



Discover  
San Mateo County  
in the  
1850s

# Credits

## San Mateo County's Sesquicentennial 1856-2006

When California became a state in 1850, San Mateo County was part of San Francisco County. On April 19, 1856, Governor John Neely Johnson signed the Consolidation Act creating San Mateo County.

Throughout the Sesquicentennial year, a variety of activities from exhibits to family activity days to plays have been planned to celebrate 150 years of county history.

*Discover San Mateo County in the 1850s* is intended to encourage children of all ages to explore what life was like when the county was new.

For more information on our county's past, look for:

*San Mateo County: A Sesquicentennial History* by Mitch Postel

Available Fall 2006.

*Discover San Mateo County in the 1850s*

Created by Carmen J. Blair

Cover art by Jennifer DiSanto, a third grader from Las Lomitas Elementary School. She won the Sesquicentennial Poster Contest for her drawing of *Transportation in the 1850s*.

Coloring Sheets on pages 13, 14 and 16 by Marian Goodman.

Photographs from the San Mateo County Historical Association Archives.

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San Mateo County Historical Association  
777 Hamilton Street, Redwood City, CA 94063  
(650) 299-0104 [www.sanmateocountyhistory.com](http://www.sanmateocountyhistory.com)

# Before the 1850s

Color the pictures. Then, put the letter for each group in order on the timeline.



A. Mexican vaqueros roped cattle. Cow hides were called California dollars.



B. People rushed to California after gold was discovered. Many miners came to the San Francisco area.



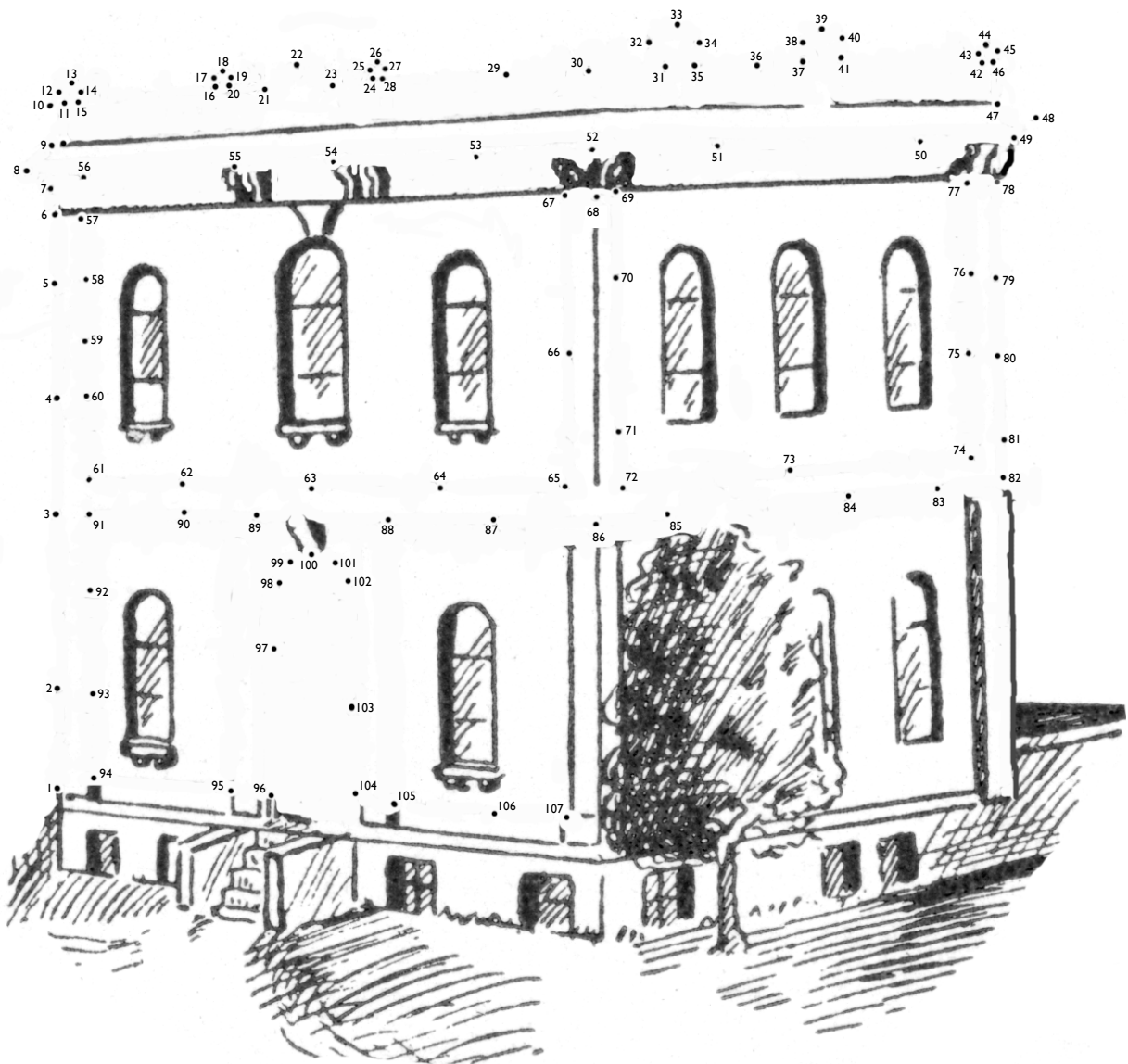
D. Ohlone women wore clothes made out of plants and animal hides. They made jewelry from shells.

**Who lived here  
before it was called  
San Mateo County?**

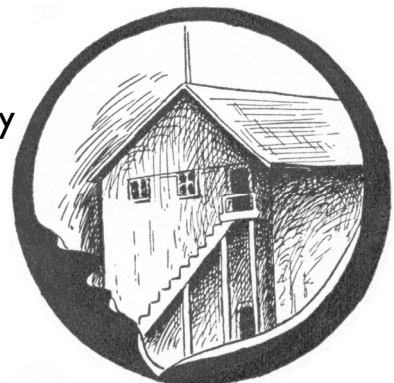
C. Spanish explorers first saw the San Francisco Bay from Sweeny Ridge. They had farms to support Mission Dolores.

# Government

*Connect the dots and discover what San Mateo County's first courthouse looked like.*



When San Mateo County was formed in 1856, the Board of Supervisors rented space at J.V. Diller's Redwood City storehouse (right) to use for county offices. It took two years to build the first courthouse (above). The county jail was in the basement. The first floor had the courtroom and county offices. The second floor was used for meetings, dances and church services.





# People & Houses

Match the people to their house. Write the letter of the house in the blank in front of the person's name.

In the 1850s, people lived in many different kinds of houses. Some lived in adobe houses made out of mud bricks. The Spanish and Mexicans had built this kind of house in the area before 1850. Many Americans preferred to build wood houses.



\_\_\_\_ **1. Maria Greer & Sons**

*From a Mexican family, Maria Soto Greer married an American. Their family soon outgrew their small adobe.*

**A**



\_\_\_\_ **2. James Johnston**

*A Gold Rush businessman, he wanted the house on his farm to look like his family's house in Ohio. It is an unusual style for the area.*

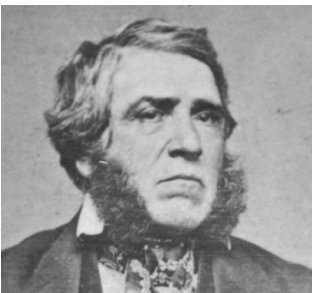
**B**



\_\_\_\_ **3. Cook Sisters**

*Elinor Cook (right) was the first American child born in San Mateo. Her father owned a stage stop. He built an American-style house for his growing family.*

**C**



\_\_\_\_ **4. Francisco Sanchez**

*A former alcalde or mayor of San Francisco, Sanchez and his large family lived in the adobe he built on his Mexican land grant.*

**D**



\_\_\_\_ **1. Agnes Poett Howard**

*Her husband built the first mansion in San Mateo County. Stories say it was shipped to California in pieces. The Howard family later built other mansions.*

**E**

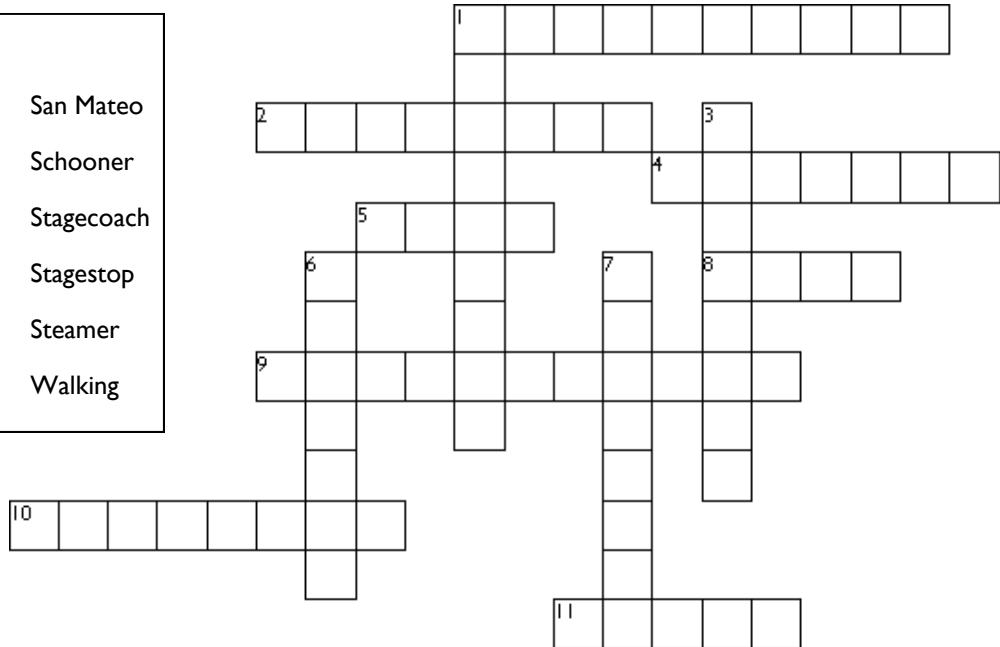


# Transportation

Use the word list and pictures to learn about how people got from place to place in the 1850s. Then, use the clues to finish the crossword puzzle.

## Word List:

El Camino	San Mateo
Horse	Schooner
Mudwagon	Stagecoach
Mule	Stagestop
Oxen	Steamer
Redwood City	Walking

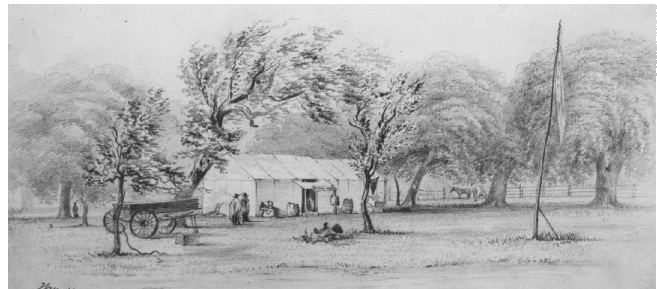


## Across

1. A horse-drawn bus.
2. An early type of stagecoach.
4. A way to get around without vehicles or animals.
5. Animals that pulled heavy carts.
8. An animal people rode on rough trails.
9. Town with the largest port for ships to dock.
10. A type of ship used to haul natural resources.
11. An animal many people rode.

## Down

1. A place where people could rest during their travels.
3. Halfway between San Francisco and San Jose.
6. A ship with an engine in which people traveled.
7. The main road through the county.

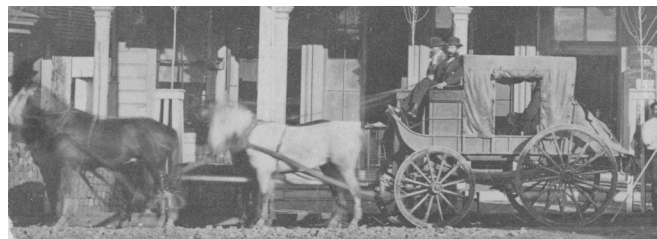


## Top to Bottom:

Stagestop at Angelo's Ranch.

Scow schooners moved wood and hay.

Mudwagons are stagecoaches.



# Transportation

*Help the stagecoach driver find his way from San Francisco to San Jose.*

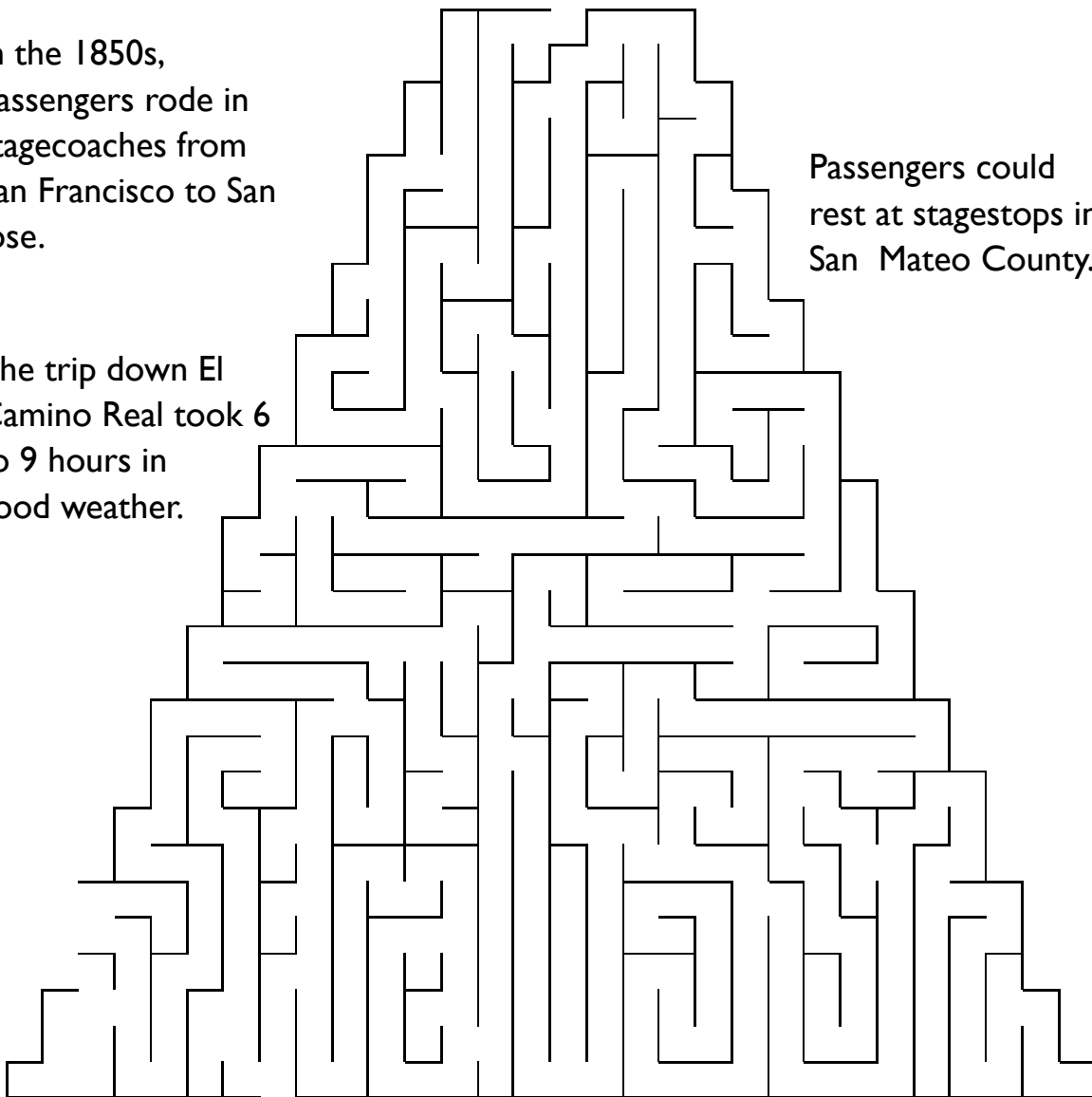


\* San Francisco

In the 1850s,  
passengers rode in  
stagecoaches from  
San Francisco to San  
Jose.

Passengers could  
rest at stagestops in  
San Mateo County.

The trip down El  
Camino Real took 6  
to 9 hours in  
good weather.



\* San Jose

# Farming

Color the pictures. Then unscramble each word. Use the marked letters to solve the second puzzle.

CRNO

--	--	--	--

2

WEHAT

--	--	--	--	--

9

8

CWSO

--	--	--	--

5

REGASP

--	--	--	--	--	--

11

1

OTAS

--	--	--	--

14

BNASE

--	--	--	--	--

4

PSEA

--	--	--	--

3

18

RIEC

--	--	--	--

15

10

EPASR

--	--	--	--	--

6

16

17

EAPLSP

--	--	--	--	--	--

7

ESPEH

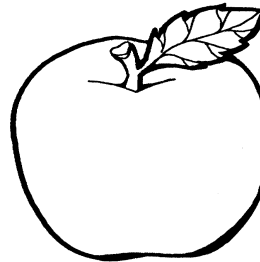
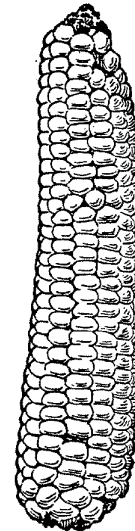
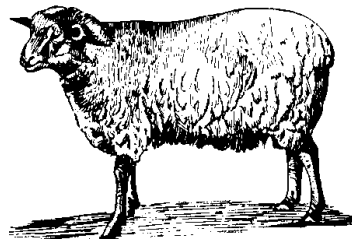
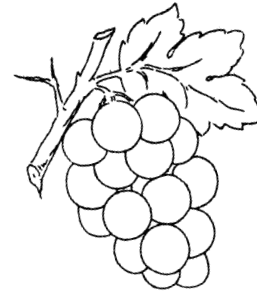
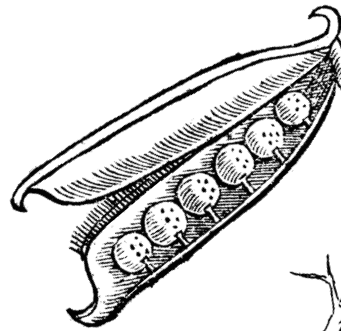
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12

SIFG

--	--	--	--

13



M			y
---	--	--	---

1

2

--	--	--	--	--	--

3

4

5

6

7

8

--	--	--	--

9

10

11

12

			m		
--	--	--	---	--	--

13

14

15

16

17

18

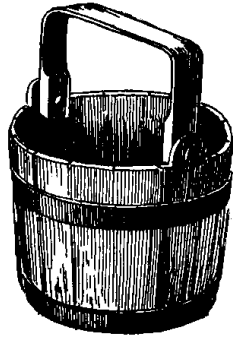


**What did farmers grow?**

# Farming

Put the steps for making butter in order. Write the letter of the step in the blank.

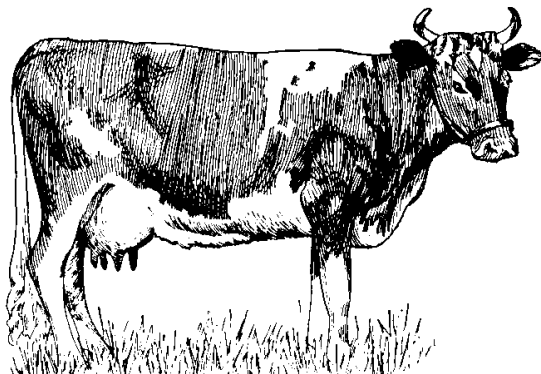
By the late 1850s, San Mateo County dairy farms made 200,000 pounds of butter per year. Most of the butter was sold in San Francisco.



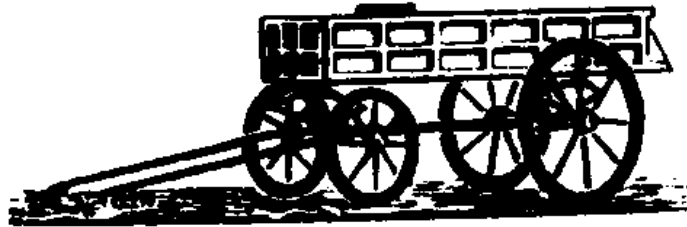
**A.** Let the milk stand until the cream rises to the top.



**D.** Skim off the cream from the top of the milk.



**F.** Milk the cow.



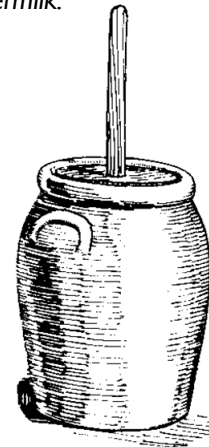
**B.** Send the butter to market in San Francisco.

## Making Butter

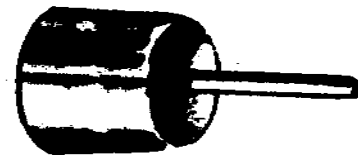
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_



**C.** Squeeze the butter balls with paddles to take out the buttermilk.



**E.** Churn the cream until balls of butter form.



**H.** Mold the clean butter into shapes to put on the table.



**G.** Wash the butter with water.

# Logging

Read the story about logging. Then, find the underlined words from the story in the puzzle.

In the 1850s, redwood was used to build houses for people living in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties.

Loggers cut down the trees. They used many special tools. They wore calked boots with spikes on the bottom so they would not fall. They stood on springboards as they chopped down a redwood tree with an ax.

Teams of oxen wearing yokes pulled logs out of the woods. The oxen and workers traveled down a skid road. The bull whacker used his whip to tell the oxen how to move. The grease monkey put grease and water on the road so the logs would slide.

There were many sawmills in the area. Workers used peaveys to roll the logs and peelers to take off the bark. They used a logging dog to hold the log in place while they sawed it. Saws were used to cut the log. They used a branding ax to put the company's logo on the wood.

A logger could make shingles. He would use a mallet to hit a froe that cut the wood. The shingles were used on the roofs of buildings.

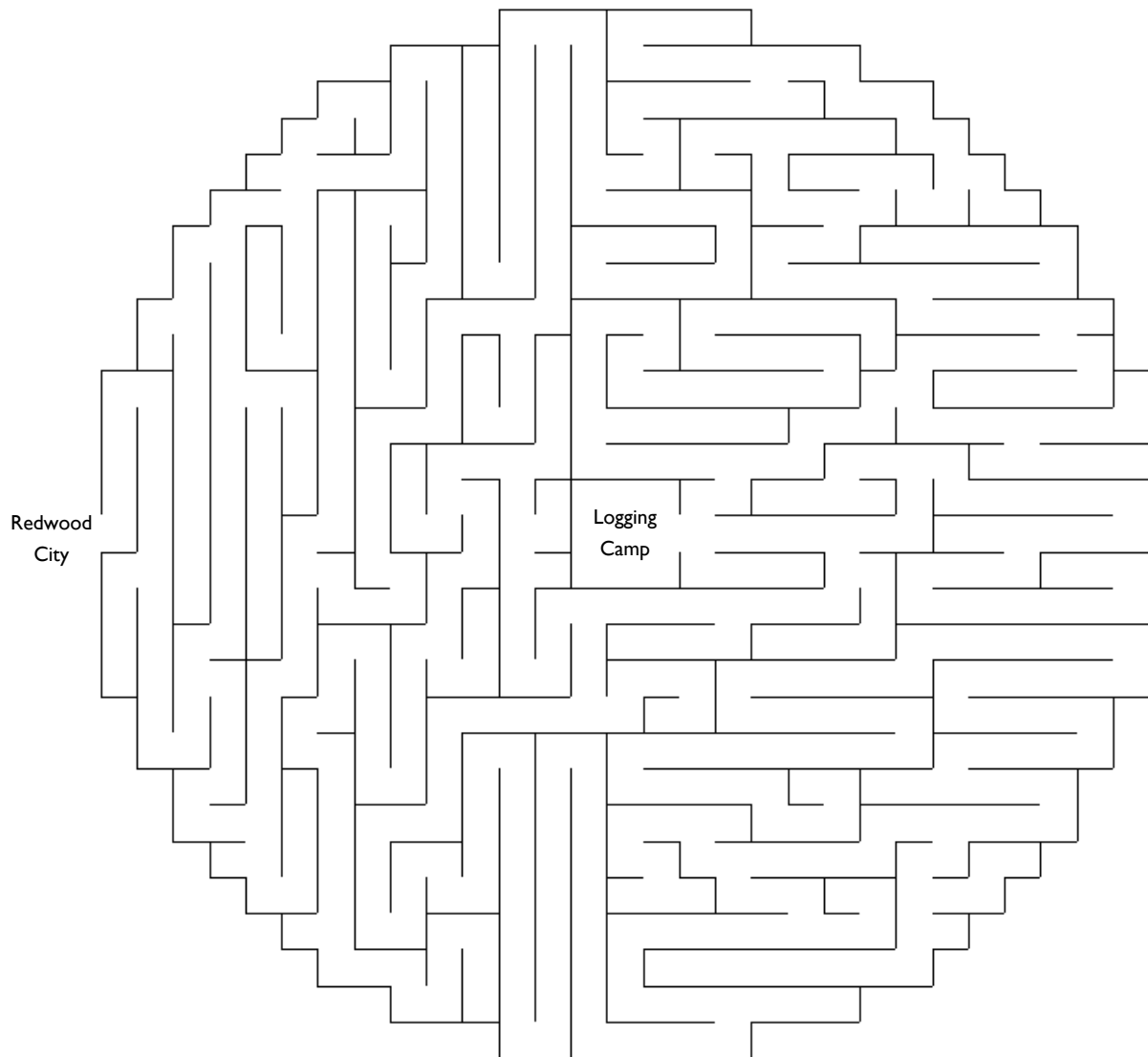


**Loggers in the redwoods.** Can you find the springboards and 2 axes?

B	R	S	K	Z	G	U	M	J	S	S	M	S	S	S
R	E	D	L	S	R	P	C	G	R	S	P	A	P	T
A	D	A	Q	X	E	T	O	E	E	R	W	E	P	O
N	W	O	S	X	A	L	L	K	I	M	A	B	I	O
D	O	R	E	P	S	E	O	N	I	V	C	P	H	B
I	O	D	S	Z	E	Y	G	L	E	D	T	W	W	D
N	D	I	U	P	M	B	L	Y	K	R	F	J	K	E
G	E	K	O	A	O	S	S	T	E	L	L	A	M	K
A	F	S	H	A	N	A	X	E	A	U	L	E	V	L
X	R	R	R	E	K	C	A	H	W	L	L	U	B	A
S	D	D	O	P	E	L	H	D	A	C	Y	O	U	C
A	S	W	L	E	Y	S	E	L	G	N	I	H	S	U
W	L	O	G	G	E	R	S	H	C	Y	K	R	A	B
S	C	F	X	B	L	K	D	F	J	Q	Q	F	I	C
L	O	G	G	I	N	G	D	O	G	O	X	E	N	J

# Logging

*Help the loggers find their way out of the woods.*



## ***Traveling down a skid road.***

*How many oxen are pulling the logs?*

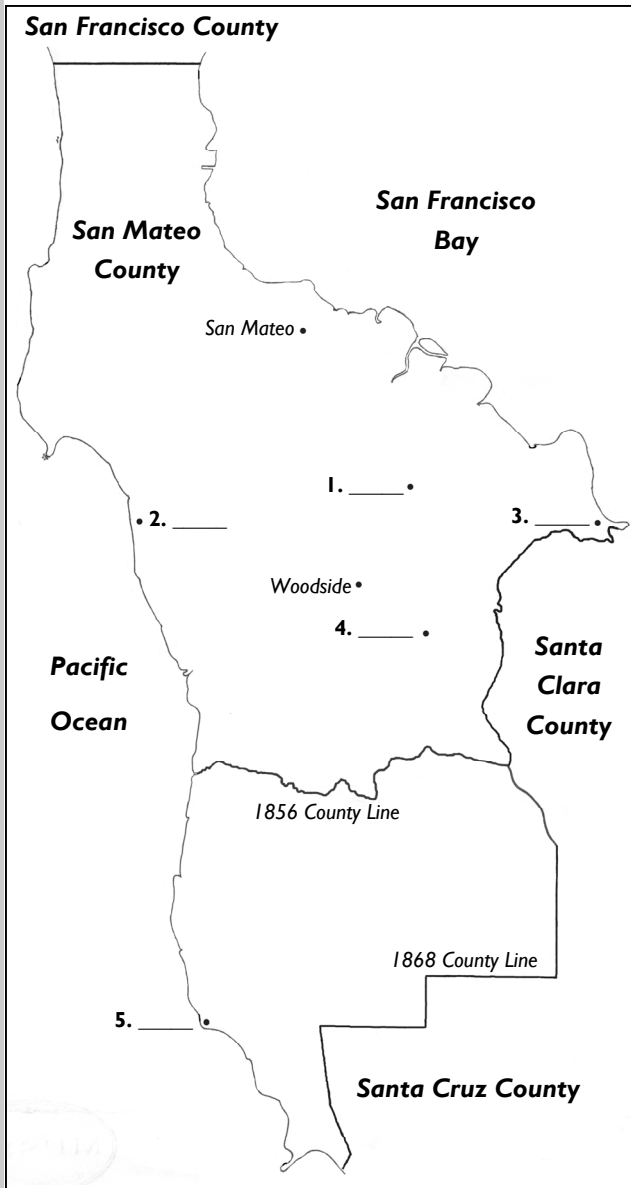
*Can you find the Bull Whacker with his whip?*

*Can you find the Grease Monkeys? They are holding pails of grease.*



# Places

Unscramble the place names. Match them to the description and place the right letter on the map.



Place names can change over time. Look at the descriptions below for hints to unscramble some of the 1850s place names. “Ville” is used at the end of some place names to mean town.

SIMEZLEVEL

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

OPNIEG PNTOI

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ERDWOSNOVA

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ESALREILSV

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ASWPNSTIHON

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Write the name of the place in the blank.

- Named after hotel owner John H. Sears, the settlement is now covered by water. \_\_\_\_\_
- Simon Mezes named the town after himself, but most called it the city with the redwood. \_\_\_\_\_
- In 1853, the ship *Carrier Pigeon* crashed near here. \_\_\_\_\_
- Isaiah Woods named this bayside port after himself and the local birds. Today, it is part of another town. \_\_\_\_\_
- Americans gave this town its name because of all the Hispanics living there. Now, it is named after a bay. \_\_\_\_\_



# Places

Color the picture.



After his fight with a grizzly bear, James Ryder was called Grizzly Ryder and the place where the encounter took place was called Bear Gulch.

# Shopping

Color the picture.



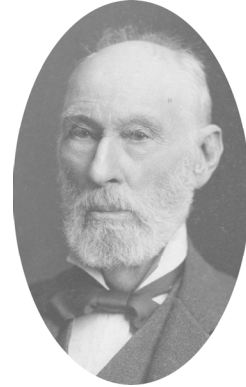
Dr. Robert Tripp and Mathias Parkhurst built the Woodside Store in 1854.

# Shopping

Find the words in the “At the Woodside Store” list in the puzzle.

## This Week's Specials

Keg of Pickles — \$3.00	Webster Spelling Book — \$1.50
Pair of Boots — \$.75	Pound of Flour — \$2.25
Barrel of Ham — \$11.00	Dozen Peaches — \$7.00
Box of Matches — \$1.75	White Shirt — \$1.00
Keg of Nails — \$8.50	Bag of Walnuts — \$3.00



Dr. Tripp owned the Woodside Store.

P M A T C H E S S W I S L A L  
 S E R C S S R L A E A S B X I  
 L Z P O O A O L P L T H P S O  
 E P A P G M N S M P S A T D E  
 W P A I E U B O E E A O L M V  
 O I C N T R N S L L O E J S I  
 T C R S S W C D V B P D N R L  
 S K O O B G N I L L E P S I O  
 P L P C P A F A B R I C A B P  
 A E E K C S P C Y E A S T B D  
 U S A S M O O R B T F L M O O  
 M A H C A N D Y K T T I V N O  
 S T R I H S X N L U X A N J R  
 R U O L F E H X N B X N E K S  
 X N P A N T S P U R Y S D T O

## At the Woodside Store

Apples	Nails	Salmon
Boots	Olive Oil	Shirts
Brooms	Knife	Slates
Butter	Matches	Soap
Candles	Pans	Socks
Candy	Pants	Spelling Books
Cigars	Peaches	Syrup
Combs	Pepper	Tea
Doors	Pickles	Towels
Fabric	Pineapple	Walnuts
Flour	Ribbon	Yeast
Ham	Rope	

## My Shopping List

6 white shirts	Dozen Peaches	2 Kegs of Nails
1 Pair of Boots	Barrel of Ham	Spelling Book
2 Boxes of Matches	2 Pounds of Flour	Bag of Walnuts

How much does it cost?

# School

Color the picture.

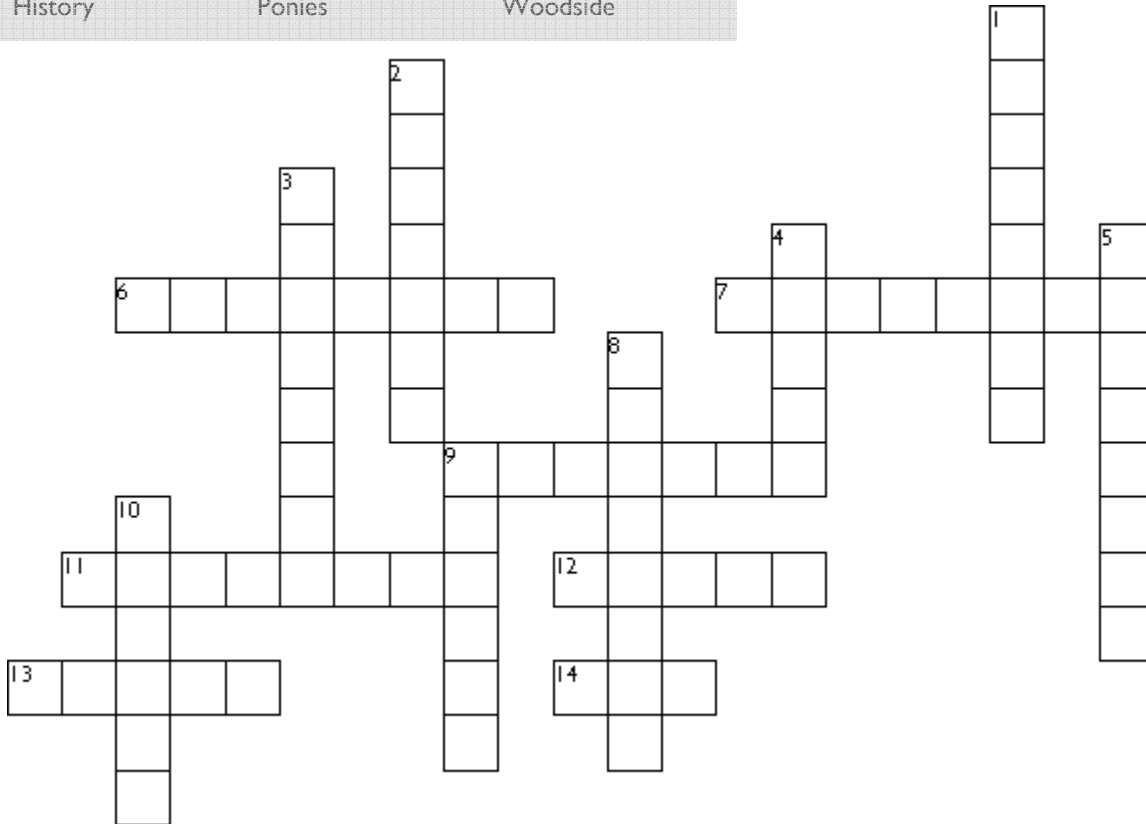
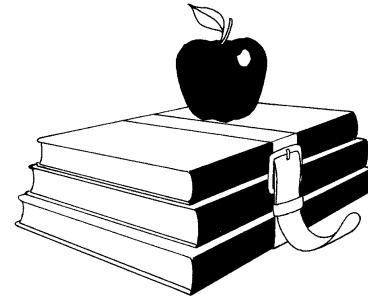


Spelling bees were a popular activity at a one-room school.

# School

Use the word list and clues to finish the crossword puzzle.

Word List		
Alphabet	Jump Rope	Spelling
Books	March	Slate
Church	One	Speaking
December	Parents	Thirteen
History	Ponies	Woodside



## Across

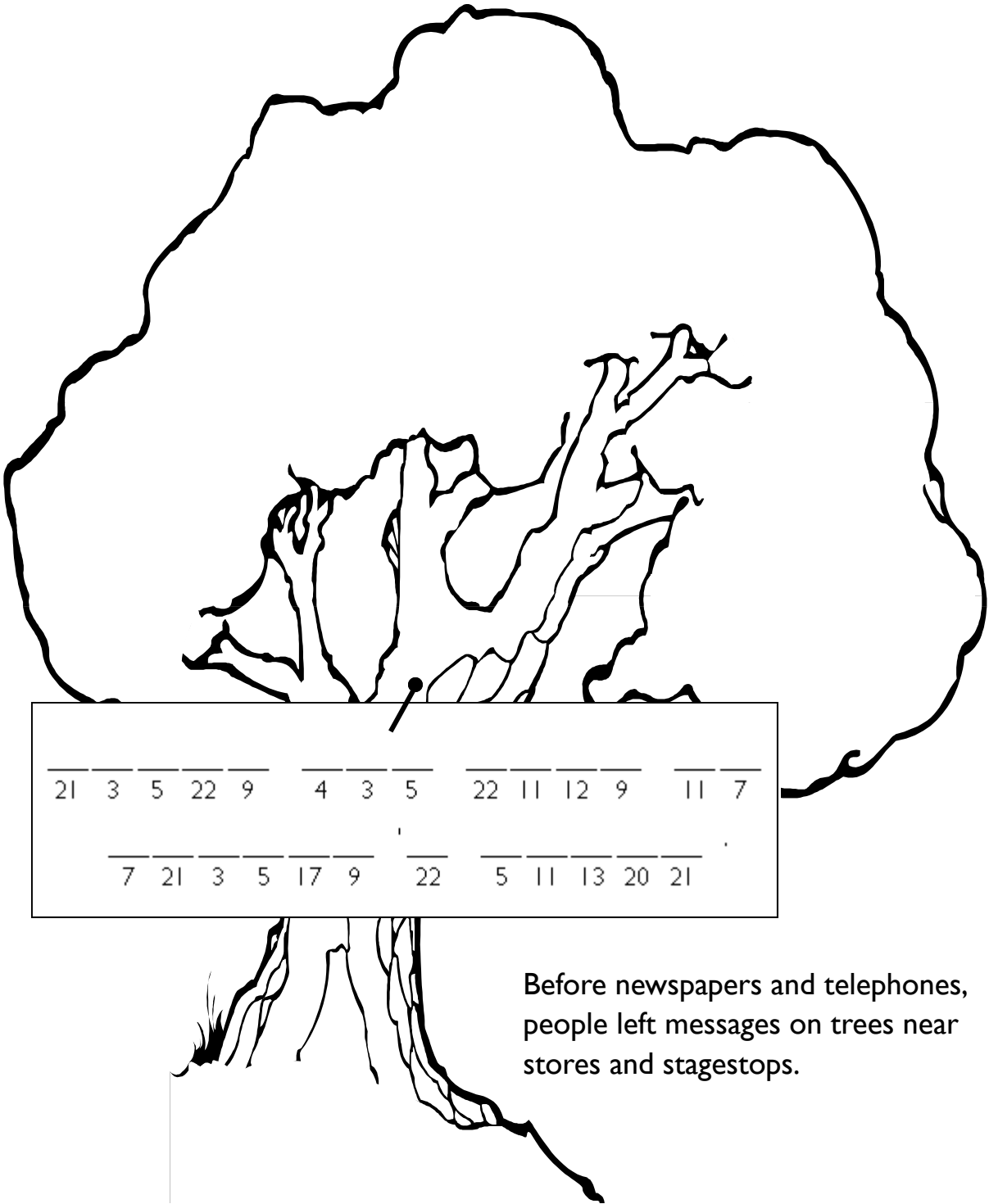
6. A recess game.
7. The first local school was built in this area.
9. People who paid the teacher.
11. Number of county teachers by the end of the 1850s.
12. Chalkboard students did their homework on.
13. Month schools opened after crops were planted.
14. Number of rooms in most early schoolhouses.

## Down

1. Program held once a month for parents.
2. Subject taught by question and answer.
3. First lesson students learned.
4. Students shared these with family members.
5. Month school closed so kids could help plant crops on the farm.
8. There were contests to see which student knew this subject the best.
9. Some children rode this animal to school.
10. Another activity held in the schoolhouse.

# Communication

Color the tree. Then, use the code below to discover the message.



Before newspapers and telephones, people left messages on trees near stores and stagestops.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
11	23	20	18	9	4	15	21	10	24	16	12	8	13	3	17	19	5	22	7	26	6	14	2	25	1

# Communication

Create your own version of the county's first newspaper.

<h2>San Mateo County Gazette</h2>	
VOL. I    REDWOOD CITY, SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 9, 1859.    NO. I.	
Terms.....\$4 a year, published every Saturday morning      Wm. Godfrey.....Proprietor	

In 1859, the county's first newspaper was published. It included news, stories, advertisements, poems and meeting notices. It had no photographs. It did have a few drawings in the advertisements.

# After the 1850s

Unscramble the words of inventions that came to San Mateo County after the 1850s. Use the marked letters to solve the second puzzle. Then, match the invention to the picture.



**A.** First came to county in 1863.

1. \_\_\_ EOTPNELEH

13			20		10			2

2. \_\_\_ MESIOV

	3	1	17	8	

3. \_\_\_ OAMSETOBLIU

11						19		4	

4. \_\_\_ EITCTREYICL

14		12	9					5	16

5. \_\_\_ LARDRAIO

	15	6	18		7		



**B.** First came to county in 1889.

1	2	3	4	2	5	6	7	2	8

w	
17	

18	19	3	20

					g	
9	10	11	2		12	

13	10	14

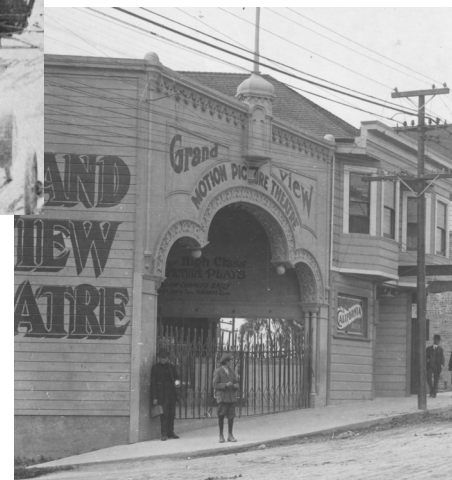
w		
15	16	

**C.** First came to county about 1878.



**D.** First came to county about 1900.

**E.** First came to county about 1900.





# Programs for Kids

Discover local history at the San Mateo County Historical Association.

## Activity Days

**Family Past Times** is a series of programs held on Saturdays throughout the year. At each program, a different theme of local history is explored through crafts, demonstrations and hands-on experiments.



*Pie-eating contest.*

**History Days** allow families to step into the past as they participate in old-time activities. At Rancho Day (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of September), experience life in Mexican California. During Old Woodside Store Day (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in May) explore life in the 1880s.

### Fall 2006 Sesquicentennial Events:

Visit [www.smc150.org](http://www.smc150.org) for more details or call the San Mateo County History Museum at (650) 299-0104.



Above:  
*Using a block and tackle at Maritime Day.*

*Making stained glass.*

## School Programs



*Making adobe bricks.*

### San Mateo County History Museum

777 Hamilton Street, Redwood City (650) 299-0104

*Getting From Here to There:* Students discover what it was like to travel long ago as they ride in a stagecoach, listen to a train story and “drive” a streetcar. Grades 1 & 2.

*Providing Plenty:* Students explore how early residents used natural resources as they prepare an acorn meal and make shell jewelry. Grades 3 & 4

*People from Many Places:* Discover the diversity of people who made the San Francisco Peninsula their home. Grades 3 & 4. New Fall 2006.

### Sanchez Adobe

1000 Linda Mar Boulevard, Pacifica (650) 359-1462

Students experience life on a Californio rancho as they rope a cow, dip candles and make adobe bricks. Grade 4.

### Woodside Store

3330 Tripp Road, Woodside (650) 851-7615

Students explore life in the 1880s as they launder clothes, make wooden shingles and fill orders with items from the shelves of a general store. Grades 3 & 4.



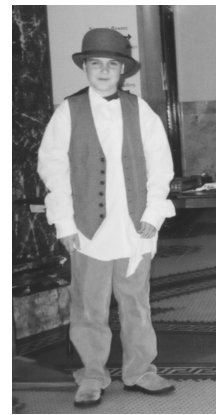
Above:  
*Shingle making.*

*Acorn grinding.*

# Membership

Join the San Mateo County Historical Association. Family membership includes:

- Free admission to the San Mateo County History Museum
- Monthly newsletter *Historical Happenings* with a listing of all upcoming events
- Discounts on special programs and store purchases
- Invitations to Members-Only events
- Two issues of the historical journal *La Peninsula*



From upper left:

Pioneer girls at the Woodside Store.

Roping a "cow" at the Sanchez Adobe.

Dressing up at Family Past Times.

Reenacting the county's first flag raising.

Playing a Gold Rush game at the History Museum.

## Yes, I want to join the San Mateo County Historical Association!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level:

- ☐ Family — \$45  
☐ Individual — \$40  
☐ Student/Senior — \$35

Payment Information:

- ☐ Check enclosed payable to SMCHA  
☐ Charge my:

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AmEx

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Membership Department, San Mateo County Historical Association,  
 777 Hamilton Street, Redwood City, CA 94063. For more information call  
 (650) 299-0104.

# Answers

## Page 3

1. D
2. C
3. A
4. B

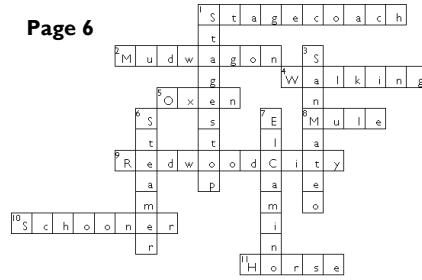
## Page 4



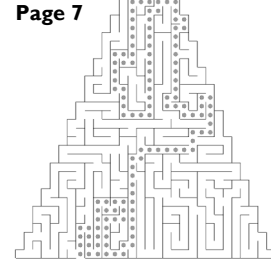
## Page 5

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. E
5. C

## Page 6



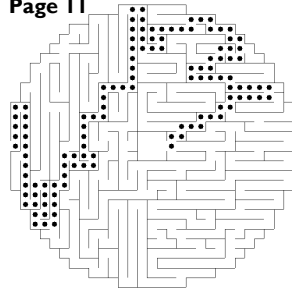
## Page 7



## Page 8

CRNO: CORN  
 WEHAT: WHEAT  
 CWSO: COWS  
 REGASP: GRAPES  
 OTAS: OATS  
 BNASE: BEANS  
 PSEA: PEAS  
 RIEC: RICE  
 EPASR: PEARS  
 EAPLSP: APPLEES  
 ESPEH: SHEEP  
 SIFG: FITGGS  
 MANY: PEOPLE WEARE FARMERS

## Page 11



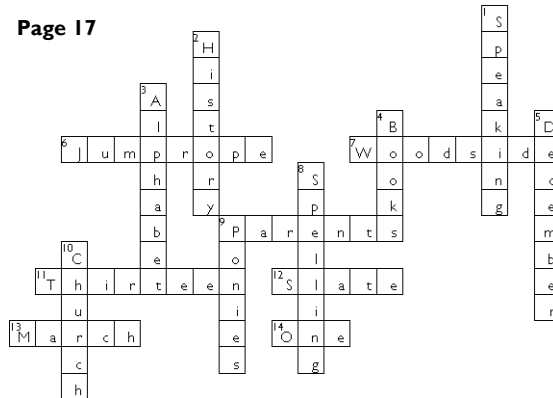
12 oxen

## Page 15

R M A T C H E S S W I S L A  
 S E R G S S R L A S B X  
 L Z F O O L K T H P S O  
 B R A G N M S H S X T D E  
 W F E U B P F E F O M Y  
 O C N T R M S B E I S I  
 F O R S W C V B D N R O  
 S N O O B G M I L L E N S  
 R L P C P F A B R I C A S  
 A L E K C S P C Y A S T E D  
 U S A M O O R B T I L M O O  
 M A H E A N D Y K T T V N O  
 S T R I S X N L U X A N I R  
 R U O L F E H X N S X N E K  
 X N P A N T S P U R Y S D Y O

Shopping List = \$54.25

## Page 17



## Page 20

EOTPNELEH: TELEPHONE  
 MESIOV: MOVIES  
 OAMSETBLIU: AUTOMOBILES  
 EITCTREYICL: ELECTRICITY  
 LARDRAIO: RAILROAD

1. C
2. E
3. D
4. B
5. A

I N V E N T I O N S C H A N G E T H E W A Y  
 W E L I V E

## Page 18

H O R S E F O R S A L E A T  
 21 3 5 22 9 4 3 5 22 11 12 9 11 7  
 T H O R P E ' S R A N C H  
 7 21 3 5 17 9 22 5 11 13 20 21

# SAN MATEO COUNTY



# 150

## SESQUICENTENNIAL

1856 - 2006

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