

August 18, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

As a native of Santa Clara County, I welcome any chance to preserve our local history and culture. There is very little left here in this valley that is a reminder of our rich agricultural past when we were known as The Valley of Heart's Delight. The Willow Glen Trestle is an iconic piece of Willow Glen and San Jose history during that era and I would strongly support the San Jose Parks Foundation for the Willow Glen Trestle grant application to research and document the history of the Willow Glen Trestle.

Each family has their own unique story of when and why they came to California. For my dad's family, after surviving the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression in Oklahoma in the 1930's, they decided to follow their dream of coming to California and to the Valley of Heart's Delight. I have been told stories about my great grandmother working at the Del Monte Cannery, Plant #3, which was the Plant closest to the Willow Glen Trestle. The Western Pacific freight trains used this trestle to cross the creek to load and unload at this cannery. As a child, my dad and his mother (my grandmother) worked in the orchards picking fruit that would be sent to one of the local packing houses and shipped by the freight trains throughout the world. My dad tells me that back then if a child was old enough to use a knife he could sit at the drying table in the orchards and cut cots. The kids earned 35 cents for each full bucket or box of fruit picked. My dad earned enough money during the summer to buy his own school clothes for the coming school year.

I strongly support the San Jose Parks Foundation for the Willow Glen Trestle grant application to research and document the history of the Willow Glen Trestle so that stories like mine can be documented.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Whitney Heinrichs

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