Agriculture supported the fast-growing Fremont–
Niles population. Early roads led to landings where small ships came up the creek from the bay loaded
grain and other foodstuffs for transport to market.
Completion of the transcontinental Central Pacific Railroad through Niles Canyon in 1869, and
the Western Pacific in 1906, expanded shipments of goods.
Niles Staging Area: At the easternmost section of
the trail, a brief history of a movie-making era came
to the Niles District during World War I with the Essanay production studio, featuring Charlie Chaplin,
Gilbert M. “Broncho Billy” Anderson, the first film-
hero, cowboy, and others.
Quarry Lakes: Gravel was taken in the mid-
19th century from today’s Quarry Lakes Regional
Recreation Area for the construction of the
transcontinental railroad’s western section. Directly
west of Quarry Lakes entrance gate, you can see a
small segment of Alameda Creek enveloped in the
type of streamside vegetation that once existed
along the entire watershed. Alameda County’s largest.
At forty-five miles long, the creek drains two-thirds of it in Alameda County. Historically the
creek was a major road for steamboat and salmon,
and efforts are under way to restore the fishery. (Fishing
is not allowed in this section of Alameda Creek.)
Coyote Hills: This is the most westward regional
park along the trail to Coyote Hills where you can
experience the wonders of the natural and cultural
world. Visitors can participate in programs with
and about area Ohlones and visit a 2,000-year-old
Tulon village site. Learn more about these programs at
elkrp.org. Weekday programs are available for
schools and organized groups by reservation. Call (510)
544-3220.
Regional Trails Development: Development of the
trail was approved in 1986 by the Alameda
County Board of Directors, in funding partnership
with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the
Alameda County Flood Control District, as part of
a major flood control project along the creek. The trail
was completed and dedicated in January 1993. Keynote
speaker at the ceremony was Stewart Udall, former
Secretary of the Interior and head of the firm that was
preparing the Park District’s master plan. Udall noted
that this was one of the first major Park District trails
established outside of a regional park.
Movie-making briefly came to the Niles District
during World War I with the Essanay production studio,
featuring Charlie Chaplin, Gilbert M. “Broncho Billy”
Anderson, the first film-hero, cowboy, and others.
Gravel was taken in mid-19th century from today’s
Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area for the
construction of the transcontinental railroad’s western
section. Directly west of Quarry Lakes entrance gate, you
can see a small segment of Alameda Creek enveloped in the
type of streamside vegetation that once existed
along the entire watershed, Alameda County’s largest.
Rural communities flourished along the old
trails, a brief history of a movie-making era came
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