



THE ELECTROLIER

Newsletter of the St. Helena Historical Society, Summer 2009, Vol.7 No.3

WRECKED TRAIN.

Gentle Milch Cow Causes Great Disaster.

TWO MEN BADLY INJURED.

Engine, Tender and Mail Car
Leave the Track and Are
Overturned—Engineer Re-
mained at the Throttle.

For the first time in the history of St. Helena the people have seen a train wrecked within the town limits and the trouble was all caused by a gentle milch cow having no grudge whatever at the Southern Pacific Company.

Monday morning at 10:25 o'clock as the north-bound passenger train was steaming into town a cow, belonging to Chris Mills, which was browsing behind a clump of trees and out of sight of the engineer, ran onto the track in front of the train. There was not time to stop as the animal was only a few yards ahead of the train so Engineer Ball opened the throttle in hopes of increasing the speed to a rate sufficient to knock the cow off the track. The distance was too short, however, and the engine cut the cow in two, the head and shoulders being dragged under the engine. In a second more the crossing at Charter Oak avenue was reached, and the higher ground at this point caused the obstruction to raise the engine sufficient to throw it from the track. Before Engineer Ball could get the train stopped the engine had plowed through the fence into the Sciaroni cellar yard, had uprooted a tree and caused considerable havoc finally sinking deep into the soft earth. The tender was badly broken and the mail car tipped partially over.

In this issue of the newsletter, we reprint articles and ads from the *St. Helena Star*, items we've found fun and interesting as we've poured through the microfilm while doing research. The story below is from November 14, 1902. The mishap occurred on November 10, 1902.



She stubbed her toe on a cow: This embarrassing happenstance occurred at St. Helena in 1902. Locomotive 1309 and its train sprawls over the intersection of Charter Oak & Main.

Fireman C. C. Smith jumped from the engine and had his shoulder dislocated. Mail Clerk Lewis Mitchell was hurled from one side of the mail car to the other as it tipped and sustained the fracture of one rib and severe bruises.

Passengers in the coaches did not know when the train suddenly stopped that anything so disastrous had occurred. Road Master McWade, who was on board the train, thought it only an emergency stop.

The passengers for Callistoga and Lake County were taken to Callistoga in a coach by F. T. Mooney and the contents of the mail car which had been placed in the St. Helena post office were taken to Callistoga in charge of Postmaster Grauss.

The injured men were placed in charge of a physician and were soon resting easily. Mail Clerk Mitchell was able to go to Vallejo on the down train which left here by special engine nearly one and one-half hours late.

A large crowd viewed the wreck during the remainder of the day. At 6 o'clock in the evening a wrecking train reached here and commenced working, but at 8 o'clock received a telegram to quit work and proceed to Suisun to clear a wreck there. It returned to St. Helena about 8 o'clock Tuesday morning and shortly after noon had the engine of the wrecked train on the track again.

The kodak fiends were in evidence and many snap shots of the wreck were taken as mementos of an event seldom witnessed in Napa valley.

January 3, 1896

The Last Shot Fired:

New Year's eve about 9 o'clock Messrs. Cavalina and Porta, two Swiss citizens, called upon Trustee Forni and asked permission to announce the arrival of the year 1896 by firing the old town cannon. Mr. Forni told them the gun was considered unsafe to handle but upon their urging he gave his consent upon the condition that they would ask some of the other Trustees and Marshal Johnson. This was done and when the word became noised about twenty-five or thirty men had assembled long before midnight to assist in arranging for the noisy reception of the new year. The water and mud was poured out of the cannon and it was placed in position, corner Spring street and Oak avenue, and given a heavy charge. The crowd then waited for 12 o'clock when the fuse was lighted and the crowd scattered to await the result. There was an immense explosion and when the men went to look for the cannon they found only remnants of it scattered about. A piece weighing twenty-five pounds was hurled through the basement of Mrs. Potter's house a hundred feet distant. Another fragment nearly cut the limb of a locust tree in two in the Windsor hotel lot fully four hundred feet away, and a piece weighing five or six pounds was picked up in the Presbyterian church. Had the immense missile that went through the basement of Mrs. Potter's house struck nine inches higher it would have gone through the room in which Mrs. Potter and Miss Lena Merk were sleeping. As it was there was no one injured which was certainly a streak of good luck for the beginning of 1896.

June 18, 1886

Wanted a G. A. R. Star.

About half past one to day, as our printers were preparing to go to press with this issue, they were startled by the sudden appearance of a bull in the front office. The animal had broken away from the herd being driven past and rushing in at the open door, doubtless expected to get one of the Grand Army STAR's about to be issued from this office. By dint of skillful manouverings on the part of the drovers and the STAR force he was persuaded outside without going through the plate glass window.

April 26, 1909

The St. Helenas Defeated.

The second game of the Native Sons League was played Sunday at Hunt's park. The Dolores parlor team crossed bats with the St. Helena nine, the former winning in a game full of heavy hitting, by a score of 20 to 17. McQuaid was in the box for the Dolores team and was hit hard at times. Flynn started the pitching for the St. Helena team and was given poor support in the first and second innings, and in the fifth inning Guigni was sent in to handle the sphere. Flynn, Wheeler and Schaffer of the St. Helena team, did some fine work with the bat. This is the second time this season that these two teams have met, the St. Helena team winning the first game. Bismarck Bruck handled the indicator and gave general satisfaction.

St. Helena Historical Society
P.O. Box 87
St. Helena, CA 94574
Voice mail: 707-967-5502
Email: shstory@shpl.org
Website: www.shstory.org

Officers and Directors

Skip Lane, President
Susanne Salvestrin, Vice President
Mariam Hansen, Secretary
John Sales, Treasurer
Donn Black
Kim Farner
Frank Harrison
Helen Heibel Nelson
Tricia Westbrook

Committee Notes:

The **Collections Committee** coordinates and manages the acquisition of new materials. It generally meets on the last Monday of the month at 9:30am in the library meeting room. Current chair of the committee is Susanne Salvestrin. Email her at Susanne@salvestrinwinery.com

The **Program Committee** plans and presents programs and events to teach the public about our local history. If you would like to volunteer or want more information, please call Mariam Hansen, 963-5748.

Questions? Comments?

Call or email the Newsletter editor,
Kim Farmer, at 963-0630,
ksfarmer@seedgrain.com

I'd like to join the St. Helena Historical Society!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Individual \$30 Family \$50

Business/Organizaton \$150 Life \$500

I would like to: Volunteer _____ Make a donation to the Society _____

A Reminder...

Renewal letters were mailed in June. If you have not already done so, please renew your Historical Society membership today using the form in this newsletter.

Thank you!

6/1922 Going to China.

On the 14th of this month St. Helena will lose one of its well-known characters when Jung Ten, generally known as Charlie Gluyas, will leave on the steamer Nanking for his birth-place near Canton. Charlie came to St. Helena when about sixteen years of age and worked in one or two places in this vicinity as a cook until he took a place with the Captain Gluyas family, with whom he stayed for thirty-seven years. Later he worked for the Chabot family at Villa Remi and left them to cook for W. W. Everett at River Bend Farm, where he has been for the last six years.

Charlie is one of the old type of Chinese which is rapidly disappearing on this coast, and numbers his friends and acquaintances by the score. He has seen the prominent business men of this community come into the world, pass through their boyhood days and mature into the successful citizens of the present. He will be missed by many in and around St. Helena and everyone joins in wishing him a most pleasant voyage and many happy years ahead. It is just one more exemplification of the old traditions of the Chinese that, no matter how long they may live in this country, their hearts always yearn towards their birthplaces, especially in the waning years of their lives.

6-16-1876

Joe Straus only caught 105 trout in York Canyon Tuesday. He is going back after the rest soon.

12-7-1877

Old Grimes is dead, that good old man,
But Adsit keeps the store,
Where you can buy your Furniture
Much cheaper than before.

3-10-1882

A burning out of Miss McCGeorge's chimney excited a fire alarm Monday morning. Somebody with a sack of salt fortunately passing rushed up on the roof and, pouring it down the chimney, put the fire out.

6-18-1886

Members of Unity Base Ball Club are highly indignant at the interference of some of the churches, which has lost them their play grounds. They say that this will not stop them as Sunday afternoon is the only time they can get together to play. From a moral point of view they claim there is less harm in playing ball than indulging in drink the whole afternoon.

ST. HELENA BREWERY

BREWERS OF

DIAMOND EDGE STEAM BEER

Napa County Agents for

GOLDEN WEST BEERS.

Phone 1551.

D. F. TILLMANN, Propr.

THE PLACE TO EAT

IS AT

Cafe St. Helena

Entirely Renovated and Changed.

First-Class in Every Respect.

Clean and Tempting.

The Best of Cooking.

OYSTERS IN EVERY STYLE.

Special Care Taken of Our Country Friends.

Meals, - - 25 Cents.

COX BROS., Proprietors.

Main St., opposite I. O. O. F. Building.

Woman's Power Over Man

Woman's most glorious endowment is the power to awaken and hold the pure and honest love of a worthy man. When she loses it and still loves on, no one in the wide world can know the heart agony she endures. The woman who suffers from weakness and derangement of her special womanly organism soon loses the power to sway the heart of a man. Her general health suffers and she loses her good looks, her attractiveness, her amiability and her power and prestige as a woman. Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., with the assistance of his staff of able physicians, has prescribed for and cured many thousands of women. He has devised a successful remedy for woman's ailments. It is known as Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It is a positive specific for the weaknesses and disorders peculiar to women. It purifies, regulates, strengthens and heals. Medicine dealers sell it. No honest dealer will advise you to accept a substitute in order to make a little larger profit.



IT MAKES WEAK WOMEN STRONG, SICK WOMEN WELL.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets regulate and strengthen Stomach, Liver and Bowels.

Above ad appeared Nov. 24, 1905,
"Woman's Power Over Man" ap-
peared Sep. 15, 1911.

CALENDAR

Call our voicemail to reserve a space: 707-967-5502.

September

Sep 1: Program: historic restoration tour of St. Helena Catholic Church, 4:00pm.

Sep 15: Board of Directors meeting, 5pm, Library Meeting Room. (Open to all members.)

October

Oct 4: Program includes lunch at Aetna Springs Clubhouse Restaurant and a visit to an abandoned mine at Aetna Springs Road. See below for more info.

Oct 20: Board of Directors meeting, 5pm, Library Meeting Room. (Open to all members.)

November

Nov 7: Saturday, at 1pm, Annual Cemetery Tour: Famous Women: Fannie Pritchard Schneider, civil war nurse; Sarah Chase Bourn, pioneer settler; Hannah Weinberger, first woman winery owner; Clarice Vance, black jazz singer; Lola Grace Mackinder, publisher of *The Star*; Ivy Loeber, founder of NCHS. *We're looking for more "actors" to portray these women. Please call our voicemail if you'd like to help.*

Nov 17: Board of Directors meeting, 5pm, Library Meeting Room. (Open to all members.)

December

Dec 8: Christmas Potluck: 6pm location and details in the next newsletter.

Mission Statement

The St. Helena Historical Society is a public educational organization. Its mission is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and provide access to historical materials of all kinds from our community as well as to promote public awareness and participation in the collection of such materials.

ST. HELENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Presents:

Lunch & Mining Tour In Pope Valley

Sunday, October 4
11:00 am

Aetna Springs Club- house Restaurant

Join us at 11am for a social hour, followed by a catered lunch at noon. After lunch we'll tour an abandoned mine on Aetna Springs Road and hear about the thriving mining industry that once existed here. Details about the cost of lunch and how to make reservations will follow.

St. Helena Historical Society
P.O. Box 87
St. Helena, CA 94574