

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. 2 No. 4

YUBA CITY CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 20 1959

THE DOCTOR

WE MAY IDEALIZE THE CHIEF OF MEN -
IDEALIZE THE HUMBLEST OF CITIZEN, -
IDEALIZE THE RULER IN HIS CHAIR -
THE POOR MAN, OR THE POORER MILLIONAIRE;
IDEALIZE THE SOLDIER - SAILOR - OR
THE SIMPLE MAN OF PEACE - AT WAR WITH WAR; -
THE HERO OF THE SWORD OR FIFE-AND- DRUM..
WHY NOT IDEALIZE THE DOCTOR SOME?

HE TOOK THE SUFFERING HUMAN RACE,
HE READ EACH WOUND, EACH WEAKNESS CLEAR;
AND STRUCK HIS FINGER ON THE PLACE,
AND SAID: "THOU AILEST HEAR, AND HERE. "

- MATTHEW ARNOLD.

A WELL TRAINED SENSIBLE FAMILY
DOCTOR IS ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE
ASSETS IN A COMMUNITY, WORTH
TODAY, AS IN HOMER'S TIME, MANY
ANOTHER MAN. FEW MEN LIVE LIVES
OF MORE DEVOTED SELF- SACRIFICE.

FALL MEETING

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 20, 1959

8 P.M.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS

SUTTER COUNTY OFFICE BLDG.

SPEAKER: William Talbitzer

Topic: Local History with
Reference to the
McLaughlin Wall at
Cherokee.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING

October 15, 1959

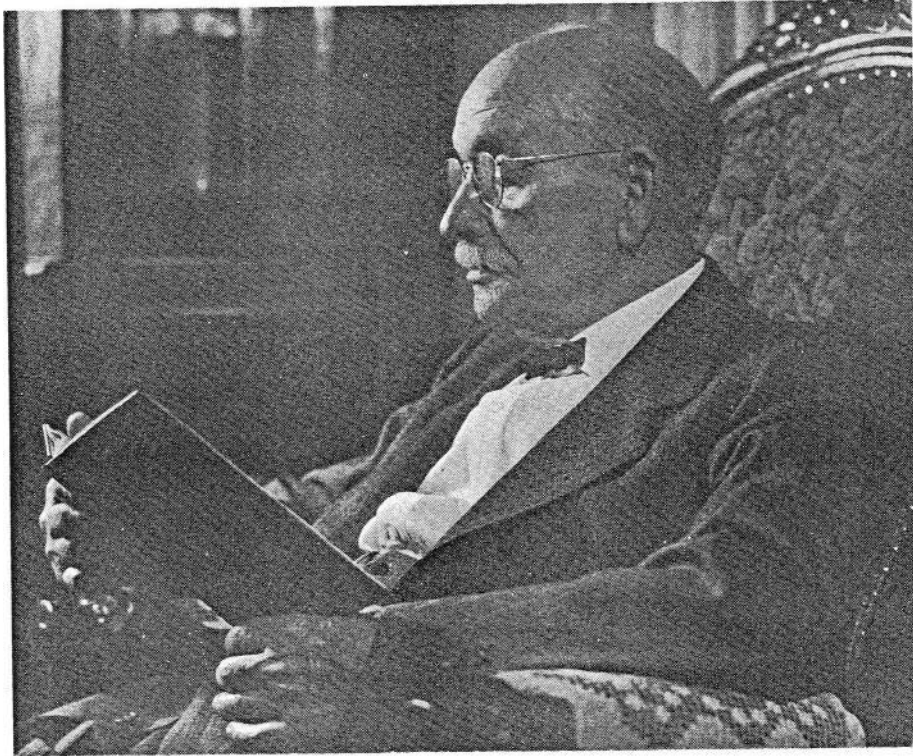
4 P.M.

Office of County Superintendent of Schools
President, William A. Greene, Jr. - Presiding

This will be a very important meeting as plans for
our annual January Dinner Meeting must be formulated
and committees appointed.

NEWS BULLETIN SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The financial problem of mailing and cost of production of our News Bulletin for such a long mailing list was presented to the membership at the July meeting. After much discussion the Society voted to mail the Bulletin to paid up members only beginning with the January issue. In short, your paid up membership of \$2 for the calendar year 1960 will include your subscription to the News Bulletin. We will continue to supply libraries and related educational organizations with copies.



**Dr. Barr
Pioneer Doctor**

Dr. J. H. Barr 1858 - 1940

Dr. J. H. Barr was born in Glasgow, Scotland, June 22, 1858. After the death of his father and one of his brothers, he came to America at the age of thirteen with his mother, sister and another brother. They settled in Rockford, Illinois, where an Aunt also lived.

When he was nineteen, he went to the Oto Indian reservation as an interpreter for three years. The reservation was located fifty miles south of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Later he took up medicine at the Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. He then came west to Oregon and located at Foley Springs and practiced there for a couple of years. He was persuaded to come to Marysville by the late R. W. Skinner whom he had known in Rockford, Illinois and about 1893 opened his office in the Empire Block at Second and D Streets in Marysville.

Dr. Barr was one of the doctors of the horse and buggy days, who never turned down a sick patient any time of day or night and through all kinds of weather. The horse and buggy was not his only mode of travel, he traveled by boat, snow-shoes and even on foot if the roads did not permit other travel. One time he went all the way to LaPorte on snow shoes and after traveling all of that way, was compelled to amputate a man's leg with no more conveniences than a dining room table.

Dr. Barr had the first X-Ray machine north of Sacramento. He was one of the founders of the Rideout Hospital which was situated in the old Rideout home at the corner of Fifth and E Streets in Marysville. The Marysville Hotel is presently on the site. Before the hospital was built, he performed many operations in the homes of the patients.

After living in Marysville for many years, he finally built a home at 365 Second Street in Yuba City where his widow still lives, also his son James Barr, Jr. with his wife Judy and three daughters, Judith, Joanne and Barbara Louise.

Dr. Barr was always interested in the improvement of the communities and was active in all types of public projects. He was also Health Officer of Yuba County for many years and later was Health Officer for Yuba City.

He was one of the founders of the Marysville Elks Lodge and its first Exalted Ruler. He was one of the original members of the E. Clampus Vitus of Marysville.

He retired from active medical practice in 1930, but kept himself occupied with his many hobbies. His gun collection is one of the most complete private collections known. He collected wood from all over the world, turning out mugs on his lathe. Some of them he added artistic handles made of deer or ram horns. His widow, Mrs. James Barr, Sr. has given his mug collection to the Sutter County Historical Society. It is highly prized and it is hoped that when the county has its own museum that every piece may be exhibited. They are all labeled as to the kind of wood and the countries from which they came. In October, several of the mugs fashioned of native woods will be on display in the display case in the hall of the Sutter County Office Building.

Dr. Barr passed away on September 9, 1940.

THE PROBLEMS AND PLEASURES OF PUBLISHING HISTORY

by

John S. Warriner, Fearon Publishers, San Francisco

(Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Conference at San Mateo, June 25, 1959)

The honor I feel in being asked to speak on this panel before a group who has contributed so much of the history of California and Western Americana in general causes me to make a confession. I am here under false colors. This panel is concerned with the public relations of historical societies, and I have nothing to do with public relations at all, unless it be for my own company, Fearon Publishers. This invitation, however, is for me one of the pleasures of publishing history.

Our company is primarily concerned with publishing supplementary materials in the field of elementary education. In fact these teacher aids, as we call them, comprise some seventy-five per cent of our gross income. The remainder of our business is about evenly divided between text books and trade books, and, of course, historical publishing falls into these latter two categories. In fact, history comprises virtually eighty per cent of these categories and often it is difficult to draw the line between them. For instance we have a steady sale of Coke Wood's text, "The California Story," to general trade book stores as well as to schools and colleges up and down the state. Bill Murphy's "Pictorial History of California," designed solely as a book for general consumption has been bought in large quantities in the schools. Rockwell Hunt's "California Firsts" is sold equally to both types of buyers. Though our publications in the field of history represent only a small part of our total publishing revenue, they consume a great deal more of our time and effort than would be strictly proportional, and this brings us to two of the pleasures and problems of publishing history - the reasons for the extra time and effort. Firstly, from my own personal point of view, I enjoy working on history more than anything else, and secondly, the need for accuracy demands extra careful attention on the part of the editor and publisher. These two points are both great pleasures and great problems and lead to other pleasures and problems.

It is very difficult to separate that which is enjoyable from that which causes much furrowing of brows, chewing of pencils and scratchings of head - though a good scratch is often pleasurable. However, as concerns history, some of the more enjoyable aspects might be listed as the interesting people you meet, the research you do, and the things you learn - even from the manuscripts you have to reject. Indeed, publishing history is liberal education in mankind. Though I have mentioned first the pleasures,

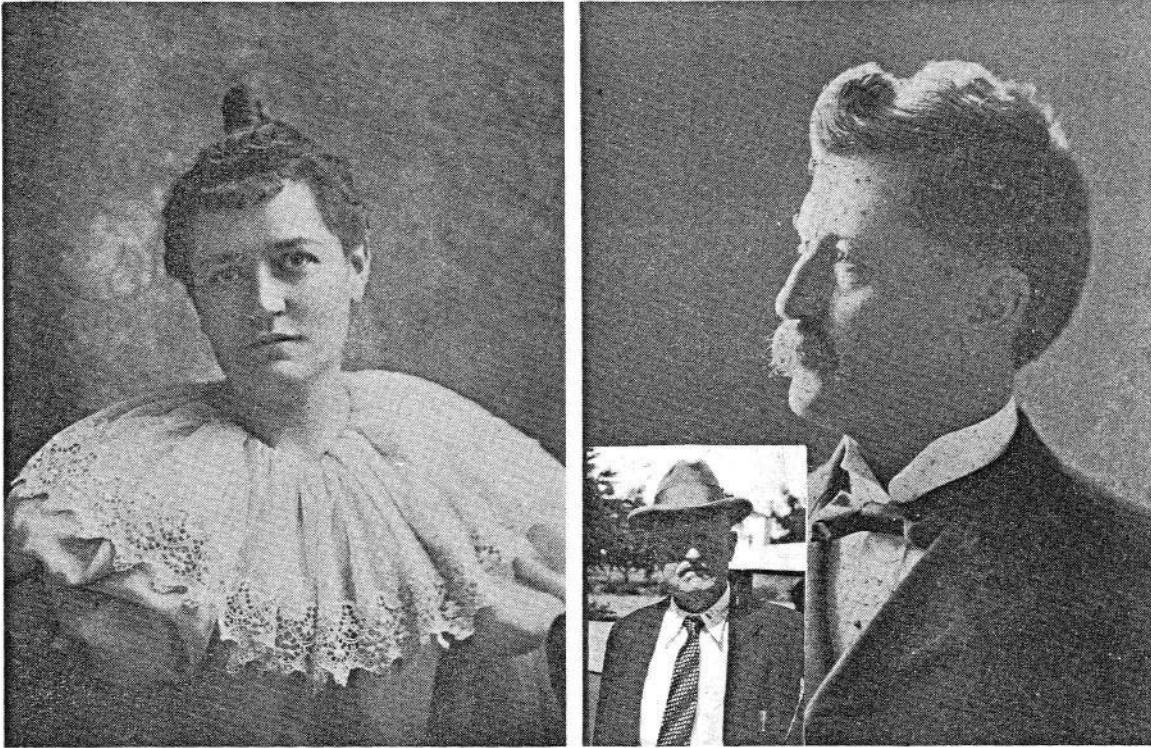
it is usually from the problems, or rather the efforts to solve the problems, that these pleasures spring over and beyond the mere satisfaction of a solution. It might be worthwhile, here, to point out that problems which I will discuss in some detail can serve as an author's guide to what at least one publisher is looking for in an historical manuscript.

The first problem to confront a publisher on considering a manuscript is a crassly commercial one. Will the book sell? The ultimate solution to that one, of course, lies with the public who will buy it. Nevertheless, the publisher must anticipate. To be quite frank, we are in business to make money by selling books. No matter how eloquent the author may be in praise of his work, and believe me, I have heard some who have studded Bryan's "Cross of Gold" with diamonds, the publisher lives or dies with his first decisions. We intend to live.

Linked with the problem of salability is the necessity for the publisher to suppress his own prejudices and, sometimes, those of the author. This can and does often lead to some wonderful across the table give-and-take discussions. A good example of this took place when I was editing Bill Murphy's "Pictorial History of California," and I know Bill will forgive my telling this story. It was a case of two prejudices meeting head on. Bill, in the course of many years of writing historical features for the Los Angeles Times, had fallen in love at the distance of one hundred years with Jesse Benton Fremont. On the other hand I, in the course of reading and studying western history had conceived an opinion of John Charles Fremont that was not overly complimentary. In fact, where any Fremonts were concerned, and I realize I am on highly controversial ground, I was something of a debunker. Therefore, when Bill, carried away by his century old romance, wrote three pages glorifying Jesse Fremont and winding up with the opinion that she did more than anyone else to open the west and secure California for the United States, I reached for the blue pencil and wielded it like an axe and the battle was joined. The resulting compromise was probably nearer the truth than either of us could have gotten, alone and served to illustrate what could happen to historical accuracy if prejudice were unchecked. Incidentally, though, I am still willing to do battle with anyone on the subject whenever the gauntlet may be thrown down.

From the question of individual prejudices we come to the problem of separating fact from fancy. This of course is absolutely essential when producing a text book. It is, of course, the primary concern of the author to do the research to prepare an accurate manuscript. The editor should, however, have sufficient knowledge and resource to enable him to query something he may think is off base. When it comes to histories for the general trade, the separation of fact from fancy is equally necessary, but it is equally important that the book contain more fancy fact than a text book, for you do not have a captive audience. It is not only required, for instance, that it be known that Sutro dug a tunnel, but it is a must that something be known of the nature of the man himself. I personally feel that a textbook would not be hurt by a little more fancy fact so long as it is accurate and that some trade books would benefit by more careful research.

I hope that I have given you this morning an insight into what makes a publisher tick. I have long been an avid amateur historian and have found the publishing of history, even its problems, to be one of my great pleasures of life.



Dr. T. P. Peery and Mrs. Peery
"The Country Doctor"

Dr. Trusten P. Peery one of our very well remembered doctors of Sutter county came to this community when Yuba City was just a little rural village and the country side depended upon Dr. Peery to care for the ills of the people. Trusten Polk Peery was born in Edinburg, Grundy County, Missouri, December 19, 1857. He received his early education in the public schools of Missouri later receiving his medical training in St. Louis Medical College, now known as Washington University. He migrated to California about 1889 and started practice in Yuba City. He was married to Lura Belle Peery while still living in Missouri. One son, George, was born to this union in 1905. George now lives in Mountain View, California.

Dr. Peery was county physician for over twenty years. He was a very active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, south of Yuba City and always maintained his professional status by belonging to the California Medical Association.

Dr. Truss, as his kith and kin affectionately addressed him, well deserves the title of the "Country Doctor." Many were the nights that he braved the winds and rains in his buggy with his lantern at his side and Old Fanny in the shafts. His patients were his first concern. Sometimes he spent the night and into the early morning ministering to those whom he felt needed his special attention for many times he was both doctor and nurse.

It was not so easy to get to the drug store in the earlier days, so Dr. Truss always carried a goodly supply of drugs in his saddle bags. Very cautiously he measured and weighed his doses, wrapping them separately labeling them and always marking the date prescribed. The saddle bags and scales were those of his fathers used many years before in Missouri.

The era of the Country Doctor has passed. They no longer are needed since modern facilities have made their progress along the medical profession. A monument to the memory of these noble Country Doctors should be engraved in our hearts, and on the tablet this inscription might well be written: "Well done good and faithful servants" - - -

Dr. Peery - continued

Mrs. Free Clark Writes of Her Memories of Dr. Peery

Doctor Trusten Polk Peery was always proud of the fact that he was a native of Missouri and named for that state's Civil War Governor. He typified that fast disappearing class of general practitioner - the Family Doctor. To his patients he was a marvelous friend and counselor. He never spared himself and was always available day or night where his patients needed him. Twenty years ago there were few of the modern miracle drugs available and it is marvelous to recall what Dr. Peery was able to accomplish with the medicine at hand.

His memory will always remain a most cherished memory to all the families who enjoyed his affectionate care.

Editorial in the Independent Herald at the time of his death

A " COUNTRY DOCTOR" AND A FINE FRIEND HAS COMPLETED
HIS SPAN

A community that has known him long and well, a community he has served in illness and in health through many years, is united in tribute to the memory of Dr. Trusten P. Peery, who rounded out his span of life in Yuba City on Thursday, April 16, 1936.

The full significance of Dr. Peery's life may not easily be reduced to words, for words would be called upon to chronicle so many stories of splendid, unselfish service to his fellow man, would be required to relate so many of the innermost secrets of so many hearts, that they could but poorly measure the total.

In a news story reporting the death of this fine citizen it was said of him: "He answered the call of the afflicted at any time of day or night, in fair or stormy weather, and was the friend of the family as well as the doctor."

These words may encompass his professional service as well as any, for through them we see visions of a faithful servant of humanity defying time and elements to carry blessed relief to the ill and the pained, to many of whom he must have come as an angel of hope.

Lives and works of such men as Dr. Peery - 50 years in the honorable service of the human family - wise counselor and friend to three generations - are subjects for books, not for the limits of an editorial column.

Most of the story must be told by those to whom he ministered, by those who today stand in sorrow beside a new grave to say a last farewell to that most symbolic figure in American medical life, a Country Doctor - a splendid gentleman and a worthy friend.
