

THE LAKE AT ALVARADO

As reported by the History of Washington Township
and the San Francisco Call newspaper of San
Francisco.

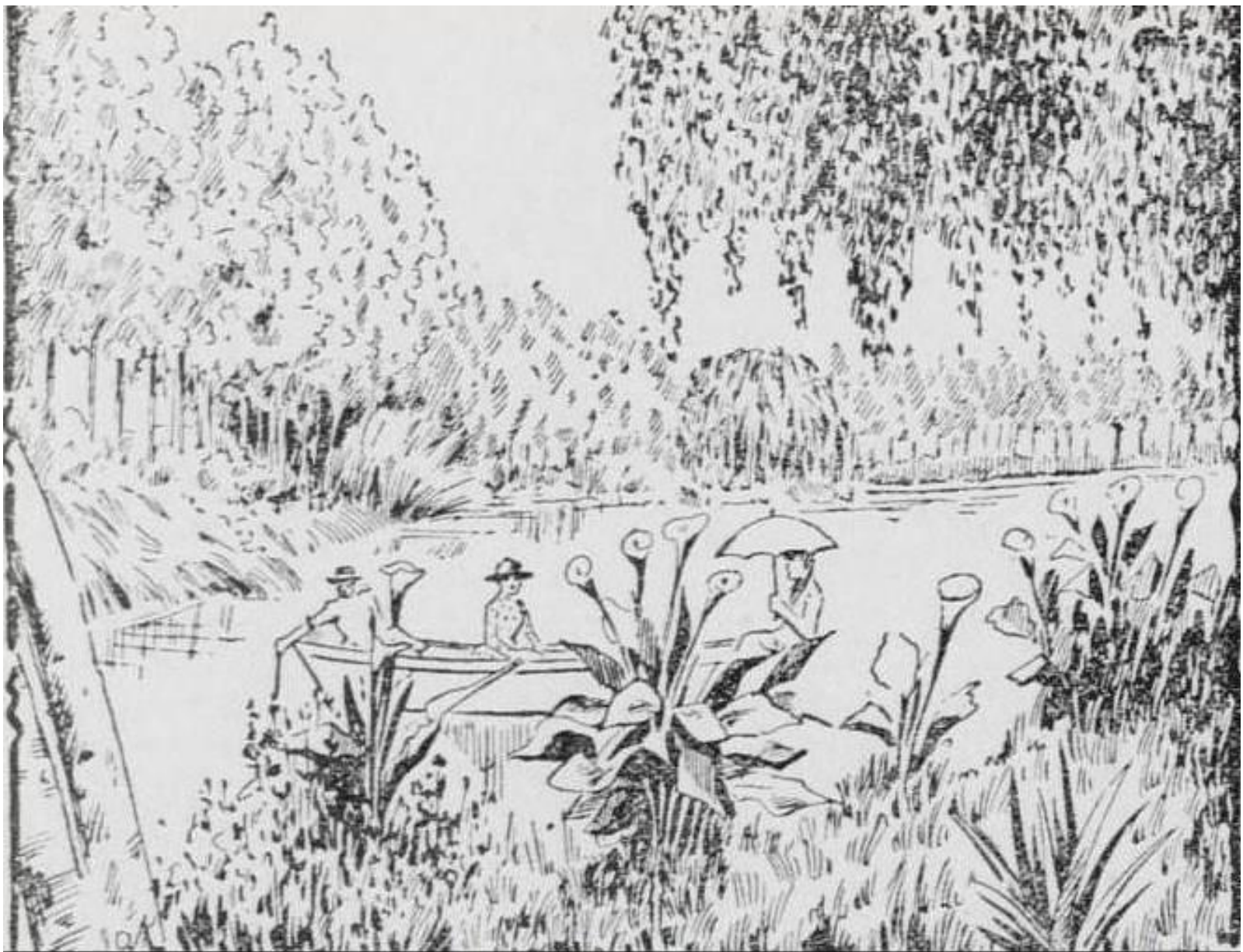
"Artesian water was first discovered on the old Henry S. Smith place, the original well having an eight-inch flow. Shortly there after other wells were sunk by John Quigley and Capt. Richard Benson, the last being extremely active. Its overflow was distributed into a natural depression, which Capt. Benson first covered with rock and gravel, thus forming a pretty little lake about 300 feet in diameter, and about 8 or 10 feet deep. The Benson place having passed into the possession of Capt. Richard Barron, its new owner built up an island in the center of the little pool, upon which were planted all kinds of vines, while the banks of the lake were fringed with a hedge of calla lilies. Small boats were kept on the lake, and it became one of the attractions of the countryside, many people coming miles to view the beautiful hedge with its wonderful growth of white flowers."

The History of Washington Township, Country Club of Washington Township, 3rd Edition, 1965

"The Alameda Creek: Leaving the Bell Ranch the Alameda glides past Alvarado, beyond which town it becomes the Union City Slough and is merged into the Bay of San Francisco. Some of its prettiest bits, however, are about Alvarado, and it is here the sportsman and fisherman love it. There are some facts about this section which should be borne in mind, when San Francisco and Oakland shall have exhausted the capacities of their present water supplies. That time will one day come and the city fathers will have to cast about for further resources. It is believed by good authorities that there is here a broad and apparently inexhaustible artesian belt, a fact indicated by the number of flowing wells near here now discharging millions of gallons of pure, clear water. The artesian lake here pictured is near Alvarado, and was formed by the sinking in of the earth at the bottom of a well. The flow from these wells is so steady and powerful that engineers have arrived at the conclusion that a river flows through this section at a depth of about 175 feet under the surface."

The San Francisco Call, April 19, 1891

The two articles seem to be describing the same Alvarado Lake. The illustration that accompanied the *San Francisco Call* article is reproduced on the following slide.



Artesian lake near Alvarado formed by sinking of earth into an excavation at the bottom of a well.

If colorized, the picture above would appear as the following slide:

