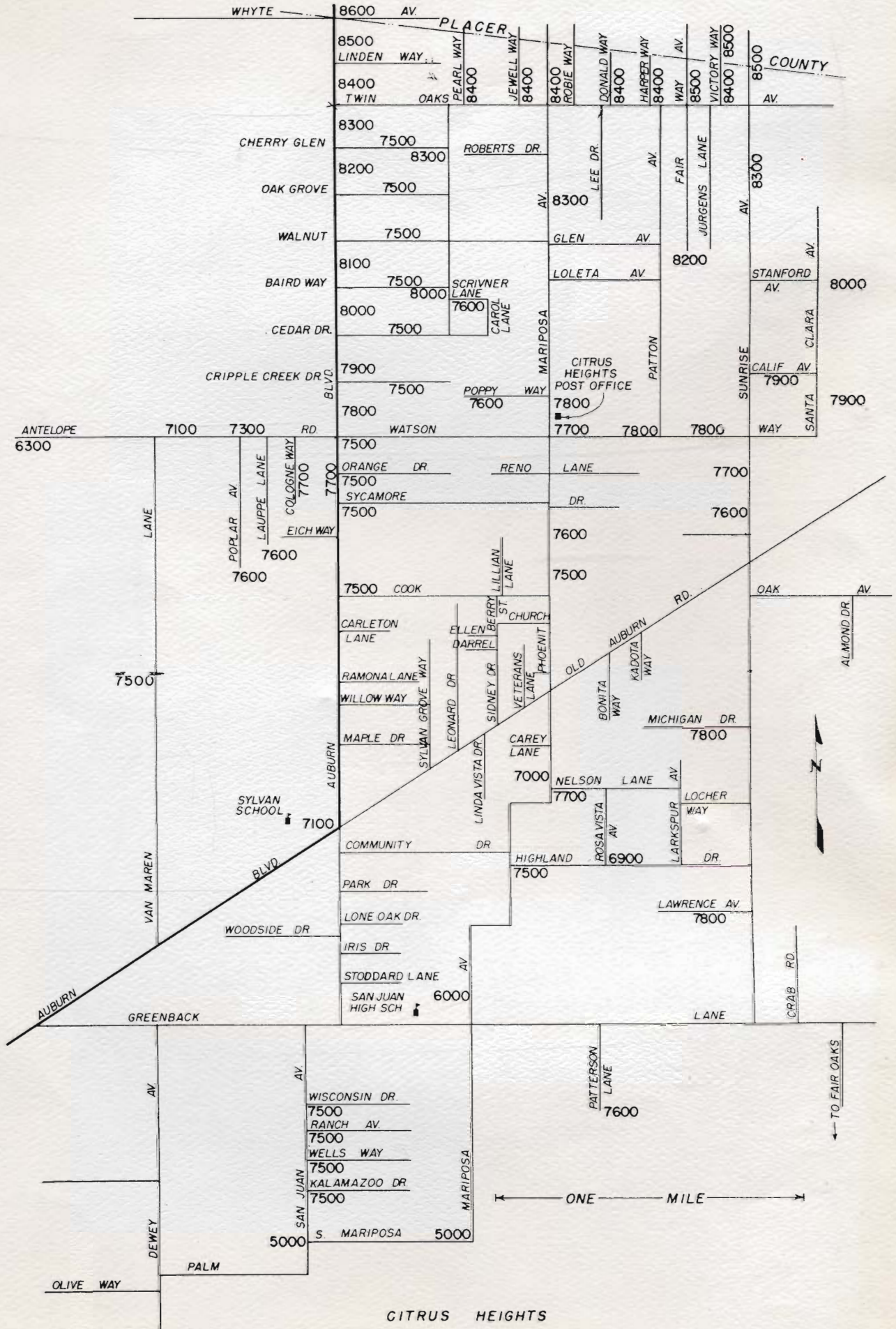


by:

Roeley E. Giusti

MAP OF CITRUS HEIGHTS DISTRICT
 (Courtesy McNeel Directory Company)

1951



CITRUS HEIGHTS

Many people have contributed so much in the history of Citrus Heights. Each person has contributed much towards what it is today. And many of these people have been forgotten as the community changed from a rural to a "shopping center" community.

During the last 10 years so many changes have taken place that those who have been here that length of time cannot understand how drastic these changes have been.

Since the Chamber of Commerce filmed our community during the 1950s and recorded some of our old timers, that may be the only place in which they will be remembered.

Many of the streets in Citrus Heights bear family names; regardless of how wide and beautiful it is today, Van Maren Lane was a Roadway into the property area. How it has changed! Look around, pick out a name, and trace it back to the original property owner. Each one has its own history, regardless of how short the street might be. How about Lauppe Lane off of Antelope Road? Pearl Way off of Twin Oaks Avenue was named for Pearl Root. How about Stoddard Lane? Patterson Lane?

During 1949 and 1950 Sacramento County began a project to name all streets for mail delivery, discarding the Rural Routes and box numbers since the mail was coming out of the Roseville post office. The only contribution I have made to this which will be recorded on the map was the naming of Jewel Way, off of Twin Oaks Avenue, for the two families who owned property at the end of the road: Joe Giusti and Ralph Kitchel. Glenn and Loleta Avenues, where the area began to expand in the vicinity of the Mariposa Avenue School, were named by the developer, Glen Minard and his wife. This is the area built up rapidly following World War II. Previously, this was a large vineyard and provided excellent hunting spots.

While I have lived here for the past 25 years, there are few landmarks to remind me how it has changed, except the population sign (see photo) at the Placer-Sacramento County line which in 1947 read: 2000. By 1960 the population had grown to 21,000. The 15-square mile unincorporated farming community of the forties was taken over by subdivisions of new homes scattered throughout the area. Sacramento County officials reported more than 30 subdivisions had been approved in a two-year period. Work on the Grand Oaks shopping center was getting started in 1960.

This community in the early days was referred to as Sylvan Corners. In reading this, you will find the name of the man who named it. CITRUS HEIGHTS.

During these years I have collected photos and newspaper items which are being made a permanent part of the community's history and will be given to the library. While some of the history is incomplete, this is an attempt to fill in some of the missing links. My husband has lived here for more than 40 years, graduating from Sylvan School in 1935 and San Juan High School in 1939. He has filled in some of these gaps for me.

Following is reprint from Roseville Press-Tribune, dated Aug. 26, 1958:

CITRUS HEIGHTS - Memories of the little red schoolhouse at Sylvan Corners soon will be all that remains for pioneer residents of this community. Progress during the past 100 years has made many changes to the little one-room schoolhouse constructed in 1862.

The first building to occupy the present site was built in 1862. It was torn down in 1903, and its lumber was used by Rudy Lauppe to build his family home. The first teacher was Alfred Spooner, and a trustee was Elisha Daly, who also served as a justice of the peace for more than 20 years.

Another building was constructed in 1903 which served as a school until 1927 when it was moved to its present location on Sylvan Road and today still serves as a community clubhouse. A two-room brick building was erected prior to 1927 on the old site and each room held four grades, with the present clubhouse building serving as a kindergarten. Constable Byron Myklebost of Sylvan Road remembers he helped put in the sprinkler system "about 1922", and that the father of former Sacramento Mayor H. H. Hendron was the contractor of this south section. The triangle park on Auburn Boulevard was part of the school playground.

Mrs. Lucille Staplin, secretary to District Superintendent Basil Nichols, attended second grade in the two-room building. Her old office in the Sylvan School was converted from classrooms.

Clinton Langley of Reno Lane, a 1925 graduate of Sylvan, recalls all too well his 8th grade teacher, Coin E. Knott, who was also the principal. Mr. Knott cut a peek-hole in the door of the classes taught by his wife, and saw and punished her students when they disobeyed her. Another teacher was then Miss Helen Conroy, now Mrs. Robert Kelsoe, retired from Roseville Schools.

Completion of four rooms of the brick building was marked with special ceremonies. Mrs. Evelyn Hartin and her cousin, Mrs. Elnora (Fulkerson) Owens, recalls that an evergreen tree was planted for each room, and the names of the students in each room put in a bottle and planted with the tree. Only one tree remains. Each classroom had two grades, and one classroom had a divider curtain and doubled as an auditorium.

Actual beginning of a school in this area can be traced back to 1859 when Mrs. Sarah Cross taught children of settlers in a cabin in her yard, located where the Van Maren property lies at Auburn Boulevard and Van Maren Lane. Her daughter, Lillian, later taught school at Sylvan Corners in 1868. Mrs. Cross, according to records, made the first flag to fly over the Sylvan School.

More progress was made this month when district offices were moved to the new Citrus Heights School on Auburn Boulevard, around the corner from the Sylvan School. Growth in the community is indicated by an enrollment of 500 in 1947 and 2000 in 1957, in the entire district.

As late as 1947, 30 years after it was abandoned as a school and moved, the old clubhouse building was called on to serve as a kindergarten because of the growing population of Citrus Heights. Today there are six elementary schools, one under construction, and several more sites under study in the Sylvan District.

A complete history of this community, schools and places of interest can be found in the California Room of the State Library in Sacramento.

(Two photos accompanied this article I wrote. One was District Supt. Basil Nichols and Mrs. Lucille Staplin, moving into new offices. The other was Mrs. Grace Woltmon, clerk at Sylvan School, preparing to move office records.)

Following is reprint of "SYLVAN SCHOOL A CENTURY OLD", dated May 1963, which I wrote for the Roseville Press-Tribune:

Sylvan School will bring to a close its first century of existence when the 1963 graduating class leaves the school on June 7.

Some 400 students will have the distinction of being the 100th anniversary class of the school, which was the first started in this rural area north of Sacramento. (Our son, Robert, was a member of this class.)

A little one-room schoolhouse first was built in 1862 at Sylvan Corners and later was torn down and lumber used to build a house in 1903.

The school's first teacher was Alfred Spooner, and a trustee was Elisha Daly, who also served as a justice of the peace for many years.

In 1903 a new building was constructed on the site. It served the population until 1927, when it was moved to Sylvan Road. Today it serves as the community clubhouse. A two-room brick structure became the new Sylvan School at that time, with each room holding sessions for four grades. The clubhouse building still served as a kindergarten class.

The "triangle" at Sylvan Corners, which has become a community upkeep problem and county traffic headache, was at that time a part of the school playground.

The first flag to fly over the school is reported that it was made by Mrs. Cross.

The present San Juan District, unified in 1960, covers about 73 square miles between the county line on the north, Highway 40 on the northwest, the City of Folsom on the east, and the American River on the south. This region covers much of what was once two great Spanish ranches, San Juan and Del Paso.

Today, Sylvan School, serving as a seventh and eighth grade center, has more than 700 students and is the largest intermediate school in the San Juan Unified School District.

One hundred years ago, graduates of Sylvan School traveled 18 miles to Sacramento to attend high school. The old historic San Juan High School was founded in 1880 on Winding Way near Dewey Drive. The site was abandoned in 1911 in favor of the present site on Greenback Lane.

The late Walter E. Trainor was instrumental in settling the old Sylvan District, which he renamed CITRUS HEIGHTS, and brought trainloads of settlers from the midwestern states. Mr. Trainor, who died in 1960, donated the land where San Juan High School stands today.

Today Sylvan School has the distinction of moving into the second century on the site where it has been rebuilt four times. The 1927 structure south wing was demolished in 1959. The wing now houses seventh grade classes and the administration offices was included in rebuilding the "old" school when termites finally took matters into their own hands.

(Following information is from another newspaper article in 1960):

With the population increases has come the necessity for new schools. The Sylvan School served the community since 1862, but in 1949 the Mariposa Avenue School was opened to accommodate the 900 enrollment. There were 24 teachers employed in 1950; today the faculty for the eight schools numbers 132 and there are 3,975 students in the district.

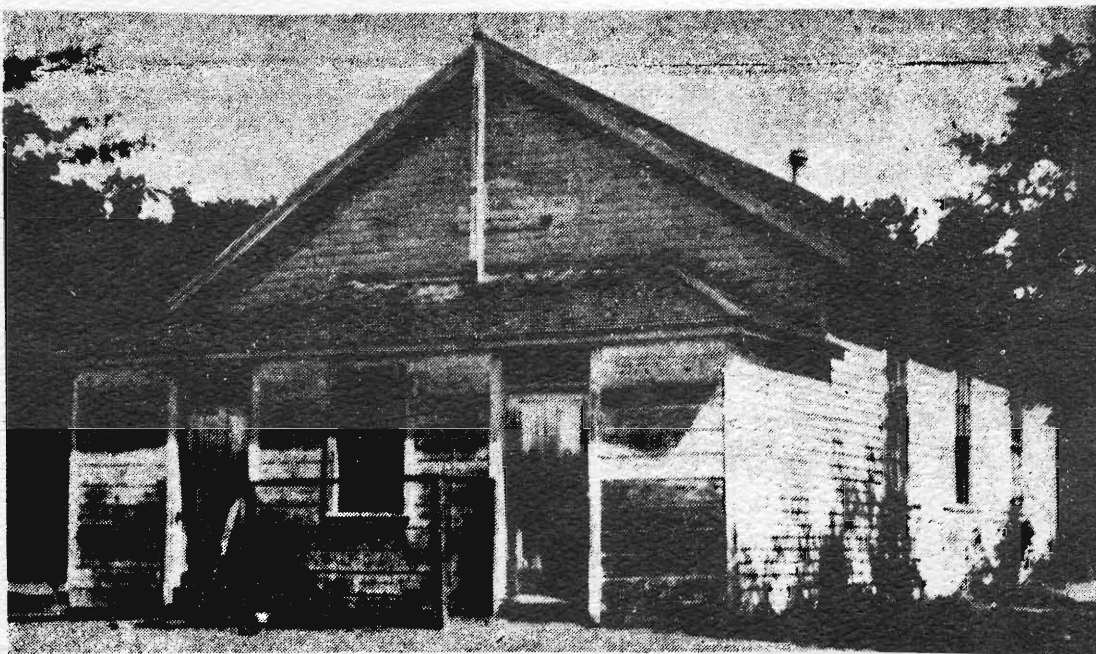
The existing schools are Sylvan, Mariposa, Oak Avenue (now Sunrise), Leighton Littlejohn, Grand Oaks, Citrus Heights, Arlington Heights and Skycrest.

Mrs. Helen Becker was a teacher at Sylvan during the 1950s. Her husband came to Sylvan from the Folsom school, and he became principal and later superintendent. She was vice principal. Mrs. Nadyne Ford taught for many years. (The Monte Beckers retired in 1955).

John J. Collins, a graduate of San Juan High School, and grade teacher at Sylvan, came to Mariposa as a teacher, then became its first full-time principal in 1954, where he remained until 1968. He is also the first and only graduate of the 1948 graduating class of Sacramento State College (now University).

The 1959 graduating class from Sylvan was the last before the school became a part of the San Juan Unified School District. There were 201 students on the graduation list. The band was under the direction of Maddux Hogin; invocation by Rev. Wendell Hansen, First Baptist Church; welcome by Nancy Robinson; the American Legion Citrus Heights Post 637 Awards by Commander Joseph Giusti; farewell by Gregory Bailey; welcome to graduating class by George White, San Juan principal; presentation of the class by Principal Robert Fries; presentation of diplomas by Cecil Shubert and Dr. P. V. Swearingin; benediction was given by Father Vito Mistretta. The 8th grade class presented selections from "The Music Man" under the direction of Miss Ernestine Prather.

The last graduation exercises for 8th grade graduations was held in 1961.



SHOWING THE WEAR of many years of educating the children of the area we now know as Citrus Heights is the original Sylvan Corners School, built in 1862.

COMMUNITY CLUB

The oldest organization in Citrus Heights is the Community Club. Minutes of their meeting were made available to me (some were missing, according to Mrs. Dovie Woltmon), and the following is a reprint of my story of May 3, 1962, in the Roseville Press-Tribune:

CITRUS HEIGHTS - The growth and development of Citrus Heights can be traced to efforts of the Community Club, which was organized April 24, 1924, in a meeting at San Juan High School.

William Cobb was the first president of the group, which had 31 charter members.

Many newcomers must wonder why this community leaves such an old building on Sylvan Road. To them it represents an "eyesore", but there are many oldtimers still around who were responsible for placing the only meeting hall in Citrus Heights on that property and their descendants are still working to get better facilities. Many recall the good times they've had in that building.

The agendas of the Community Club compare quite well with those of the present day Chamber of Commerce. Some of their problems included efforts to equalize taxation on rural property in the county; getting telephone service, lights and power; and cooperation on expansion in the territory.

On June 8, 1924, the general topic for discussion was the "injustice of present method of taxation and the general depression caused by overtaxation". A representative from the assessor's office and State Senator Inman were present to try to explain the situation.

Efforts to secure lights for the northern part of the "colony" were reported, and Mr. Alexander said he had secured seven stoves and more would be available if the power company would extend its lines to the territory.

Feb. 10, 1925, the meeting was held at 9 p.m. because earlier in the evening had been taken up by a basketball game between San Juan and Roseville.

Road Day was an important annual event, where everyone pitched in to repair the roads as the best "do it yourself" project. A committee headed by N. Van Maren was appointed to obtain red danger lights for certain bad highway intersections in the district. A community cleanup committee for the Sylvan Cemetery was in charge of Van Maren and Wright. A building committee to find a meeting place included A. Van Maren, T. DeKay, Judge McAdams and William Cobb.

The road committee reported on June 9 that new road signs were ready to install and permission had to be obtained from B. F. Stetson to cut off a corner of his property in order to improve the intersection of Sylvan Road and Greenback Lane.

Close cooperation between the Community Club and the Mothers Club resulted in completion of numerous projects and called on each other for assistance. Mrs. Worley presented a resolution from the Mothers Club regarding a proposed prison farm.

Early in 1926 action was taken to form a cemetery district, headed by Fertig, Cobb, DeKay, Rusch, Van Maren, and McAdams. The formation of a Boy Scout Troop was also discussed. A "Squirrel" Day was set for April 29, with F. McMillan as chairman.

The club took action on proposed changes of the Lincoln Highway and Sylvan Corners. A committee was to work with the Sylvan School trustees to meet with road committee (commissioners) to try to have the width of strip taken decreased by 1,000 feet.

The history of the Club is dotted with names still familiar in the community. Ross Clover, according to minutes of a meeting on Nov. 8, was paid the sum of \$1.00 for washing dishes. Clover, after graduating from San Juan High School, became a teacher and coach at his Alma Mater and later at El Camino High School.

The first annual dinner was held Jan. 1927, attended by 300 persons, with President Charles Spurgeon as toastmaster. Assisting with preparations were Mesdames Easter, E. Brown, B. Wallace, E. Morrisett, H. Bothman, Art Strater and William Nuttall. Guest speaker was Bishop Moreland of the Sacramento Episcopal Diocese, who spoke on the necessity of some sort of spiritual guidance for young people.

The importance of advertising the district was discussed early in 1927. J. A. Gray spoke on the many natural resources and modern and most up-to-date improvements and facilities to be found here - such as several paved roads and highways, electric energy, day and night telephone service, water under pressure, the possibility of gas being served in the near future and the splendid schools.

Chances for obtaining school bus service for Sylvan Grammar School were investigated by Mr. Cobb.

A mass meeting was held May 16 at Sylvan School to discuss the possibility of obtaining a new school building. And in view of a new building, a committee met with school trustees in an effort to obtain the old schoolhouse for a clubhouse. The old building was purchased for \$50 and Adolph Van Maren offered one half acre of land adjacent to the Cobb vineyard on Sylvan Road to locate for a clubhouse site.

A housemover by the name of DeCater offered to move the building to the new site for \$357 - provided the club would furnish the tractor. He then paid a \$6 membership fee into the club to help defray the cost. Remodeling the building was a major project, a kitchen and stage were needed. The electric lights were put in by our now retired constable Byron Myklebost, and Loker and Husu.

A topic for discussion in Nov. 1927 was incorporation. It was reported that the four neighboring communities could form a strong organization for the welfare of this section of the county by joining together. A committee was appointed to talk with the supervisors and Roseville businessmen to see if a road between here and Roseville could be repaired so it would be safe and passable until the state highway was constructed. They also endorsed the Boy Scouts that night.

Numerous activities were held to raise money for remodeling the clubhouse - a masquerade ball, negro auction, card parties, comic opera, and just plain diggin' down deep in their own pockets. So on Jan. 10, 1928, the community clubhouse was dedicated.

When Sylvan School enrollment exploded in 1947, the old clubhouse was pressed into use again as a kindergarten.

The first meeting in the new clubhouse was attended by 125 members. Many organizations today can only hope they will ever attract half that number for an important meeting.

Mr. Loker acted as the entertainment committee and surprised the club by displaying a new electric foot and hand playing piano with brass band attachment. He informed club members that the entertainment would be a surprise and before the melody had died away, a motion was made to buy the piano.

Adolph Van Maren, reporting on the progress of the fire committee, suggested everyone have a fire extinguisher and a fire-plug near the buildings due to the large territory in the district. He also donated an additional one-fourth acre of land to the club and the DeKays gave \$25, thereby clearing the clubhouse of debt in December 1929.

Landscaping of the Sylvan School, numbering of houses, publishing a directory of the community were among the projects undertaken by the club. William Mooney, who retired several years ago as principal and superintendent of San Juan High School, was elected president in 1930. During his term the members were active in raising money for Red Cross work.

Mrs. Lydia Gilliam, librarian, told the group that the library would be discontinued unless there was an increase in circulation, and they called on the board of supervisors regarding this matter. The traffic control problem at Sylvan School was investigated.

Getting people out to vote was a problem even then, as Mrs. Connie Van Maren asked for a plan to accomplish it.

A successful membership drive in 1933 resulted with 175 signed cards. Two baby chicks were turned in on membership dues. At the end of the drive nine pullets and 17 roosters were counted as dues, and if they were not redeemed would be used to feed the workers on the next Road Day.

Men of the community built a "pedestrian path" from Sylvan School to Twin Oaks Ave., a path between the road and the ditch, so children could walk to school.

Confusion as to whether San Juan High School was in Fair Oaks or Citrus Heights became a controversial matter. Both communities have claimed it up to until just a few years ago. Several men were appointed to a committee to obtain a post office for Citrus Heights.

Gene Desimone, newly appointed chief of the fire department, was the guest speaker on Jan. 8, 1935. He reported that if a few donations were made the organization would be self-supporting. A year later they sponsored their first Red Cross first aid course for 60 cents.

The library was moved to its present site (Sylvan Road) in 1938. The same year expansion was needed at the high school and a bond election was held on June 15.

Records of the Community Club have been lost covering the years 1939-49. In the meantime other organizations were being formed and taking over some of these projects.

Postmaster Mrs. Robert Woods urged all residents to go to the engineer's office and obtain house numbers to facilitate mail delivery.

Various members of the club offered to contact land owners in the community to see if they could develop a park. The Rusch family later donated 15 acres of land for a park.

Early in 1950 several items were presented to the club: zoning in Citrus Heights, endorsement of a supervisor from the district; a park and moving the Boy Scout Lodge.

Thomas McBride called a meeting to organize the 4-H Club in the area for all interested children.

The average daily attendance at Sylvan School in 1951 was 976, with an expected increase of 100 during the next year.

John Gray told the club how water would be available from Folsom Dam, which was expected to be built soon. Mrs. Dorothy (Fred) Burden asked the Community Club to help raise funds to furnish the new Boy Scout Lodge to be built in back of the library.

Because Road Day became such a large project, other organizations were asked to help with the community clean-up, and the club would serve a free dinner.

Action was taken to start a blood bank in Citrus Heights and the mobile unit made its first appearance in the community on Feb. 19, 1953, with 35 units donated.

Cecil Shubert reported that the 1954 estimated population figure of 5000 was to be used on the highway signs.

U. S. POST OFFICE

The Citrus Heights Post Office established rural delivery routes in 1949 and became a second class post office in 1951. It was housed in the back of Woods' Variety Store on Mariposa Avenue where Hall's furniture store now stands after its expansion. Mrs. Marjorie (Robert) Woods was the postmaster, with two carriers and three clerks. In Dec. 1953 a post office building was officially dedicated, at the end of the present Hall buildings.

In 1965 a new post office building was dedicated on Old Auburn Road. Several branch offices were then established in stores.

GARDEN CLUB

The Citrus Heights Garden Club was organized in 1947 through the efforts of Earl Nelson, who served as its president in 1948 and 1949. The club held an annual Spring Flower Show and contributed to the beautification of Rusch Park.

AMERICAN WAR MOTHERS

Citrus Heights Chapter No. 69 was organized May 13, 1950, at the home of Mrs. Edna Blinman. (It disbanded in 1971). First officers were Mrs. Isabel Arnold, president; Mrs. Nina Wilson, Mrs. Callie Bush, Mrs. Frances Coburn, Mrs. Hattie Hoyt, Mrs. Jewell Hull, Mrs. Lulu Sweatt, Mrs. Dovie Woltman, and Mrs. Effie Lish.

LIONS CLUB

The Citrus Heights Lions Club was organized in 1950, having split from the parent Roseville Lions Club. It took over the sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 82 and has maintained the Boy Scout Lodge on Community Drive. The Club spearheaded many community activities during the 1950s; included was the annual Spring Festival which brought together all community organizations for a day of fun in Rusch Park, with proceeds for park equipment. During the 1950s they sponsored a community calendar with meeting dates and birthday

Members of the Lions Club planted a Christmas tree at the Sylvan triangle and made many efforts to keep it alive. From time to time it became the center of controversy with Sacramento County as to the responsibility of maintaining the small area.

AMERICAN LEGION

Citrus Heights Post No. 637 was formed in 1955 with R. R. (Duke) Rohland as the first commander. It was organized to assist veterans in the community, which had been without a veterans' group for some years.

The Post almost immediately approved sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 228, with Joe Giusti and George Stoddard as a committee to organize it, since the only other troop had become too large. Maurice Rasmussen, a member of the American Legion, was named as its first Scoutmaster. Robert Wharton then served for almost six years.

An Auxiliary Unit was formed by the Legion in 1956.

As a safety project the Post erected a "Drive Carefully" sign at Sylvan Corners. (See photo: Commander Charles Renfroe digs hole while Joe Giusti prepares to install it in place.) 1958.

(This is now the site of a Kentucky Fried Chicken. At that time a small service station and bar was situated there, owned by the late Bruce Williams.)

LITTLE LEAGUE

Official Little League came to Citrus Heights in 1959 as the community kept growing. With Ralph Hammond spearheading the movement, and serving as its first president, those responsible for its organization were Myrl Dossey, John McGrath, James Hyatt, Bill Aylesworth, Joe Giusti, Larry Burton and H. R. Lankford. Sylvan School offered its facilities for the first year.

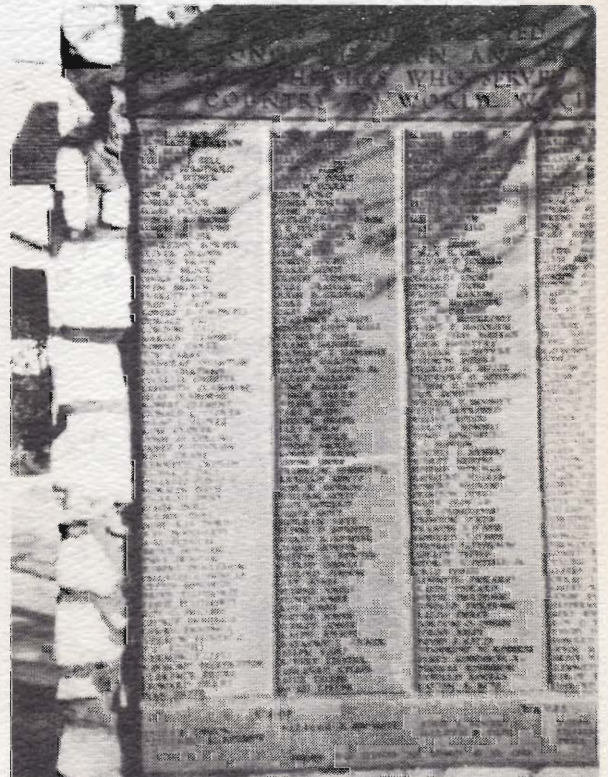
Through the generosity of L. J. McDonald, two acres of land was made available on Watson Way and Old Auburn Road for a Little League diamond and bears the name "McDonald Field", constructed by volunteer labor and donated materials.



L. J. McDonald donated two acres for the official home of Citrus Heights Little League in 1960. (P-T Photo)



Comm. Charles Renfroe digs hole for installation of a DRIVE CAREFULLY sign on south side of Sylvan School, while Joe Giusti assists. In back ground is the old Bruce Williams service station and bar, now the site of a franchised chicken store.



Memorial plaque on Sylvan Road at Community Drive lists men who served in World War II. In the background is old library building.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woods operated a variety store. Mrs. Woods retired in 1971 after 23 years as first postmaster.

RUSCH PARK

Fred and Julia Rusch gave the community 15 acres of rolling ground with oak trees and a creek on Auburn Boulevard and Antelope Road in 1950. The park was accepted in August 1952. Since that time it has been landscaped, barbecue pits installed, baseball diamonds built, and many other improvements. The park was officially dedicated in June 1958 after a brick entrance had been built and a plaque installed designating it "Rusch Park". During the 1950s all community organizations joined in the annual Spring Festival, with funds going for these improvements.

Shown in the photo are pioneer workers of the community, some deceased: Byron Myklebost, Reginald Howard, Wendell Keen, Mrs. Helen Simpson and Bruce Williams. (Bruce Williams Field is named in his honor.)

In 1971 the Rusch family, brother and sister, relinquished claim to the final piece of their ranch property and deeded, without cost, to the Citrus Heights Recreation and Park District, the 1.94 acres which constitutes the last of 320 acres inherited from their German immigrant grandparents. The gift includes the Rusch home, built in 1914, at the western side of the park. The property was part of a 480-acre ranch established in 1858 by Frederick W. Volle and his wife, the former Julia Dora Heimroth, maternal grandparents.

For a complete story, newspaper clippings can be found in the library file.



Participating in dedication: Mrs. Alice Johnson, Mrs. Lottie Grissom, Ed Sylvester, Mrs. Hazel Renfroe, Byron Myklebost, Mrs. Hazel Auldt, Reginald Howard, Joe Giusti, the Rusches, Wendell Keen, Bruce Williams, Mrs. Helen Simpson, Mrs. K. Dindinger, Marilyn Stoddard and George Stoddard.
(P-T Photo)

SYLVAN CEMETERY

The Sylvan Cemetery, long remembered as the weed patch adjacent to the Sylvan School, has undergone a restoration in recent months in observance of the 100th anniversary of its founding.

Under the direction of its board of directors which includes Chairman William Clover, James Van Maren and Earl Barnes, the cemetery has assumed a park-like appearance with hugh trees casting cool shadows.

The cemetery for the last century has served the residents of the Sylvan area. It was not until modern times with improved roads that the area was considered close to Sacramento.

The community of Sylvan received its name before the turn of the century from William Thomas, the proprietor of the 14 and 15 Mile House which were freighters' stops on the way to the gold country.

Daniel Lewis, another old resident of the area, donated the land in 1862 to be dedicated as a cemetery and the deed was recorded in 1864 by Elisha Daly and Frederick Volle. The cemetery land was only about one-tenth of an acre but expansions have increased its size to 11 acres today.

A walk through the cemetery is a walk through the history of Sylvan. The first grave in the cemetery is that of James Horton who was buried in September 1864. He was a young man from Tennessee who had come west to seek his fortune in the gold country.

He suffered from an eye ailment and feared he was going blind. One day while working for the Cross family in the area he took poison and died.

Buried in the cemetery also is the Cross family. Lillian Cross was the first school teacher in the Sylvan School and was noted for compiling a history of the area.

A Chinese man also is buried in the Cross family plot. His headstone reads: "Sam, our Chinese friend". He went to work for the family when he was about 18 years old in the 1880s and even after he left to work in various mining camps he returned and referred to Mr. and Mrs. Cross as father and mother and to the family house as his home.

Also buried in the cemetery are members of the Van Maren family which once owned and ranched a large acreage in the Sylvan area now subdivided.

The Cemetery District was formed in 1926. Directors in 1951 were Byron Myklebost, Earl Barnes and Dan Lehan. Caretaker was H.O. Jones.

As the Sylvan area continued to grow, the newcomers will outnumber the old residents and the community will tend to lose its identity - except in the Sylvan Cemetery where the names of the pioneer families are cut in stone.

---reprint The Sacramento Bee
Sept. 9, 1962

THE VAN MARENS

(Reprint from San Juan Record, Feb. 26, 1959, in part - see newspaper story in library) - by Guy Van Maren:

In the Sacramento Daily Record Union of Oct. 23, 1886, the John Bruener Co. advertised a walnut marble-top bedroom suite for \$45, and a parlor suite of seven pieces for \$40. The social page was interesting. Here is an interesting item about my parents:

"Last Wednesday at the residence of the bride's mother near Antelope, Miss Katie Donahue and Adolph Van Maren of that place were joined in the holy bonds of matrimony by Rev. Father Tormey. The bride and groom were attended by Miss Mary Van Maren and N. Van Maren. Miss Donahue's many personal charms and genial disposition have made her a general favorite in society as was evidenced by the many valuable presents she received from her friends.

"Those at the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. Von Santen, Misses Mary and Ella Manning, D. Gillis and J. Brown of Sacramento, Miss Louise and Mamie Kelly of San Juan; Mr. and Mrs. Philip Van Maren, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Donahue, Mrs. H. F. Staring, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Marrett, John Donahue, Miss Clara Donahue, Miss Louisa Lauppe, L. S. Dailey, J. Ives and Finley McMillan of Antelope."

His grandparents were Constantina and Peter Van Maren, early day farmers and large land owners, and had six children. The ranch totaled 787 acres, and the home was near the creek on Dewey Drive, just off Greenback Lane.

He attended Sylvan School, but the building was the one now occupied by the community club on Sylvan Road. There were about 35 pupils, nine classes with one teacher. Among the pupils were Henry Schnabel and his sister, Emma Mack (now in nearby Orangevale); Charlie Lauppe (Roseville); Columbus Lauppe (Grimes, Colusa Co.); Ada Peck, Marie Ross, and Dan Lehan (who grew up in our home as one of our Van Maren family.

He went to high school the first year in Sacramento and graduated from Roseville High School in 1915. Then graduated from the College of Agriculture in Davis in 1917; 1918 and 1919 in service.

His wife, Iva Whitsell attended Fair Oaks School and San Juan.

Guy Van Maren was the youngest of four children. His father had been a school trustee from 1890-1925. In all, Van Marens have served on Sylvan School boards for 42 years!

Their home on Auburn Blvd. is of historic interest. It was once known as the 14 Mile House, built about 1850, and remodeled several times. Mr. and Mrs. Guy Van Maren celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 8, 1971. They were married in Sheldon, Iowa.



The street recently built between Auburn Blvd. and Greenback Lane west of Christ the King Retreat House has been named as an extension of Van Maren Lane in recognition of one of the oldest pioneer families in the area. The new road connects Van Maren Lane on the north and Dewey Drive on the south. By vote of the Board of Supervisors, Van Maren will now extend from Antelope Road near the freeway to Greenback at Dewey.

The Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce asserted that Guy P. Van Maren, oldest living member of the family, and his son, Adolph, were the immediate previous owners of the land upon which the street was built.

The Van Maren homestead was established more than 112 years ago by Peter Van Maren, a native of Holland and grandfather of Guy.

The Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1958 and by its untiring efforts in the community pushed through a \$12,500,000 bond issue for a master sanitation district in north-east Sacramento County. First secretary-manager was Fred Green.

The Chamber was responsible for obtaining extended telephone service for toll-free calls to Sacramento north of the American River.

The Roseville Telephone Company began to provide service to the Citrus Heights area in 1948 -- after World War II as the community began to grow. Prior to that time the area was served by a farmers' line in which the subscribers maintained their own lines.

FRIENDS CHURCH

The oldest church in the community is the Friends Church, located at 7600 Old Auburn Road since 1921.

However, the history of the Church goes back to 1914 when the need for a Sunday School was activated by I. E. Merson of Antelope.

A. W. Leonard brought his family from Oklahoma and purchased 10 acres of land in this new and sparsely settled area, and set about to establish a community center in which to train youth to honor God. He presented his concern to the Berkeley Quarterly Meeting, then to the Yearly Meeting in Whittier. This group appointed a committee to visit Citrus Heights and survey prospects.

Leonard went into the real estate business to attract people to the community, and worked actively to get San Juan High School located here. He succeeded in selling land to a few Friends families and they took over the Sunday School. Within a year, Harry Hollingsworth, a young minister of Denair was asked to serve as the first pastor. In 1915 he moved his family to Citrus Heights and took up pastoral work, at the sum of \$15 a month.

A meeting was held in the home of Austin and Nettie Marriage on Feb. 28, 1918 for organizational purpose, assisted by A. J. Weaver and Levi Gregory. Berkeley Quarterly Meeting appointed Rebecca Naylor, Roma Hollingsworth, George D. Weeks, A. J. Weaver and Levi Gregory as the committee in charge, and the following were appointed:

Austin Marriage, Clerk; Carrie Taylor, Daniel Morrison and Gertie Leonard, Elders; Martin Taylor, Jessie Wiley and Nettie Marriage, Overseers; Daniel Morrison, Treasurer and Chairman of Finance Committee, and A. W. Leonard, member of Finance Committee; Julia B. Morrison, Lura Hollingsworth and Austin Marriage as members of the Bible School Committee; and Harry Hollingsworth was continued as pastor.

The charter members of this Monthly Meeting were: Harry and Lura Hollingsworth, their daughters Ruth and Grace; Austin and Nettie Marriage, their daughters Gladys and Mildred; Martin and Carrie Taylor, their children Verda, Merle, Wilson and Estaline; A. W. and Gertrude Leonard, their children Dewey, Amos, Mabel, Grace, Annie and Fannie; Daniel and Julia Morrison, their children Edna, Harley, Cecil and Elvas; and Jessie E. Wiley.

The need for a church building was presented to the Yearly Meeting, who proposed that a \$10,000 building be erected and promised \$5,000, with the rest to be furnished by the local group. The land

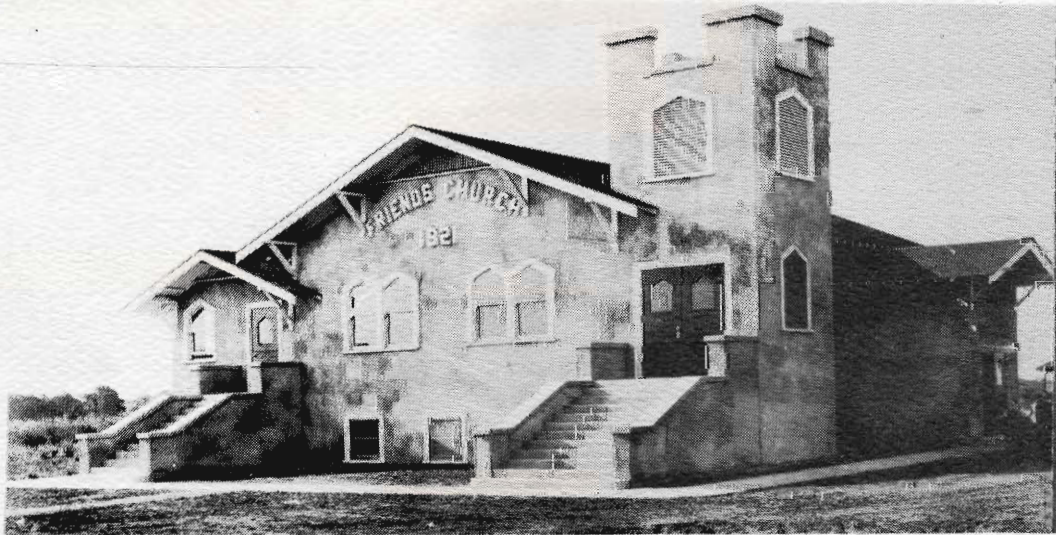
was purchased in October 1919, and a canvass of the area brought in over \$6,000. The building committee and others gave their time and labor. Cost of furnishing and equipping the new building exceeded the estimated cost, but when it was completed on its present site, it was dedicated - debt free. Dedication services were held on Sunday, June 12, 1921. First meeting in the new building was June 16 at which time Everett Scotten became the first Pastor in the new church. He had succeeded May Hudgins.

John R. Wright became the pastor in 1924 and during his years the parsonage was built. He was followed by Leroy Thornburg, Blaine G. Bronner, Robert Shattuck, J. Francis Lowe, Eugene Coffin; Glen and Mildred Rinard arrived in 1946.

Early in 1937 it became evident that more Sunday School rooms were needed, and seven were added; two years later two rooms were added to the parsonage.

There are three objects presented to the Church: The Cedars of Lebanon tree that is growing in the northeast corner of the church lawn had its origin in the Garden of Gethsemane and serves as a reminder of the suffering of our Lord in the Garden. The cypress tree in the north end of the parsonage lawn was planted in honor of the founder of this Church, A. W. Leonard; and the walnut bench that was used in the old Yearly Meeting House in Richmond, Indiana, from 1826 to 1878 and was presented to this Meeting in 1924.

Remodeling was started in 1951 with removal of the old steps and other concrete work from the front of the building. Trustee Don Sweatt was in charge of the project. Among changes were addition of the west wing, enlargement of the main sanctuary and remodeling of the pulpit. Again it was built on a pay-as-you-go basis. This was re-dedicated on May 3, 1953. The present pastor is Keith Kirk.





Holy Family Church welcomed parishioners in 1949 in an old army barracks building which was moved to Citrus Heights from Camp Kohler, near Sacramento, which had been declared surplus by the government. This building is now the social hall, having been moved to the back of the church parking lot in 1964. A new brick building was dedicated on Old Auburn Road in 1965. (Camp Kohler was destroyed by fire).

Father Vito Mistretta, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., who served as an assistant in Roseville, was appointed to serve the new church by the late Bishop Robert Armstrong.

Holy Family Parochial School opened its doors for the first time in September 1959 for grades one through six, staffed by the Sisters of Charity of the Infant Mary, a teaching order in Argentina, with headquarters in Italy. It opened with five nuns and a lay teacher. Mother Amalia was its first principal. Additional nuns arrived the next few years and the school graduated its first eighth grade class in 1967. Mrs. William McElroy taught the second grade.

The church and school are located on a site purchased from Lorenzo Roskelly. It was dedicated on June 5, 1949, to the Holy Family of Nazareth and was a mission of St. Rose of Lima in Roseville until October 1949 when it became an independent church. Territory included from Roseville, Fair Oaks and North Sacramento.

Father Mistretta lived in a three-room apartment at the rear of the building since there was no parish house, meanwhile working on remodeling the church inside and outside. The Sanctuary was lined with Japanese paneling and a large crucifix graced the altar. The parish house was finally completed in July 1952.

Starting with about 30 families, the parish grew to more than 900 families during the 1960s. In 1949 a group of families formed the Holy Family Society, a spiritual and social group with James Cody as its first president.

BOY SCOUT TROOP #82

Scouting came to the Sylvan area in October 1932, with the chartering of Troop 82 under the leadership of Scoutmaster Robert Griffin. The troop met in the Friends Church on Old Auburn Road, and later a scout lodge was built on Van Maren Property on the west side of Sylvan Road near the creek. It was constructed from lumber of old PFE box cars. When the lodge burned down, parts of it were moved to its present location on Community Drive and rebuilt in 1950. Griffin remained as Scoutmaster until 1935, and was followed by Lucien Clayton 1936-37; George Randall, 1938; and James Campbell, 1939. Later leaders included Fred Burden, Melvin Thomas, Robert Keeny, Ralph Sargent and James Bush.

(My husband belonged in 1933, but records at the Scout Office are incomplete and he apparently was not registered. Some years the charters failed to include any boys on the roster, although it was active.)

In 1951 the Scoutmaster was Charles Brown, assisted by Don Bell. The Scout Committee included Karl Olsen, K. L. Bailey, J. Royer, Robert Kelsoe and Cecil Shubert. M. E. Howard was committee chairman.

CUB SCOUT PACK 173

The first Cub Scout Pack was organized in September 1950 under the sponsorship of the Sylvan Mothers Club, whose president was Mrs. Mabel Bassett. It was under the leadership of Cubmaster Aden Reaka.

In 1956 the pack had been divided to make two additional packs due to the large number of boys meeting at Mariposa Avenue School. In that year Pack 313 was organized to meet at Oak Avenue School and Pack 317 at Sylvan School. During the 1960s these packs were moved to other schools. However, they were sponsored by the schools' PTA organization.

SYLVAN LIBRARY BRANCH

The Sylvan Library was organized in 1931 by the Sylvan Mothers' Club. Adult books were kept at Sylvan School. Men in the community erected a building on property owned by William Cobb at the corner of Auburn Blvd. and Sylvan Road. Mrs. George Gilliam was librarian.

As the community grew, the County purchased a site at the corner of Sylvan Road and Community Drive and moved the library in February 1941. Average circulation was 800 books per month. The librarian was Mrs. Maude Blount.

When the Grand Oaks shopping center was completed and space became available, the library was moved into its present quarters.

CITRUS HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Need for a fire department began with the Community Club when they appointed a fire committee in 1928, headed by Adolph Van Maren.

Founded in 1932, the first chief, Eugene Desimone, was guest speaker at their Jan. 8, 1935 meeting and reported that with a few donations the organization would be self-supporting.

Chief Desimone served in that capacity until his death in November 1963, with many accomplishments to his credit. During the 1940s he was an aide to Congressman LeRoy Johnson of Sacramento, a radio announcer, and in 1950 he established the Pacific Coast Fire Journal, a magazine he published until his death. It was passed on to his son, Warren, who was named to succeed him as chief in 1964.

Perhaps most fame has come from the Ladies in White Rescue Squad which his wife, Zella (Morris) Desimone, of Woodland, helped him establish in 1951. These Ladies have gained international recognition for their rescue and emergency work. Few of the old-timers remain on the squad. On the death of Mrs. Desimone in 1954, the work was continued by the dedicated women, who, when called, left their families and often times their dinner, either on the stove or on the table, to respond to calls of mercy.

Several of the original members are deceased. Capt. Kitty Roberson passed away in 1956; also Mrs. Mary Bost and Mrs. Anita Kreutzjans. Among early-day members, some still active, are: Mrs. Tom Patterson (Lois), Mrs. Lloyd Patterson (Louise), Mrs. Manuel Blanco (Doris), Mrs. Wilbur Kreutzjans, Mrs. Dale Howard, Mrs. Jerry Hall (Vi), Mrs. Charles Bost, Mrs. Fred Gurry (Ruby), Mrs. Max Snyder, Mrs. Wendell Binning, Mrs. John Wilson (Marie), Mrs. William Davis (Vi); and Mrs. Ivan Jackson (June) and Mrs. Charles Saunders (Estha) who worked as dispatcher and bookkeeper.

The Ladies give Red Cross first aid courses and speak before many community organizations. A number of newspaper articles have been written of their work, including one in the Oct. 3, 1965 Parade magazine section of the Sacramento Bee. One of the first stories is dated Mar. 12, 1954, in the Citrus Heights Bulletin. All of these can be found in the library. Capt. Marie Wilson heads the squad.

During the 1940s all apparatus for the fire department was manned by women during daytime hours, with many men in war service.

A memorial to Gene Desimone is located in front of the main station on Greenback Lane.

The board of fire commissioners during the 1950s included Ancil Hoffman, of Orangevale, county supervisor for the area; Roger Patterson and Jack McDowell.

William Stoddard and Lloyd Patterson were assistant chiefs, and Ewell Hull, Ed Gardner and Phil Moeszinger were battalion chiefs.

Following is reprint from the 1951 Community Club Directory of the residents of Citrus Heights, compiled by Earl Tintinger. Owen Worley was president:

"Six stations are scattered over the district, placing a fire truck within three minutes from any possible fire in the district.

"Truck No. 1 is located at Patterson Lumber Co. in the daytime (used to be on Cook Ave. off of Mariposa); Truck #2 is located on Baird Way near the Auburn Highway (this was Roberson's, where the beauty college now stands; Trucks No. 3 and 5 are located in the central station on Greenback Lane near Mariposa Avenue (new station was built in the same place at 7641 Greenback Lane in 1964); No. 4 is located at Antelope Road, and Trucks No. 9 and 10 at the Highway station on the Auburn Highway, now on Greenback Lane at the west end.

"These trucks are backed up by three more trucks located in Orangevale and Del Paso Park districts, all under the jurisdiction of the Citrus Heights Fire Department.

"Starting as a non-profit corporation with one \$350 fire truck, it has grown into a fire protection district with a board of fire commissioners elected by the people, and more than half a hundred volunteer firemen."

Life members include Ernest Bentz, Wendell Binning, Verne Brown, Ralph Crowder, Walt Crowder, Fred Deger, Don Fisher, Ewell Hull, Don Larson, Dwight Leighty, Gene Moeszinger, Robert Moeszinger, Tom Patterson, Lloyd Patterson, Estaline Mulch, Charles Sawyer, David Stoddard, William Stoddard, Marie Wilson and Earl Smith.



PEOPLE --- THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

WALTER E. TRAINOR, Sr., who subdivided and named Citrus Heights in 1910, passed away May 13, 1960, donated the land on which San Juan High School still stands on Greenback Lane. He was in the real estate business in Sacramento for 60 years and was a partner in the Trainor Desmond Co. at 813 Jay Street before selling out to Artz, Cook and Drew. He attended Christian Brothers School. Instrumental in settling the old Sylvan District, which he renamed Citrus Heights, he brought tainloads of settlers from Midwestern states to promote the development.

His parents came to Sacramento from New York in 1852.

MISS MARJORIE BERCKHAN, dean of girls, brought to a close 33 years at San Juan High School on June 16, 1961. A graduate of Iowa State College at Ames, she came to San Juan in 1928.

Recapturing memories early in her career, the school district had students from Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, Orangevale, Arden, Arcade, Carmichael and some from North Sacramento and Folsom. The staff listed 12½ teachers, since the girls' P.E. teacher was on duty for half a day. The school consisted of 15 rooms, including a shop, office and auditorium. None of the original buildings existed at her retirement. Some 400 students comprised the entire student body. During the depression each teacher was assigned a needy family to help out, and as a home economics teacher her students made garments for small children to distribute at Christmas.

WILLIAM T. MOONEY, principal and later superintendent of San Juan High School for many years, contributed much not only to his students and teachers, but to the community. He served as president of the Community Club in 1930. He came to San Juan in 1921 and remained through the 1950s.

MRS. KATHLEEN (Kitty) ROBERSON, a great lady for her work in the community. With her husband, Winfield, they owned a florist shop on Auburn Blvd. at the corner of Baird Way (and property where the beauty college is now). At the time of her death in 1956, she was a captain with the Ladies in White rescue squad. She organized the Catholic Ladies Relief Society of Holy Family Church, served as president two terms, and worked for the needy in the community.

CECIL SHUBERT, who owned a grocery store in the 1940s, has been an active member of all civic minded groups: Community Club, American Legion, Lions Club, Boy Scout committee, Red Cross, and was a member of the Sylvan School board of trustees.

TONY MUTOZA drove the Sylvan School bus during the 1950s. In his spare time he organized dances for the young people at Sylvan School and he and his wife chaperoned them. He formed a Boys Club, an informal group, and provided sports activities for them, including baseball games during the summer. Active in the Lions Club, he participated in many school and community projects.

R. R. (Duke) ROHLAND, always ready to lend support for any community and youth activity. He served as first commander of Citrus Heights Post 637 American Legion, as president of the Lions Club, and the Chamber of Commerce which named him the Outstanding Citizen of the Year. Duke is truly an outstanding citizen.

BYRON MYKLEBOST, constable for this area for many years, passed away in 1968 at the age of 73. Known and loved by all in the community, he did much good without fanfare. (I lovingly called him "a big bag of wind" because he always had a story to tell me). For many years he was Santa Claus, as he loved children. He was active for many years with the Lions Club and the Chamber of Commerce. He was a generous man.

BRUCE WILLIAMS passed away in 1964. Active in the Lions Club and all community activities, including the American Legion, he was also a member of the Park Board. Bruce Williams Field on the Antelope Road side of Rusch Park is named in his honor.

LEIGHTON LITTLEJOHN, a Sacramento County sheriff's deputy assigned to this area was killed in line of duty. The school on Linda Sue Way in Fair Oaks is named in his honor. He operated a trailer court on Auburn Boulevard at Antelope Road.

ANCIL HOFFMAN, supervisor representing the north area of Sacramento County for many years, retired in 1964. He made his home on Greenback Lane. For many years he was the manager of heavyweight boxing champion Max Baer.

THOMAS (Sandy) MC BRIDE, organized the first 4-H Club in 1950. He is a member of the pioneer family from the Antelope area. During the 1950s he was also active in Cub Scout activities. His wife, Jean, taught school.

One source of information has been the 1951 Directory of Residents in the "Citrus Heights Community" issued by the Community Club. It contains the names of the residents as well as advertisers both here and in Roseville. Many of those people have disappeared from the scene, as have the business they operated. The Directory is a glimpse at the people who helped the community to grow and expand.

Officers of the Community Club in 1951 were Owen Worley, Pres.; N. T. Arnold, vice president; Edna Blinman, secretary; and R. H. Kelsoe, treasurer. Trustees were John Branchcombe, A. J. Hinze and R. Cowan.

Following is reprint of "Citrus Heights Water System":

Citrus Heights receives its water for irrigation, domestic and industrial purposes from the North Fork of the American River just south of Auburn, where it is diverted by a dam about 40 feet high and carried in a concrete lined canal to a distributing reservoir about five miles east of the district boundaries.

The 24-inch pipe line leads from the Penstock reservoir at the end of the ditch, conveying the water through its branches and extensions to every house and tract within the boundaries.

Because the reservoir is on top of a high hill, the water in the pipe line is under sufficient pressure to offer fire protection and fire plugs are being gradually installed. The first fire plugs were installed for the Sylvan School.

A generation ago water was supplied to a limited number of customers in this area through a 6-inch pipe line which ran north from the Fair Oaks district. With increase in population demands for water fostered the community effort for increased supply and pressure. Under the leadership of Rudolph Lauppe, C. J. Dundee, John Odgers, B. J. Fertig and William Cobb, the Citrus Heights Irrigation District was organized and the present pipe system installed at a cost of approximately a quarter of a million dollars. Albert Givan developed the original idea and the raising of the money, and the installation of the pipe system was directed by Joseph W. Gross, Civil Engineer.

Succeeding boards of directors have operated and maintained the water supply. The present directors are: Sidney N. Peterson, chairman; J. N. Brown and Willis Clover. Mrs. Mamie Morisett is assessor and tax collector; Mrs. Clori M. Spiers, secretary; O. N. Hull, pipe superintendent, with F. C. Schweers as his assistant. Treasurer is George Gilliam."

SAN JUAN HIGH SCHOOL

San Juan High School was built in 1914 on Greenback Lane on land donated by Walter E. Trainor. (He named Citrus Heights). At that time the bus route went all the way to the Country Club Centre area to the American River and Folsom. Some of the students walked several miles to school.

In May 1955 residents went to the polls to approve a \$4,000,000 loan from the state, a \$1,500,000 bond issue and was to cover the district's needs for the next four years when enrollment was expected to soar. In 1939 there were about 300 students attending San Juan, or less than the number in the graduating class 20 years later.

Voting was in 11 schools: Sylvan, Orangevale, Carmichael, Marvin Marshal, Herbert Winterstein (Arden area), Howe Avenue (Arcade area) Orville Wright, Arcade and Arden Schools.

The state had allocated more than \$1,100,000 for La Sierra and San Juan. (El Camino was the second high school built in the area).

Priority was given to replacing the San Juan cafeteria, which had been damaged by fire three weeks before.

Superintendent William Mooney had a personal interest in San Juan High School because he got his first teaching job there in 1921, after graduation from University of California. The school had an enrollment of 196 students in those days.

What was the "old" building to be torn down in one year's time, was very new when Mooney came to San Juan. The structure had been completed in 1914 and opened a year later. The gym and cafeteria were not built until 1924. The new building followed in 1938-39, with such additions as the music building in 1947.

Some of the teachers were Miss Myrle Minor, English teacher who became director of curriculum for the district, and track coach Ross Clover.

During those years San Juan won the Sacramento County basketball championship seven consecutive years, and took three Northern California Section championships. Edwin McArthur was the coach and later became principal. (He passed away in 1955. The field is named in his honor.) They topped the county league in track and tennis for five years running. In track the school won 17 trophies.

In 1960 there were 80 employees, with an enrollment of 2000. The voters in December 1959 (after two failures) approved the unification of the Sylvan Elementary and San Juan High School District into a new district, which as the San Juan Unified School District took over Sylvan, Fair Oaks, Orangevale, Arcade and Arden-Carmichael Elementary School Districts as well. When it began operating July 1, 1960, the estimated enrollment was 40,000.

NAME DROPPINGalong the way

Remember when the Sylvan Mothers' Club began discussions to form a PTA instead? Mrs. Richard Dutchko (Fay) was the first president of the Citrus Heights PTA....the split into three PTAs: Mariposa's first president was the late Mrs. James Love (Brownie); Sylvan's was Mrs. Alan Harris (Katie); and at Oak Avenue it was Mrs. George Beach (Lillian). 1955 was the year of the separate PTA units.

Recall these names from the 1956 Cub Pack 173 roster: Robert Wharton, Wilbur Kreutzjans, Arthur Wise, Kermit Carl, James Brown, Robert Gibby, Frank Hofer, Leonard Bennett; my companion den mothers: Helen Raff, Ruth Janszen, Helen Sargent, Mary Hofer, Dorothy Callahan. Working with us the previous year was Sandy McBride, Don Fisher, Roy Michaut, Sayre Huntting, among others.

Remember the Sylvan School administration controversy? The community and teachers divided - school board meetings drew a full auditorium for the first time. That was 1955 and superintendent was M. A. Becker who had been there for many years. He and his wife retired at the end of the school year. School board members during the 1950s included: Clinton Langley, Walter Schremmer, Mrs. Edith Campbell, Dr. P. V. Swearingin, Ray Lawrence, John Gaskins, Robert Stevenson, Lester Call, Bertram Dickson, Clifford Thompson and Cecil Shubert.

Basil Nichols was named superintendent of the Sylvan School District in 1956, and Robert Fries became principal in 1956.

Girl Scouts and Brownies were active during the late 1950s, with leaders Mrs. John Edgett (Emma), Mrs. James Bennett (Moya), Mrs. Melvin Thomas (Edith), Mrs. Joe Corral (Pearl), Mrs. Fred Burden (Dorothy), Mrs. Don Millette (Frances), Mrs. Arthur Kennedy (Joan), and Mrs. Sayre Huntting (Bobby).

Campfire Girls in Citrus Heights became a reality in 1960 through the efforts of Mrs. Gotthold Raff (Helen) and Mrs. L. Holder (Ruby).

Citrus Heights Businessmen's Association was formed in 1955, with Maurice Rasmussen as president. Committees included Ray Lawrence, Henry Mullins, Viola Good, Clell Morrisette, Marie Wilson, Frank Beasley, Edith Forsell, Phil Harris, Bill Clover and Al Johnson.

The community raised \$15,000 for lights for McArthur Field at San Juan, in memory of their principal. Dedication was Sept. 21, 1956 with ceremonies headed by Principal George L. White. The flag pole was donated by the Harris brothers - Phil, Kent and Alan - graduates of San Juan High School.

Citizens Committee for Sylvan School was organized in 1956 following the controversy. President was Don Dachner, and Cecil Shubert, Mrs. Preston Rhodes, William Taggart, Mrs. Laura Sanford, Mrs. Sue Hall, Robert Stevenson, Ruth Hardy, Carl Templeman, Mrs. George Beach and Mrs. John Gaskins, Clifford Thompson, Betty Shear, Reginald Howard and Robert Hood. I participated as a reporter.

REMINISCING.....

My husband was born in Roseville, but attended Sylvan School beginning in 1933 in the seventh grade. His father, Pietro Giusti, bought 12 acres of land on Twin Oaks Avenue in 1931, an abandoned plum orchard where the weeds were higher than the trees, from B. J. Fertig. The property extended from Twin Oaks Ave. to what is now Whyte Avenue on the north, and bounded by Pearl Way on the west and Jewel Way on the east. None of those streets existed at that time. He walked to Sylvan regardless of the weather.

During the spring of 1935 he remembers he got up at 4 A.M., walked to Mr. Fertig's house, had breakfast, picked strawberries for a penny a basket until it was time to continue on the way to school. The property was on the east side of Auburn Boulevard, from Walnut Avenue to almost Cherry Glen, and back to what is now Holly Drive. Holly did not go much beyond Cherry Glen off of Twin Oaks. Fertig also owned some 40 acres near Roseville on what is now Ford hill, next to the Livoti tract, which he planted in watermelons. Could it be that he never missed a few watermelons?

Remember Crabtree's Nursery? It was located on the east side of Auburn Blvd. at the bridge across from Busch Park, where Kinney's is now. My husband carved his initials in a tree there back in 1935.

Six members of the Giusti family graduated from Sylvan. They went on to San Juan beginning in 1934 through 1950. With the graduation of our sons, Richard in 1965, and Robert in 1967, came the end of our representation at the school. The following year Sylvan graduates began attending Casa Roble High School in Orangevale.

While one bus came as far as Twin Oaks Ave. for the San Juan students, if Joe stayed for after-school sports, it meant a long walk home, followed by chores on the ranch.

The 1939 San Juan yearbook "Greenback Notes" is dedicated to Mr. Adolph Van Maren, a good friend and neighbor". Doug and Adolph Van Maren were in my husband's graduating class. Their principal was William Mooney, and the school's address listed Fair Oaks.

In 1950 we bought our home on Glenn Avenue (named for Glenn Minard of Seawell & Minard, who developed the two blocks of one-acre lots. Seawell was a state senator.) Leineke-Dickson Realty whose office was about where Larry's Saw Shop is on Auburn Blvd. was the seller. Both Jack and Glen were active in the Businessmen's Association and Lions Club.

By 1952 when our son started school at Mariposa, new organizations were getting started in the community, taking over from the Community Club; thereby we became charter and/or founding members of several groups during the next few years: Mariposa PTA, American Legion and Auxiliary, Relief Society, Little League, Knights of Columbus, Scout Troop 228, Explorer Post 228, and we took an active interest in others.

Mrs. Joseph C. Giusti

Giusti honored by San Juan

Roseville Press-Tribune - June 9, 1971

The San Juan PTA Council's Community Service Award was presented to Joseph Giusti of Citrus Heights as a surprise during San Juan High School's senior awards assembly.

Giusti, Americanism chairman for the Citrus Heights American Legion Post 637, was present at the assembly to present the Legion's citizenship awards to Jeanette

Ramsdell and Jeffrey Metzinger.

He is a charter member of the Mariposa PTA and has served as its safety chairman. In 1958 he received an honorary life membership to the PTA for service to the school, community and youth.

Giusti helped organize Boy Scout Troop 228 of Citrus

Heights in 1956 and has served as its institutional representative, committeeman and treasurer. He organized Explorer Post 228 in 1962 and worked with Cub Scout Pack 173 for five years.

In 1970-71 he served as district scout chairman for the Sixth District American Legion and currently is an assistant district commissioner for the Iron Horse District, Boy Scouts of America.

He is the holder of the St. George Award, the highest lay Catholic award in Scouting. The award was presented this year by Bishop Alden Bell of the Sacramento Diocese for Giusti's outstanding spiritual development for youth through Scouting. Other awards he holds include the Silver Bear, the highest Scout district award for outstanding service to boyhood; the Scouters training award; a certificate for outstanding service in sustaining memberships in the Golden Empire Council of Boy Scouts; the American Legion Citation for meritorious service to Boy Scouts; a Holy Family CYO plaque in appreciation for five years of support and help in youth activities; and an American Red Cross plaque received in 1969 for having donated 24 pints of blood. His donation to the Red Cross now totals 30 pints of blood.

In 1958 Giusti co-founded the Citrus Heights Little League. He served as the league's first all-star manager and managed a team for three years.

He managed a Pony League team for two years and served as all-star coach.

Giusti is a member of the American Legion, Citrus Heights Post 637. He served two years as the Legion's commander and has been Boys State chairman and Boy Scout chairman for 15 years.

He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Infant Mary Council 4964, where he has received numerous citations for youth work in addition to being the council's blood bank chairman since its founding in 1967; elected to membership in the Bishop Manogue Assembly, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus; a member of the Holy Family usher's committee and development fund team.

A machinist with S.P. for more than 30 years, Giusti was born in Roseville. He was graduated in 1939 from San Juan High School and has served continuously since 1950 as recording secretary of Roseville Lodge 1209, International Association of Machinists.

(Mrs.) Roeley Giusti has been on the staff of the Western Fire Journal since December 1963, following the death of Chief Gene Desimone. She was employed by Chief Warren Desimone to continue the magazine founded by his father: the Pacific Coast Fire Journal. Mrs. Giusti had known the late chief and was acquainted with the Citrus Heights Fire Department, having worked for more than nine years as a newspaper reporter for the "Roseville Press-Tribune" covering Citrus Heights and northeast Sacramento County. (Her name is pronounced Roy-Lee).

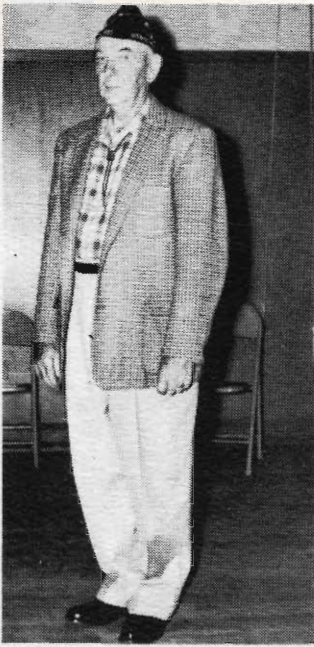


Roeley Giusti

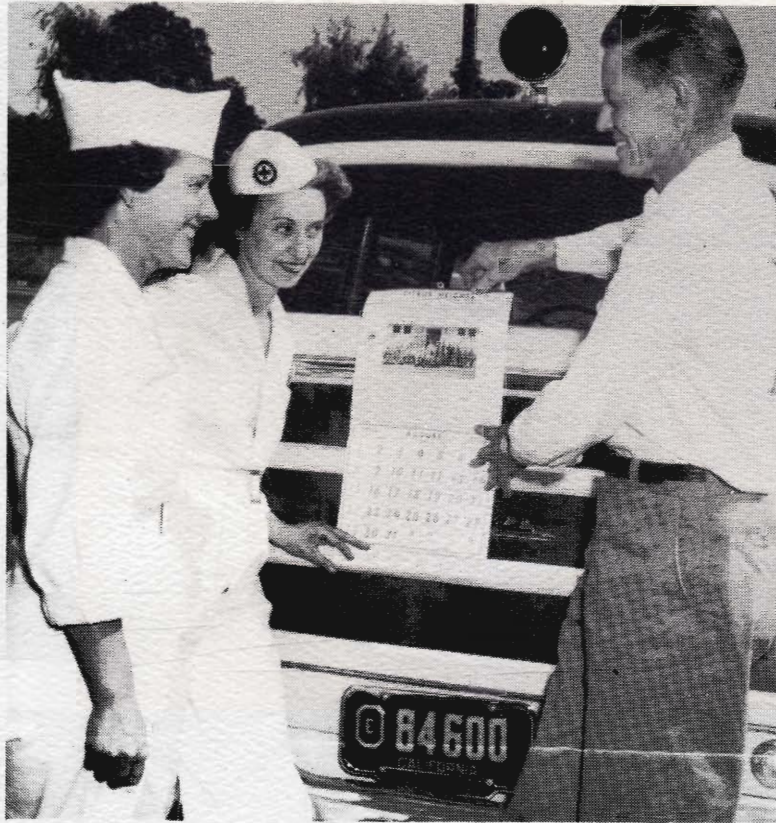
Roeley assumed circulation and office duties, in addition to editing and processing news for the magazine as its only paid staff. In 1968 the magazine became the Western Fire Journal.

Born in Fort Bragg, she attended all schools in and graduated from Ukiah High School where she was on the school newspaper staff; then went to Healds's Business College in San Francisco. Employed by Southern Pacific Company in their San Francisco General Office as a stenographer, she was the Mechanical Department's news reporter for the Company-employee magazine, the "S.P. Bulletin."





Bruce Williams



Eldred (Red) Stone of the Lions Club explains the 1954 Community Calendar to Capt. Kitty Roberson and Dorothy Cox (L) of the Ladies in White, which raised funds for a resuscitator. Both Ladies are deceased.



Byron Myklebost



Cecil Shubert



Marjorie Berckhan



1959 - Last of the old buildings in preparation for re-building on same site again.



Duke Rohland