

# When San Jose Was Young

A SERIES OF INTERESTING ARTICLES OF AN HISTORICAL NATURE PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR THE NEWS BY A WELL KNOWN AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST

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OLD SANTA CLARA

The first residence in Santa Clara, other than the Mission and the buildings connected with it, was erected in 1814 by Lorenzo Pinedo in what is now called Alviso street. At that time the Mission was under the supervision of Ignacio Alviso, the major-domo. An Indian named Vicente had charge of the Indians.

In front of the Mission was a well which was always visited by picturesque looking men and lovely women. The well furnished many a pretext for a tryst. Water was drawn up by a water wheel to which was attached an endless chain. This chain revolved and brought to the surface leathern buckets which emptied the water into troughs.

On the south of the church was the building of the fathers. Near them lived the military guard. On the north of the church was the cemetery. The monjeos where lived the unmarried Indian women was in Alviso street. Next the monjeos were the quarters of the employes. Here lived the families of both Don Ignacio and Don Jose Maria Alviso. Don Jose Maria Alviso afterward came into possession of the Milpitas ranch. Not far from the Alviso was the dwelling of Captain Luis Arguello, the family of Senor Genon Fernandez and Senor Augustin Davila, who painted the murals in the Mission church.

In the Mission yard were the ration store houses, the looms, the blacksmith shop. The slaughtering pens were back of the Mission. There were two thousand Indians living at Santa Clara in 1833 and so it was necessary every Saturday to kill one hundred beef. In the Mission yard the meat was distributed among the Indians. They carried it to the women in the rancheria.

The Indian rancheria was eastward from the house occupied by Commissary Jose Penn, near where were now the Southern Pacific tracks. In front of the rancheria were great cauldrons where meat was cooked.

When the Indians were first converted they were given clothing of unbleached cotton and a blanket. Later they wove coarse woolen cloth for their own garments. Afterwards they graduated into calico shirts and blue jeans. Some of them had shoes, but many

were barefoot.

When first converted the Indian women wore petticoats of tules and coyote skins. Later their dresses were of black and white or yellow and white stripes. They dyed the stripes with wild flowers and wove the cloth themselves.

In those days Captain Juan Malerin, the founder of the Malerin family at Santa Clara, often came in his ship from Monterey to trade with the Mission.

The Indians showed considerable aptitude in weaving, making shoes, bridles and spurs. They were fond of playing a game called Pachon, which is like hop-skotch. One of the odd customs of the natives was when an Indian died to hire a mourner to sit by the corpse and beat his own head with a rock till the blood came.

Among the Santa Clara Mission Indians courtship and marriage were very simple and modern. If a young woman desired to wed she took the father into her confidence. He proposed for the hand of the youth, and if the man was willing the marriage took place.