

**SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
1333 Butte House Road  
P. O. Box 1555  
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**NEWS BULLETIN**

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YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95991

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SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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COVER PICTURE

Nicolaus Ferry (about 1898)

Thomas C. Mulvany is the young boy standing between his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Mulvany. The dog is Tom's St. Bernard, Prince. The other persons are not known.

INSIDE BACK COVER

Plat of the Town of Nicolaus. Surveyed by S. W. Higgins in January, 1850.

CREDITS

The old Wagner home and the Bell Hotel pictures are a gift of the Tuolumne County Historical Society. The other pictures were collected by Mary Mulvany.

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THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The annual dinner meeting of the Society will take place in Nicolaus at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 18, in the Hermann Sons Hall. The Altar Society of St. Boniface Catholic Church will serve the dinner at \$3.00 per plate.

Reservations for the dinner must be made no later than Monday, April 10, and the tickets will be obtained at the door. A committee to take reservations includes the following: Mrs. B. E. Epperson, Chairman (Ph. 755-0490) and Deanna DeWitt, Vice-Chairman, (755-0151), both of Sutter; Mrs. Neva Romelsbacher of Meridian; Mrs. George Briick of Live Oak; Mrs. Thomas Mulvany of Nicolaus; Mrs. Starr Poole, Mrs. C. W. Rankin, Mrs. Keith Lennox, and Mrs. R. A. Schnabel, all of Yuba City-Marysville. Reservations also may be made at the Sutter County Museum.

Program speaker will be Mrs. Ruby Johnson Swartzlow of Paradise on the pioneer Peter Lassen, about whom she has published a book, "Lassen, His Life and Legacy." Mrs. Swartzlow is a past president of the Butte County Historical Society and currently its historian.

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SUTTERANA

In 1852 Sir Henry Huntley, an authority on quartz mining, came to Yuba County to evaluate claims and install stamps and an amalgamator for a British company. Sir Henry kept a diary from which we quote the following entry for March 22:

"The next morning, the twenty-second, I was on my way to San Francisco by the steamer. About eleven miles below Marysville the vessel stopped for half-an-hour, this was for the purpose of allowing sundry passengers to pay a visit to Captain Sutton, at his place, Hock Farm, en passant; his daughter had been married the evening before, and as appears to be the fashion here, the night is consecrated to revelry and feasting.

I went to see the captain, and found him sitting at a table amongst bottles half and quite empty, wine-glasses and tumblers, showing what once had filled them, and stumps of half-used cigars, the floor covered with all the debris of a supper; the captain scarcely recovered from his indulgences. We then returned on board, and the steamer passed on her voyage again."

California: Its Gold and Inhabitants by Sir Henry Huntley London, 1856, pp. 139-140.

(Editor's Note: The above really belongs on Page 11 of the last issue, Vol XI, No. 1; however, it was not discovered by Earl Ramey until after press time.)

A HISTORY OF NICOLAUS

by

Mary Carlin Mulvany

The town of Nicolaus is situated in southern Sutter County on the east bank of the Feather River. It was the first settlement in the township and the second oldest in what later became Sutter County, Hock Farm being the first.

The history of Nicolaus is linked with many colorful and exciting events of early California history. Its origin and early growth go back to the days when John A. Sutter was becoming established on grant lands in New Helvetia (Sacramento) and at the Hock Farm one hundred thirty years ago. When the county was organized in 1850, it was given Sutter's name.

Sutter recognized the good soil and foresaw the valuable agricultural future for the area north of New Helvetia along the Feather River. In 1841 he started the first Northern California farm near the future location of Nicolaus and named it Hock Farm. It was the first real settlement of any kind in Sutter County. Later the farm became Sutter's home.

In order to help in the transportation of goods from New Helvetia to Hock Farm, a ferry crossing of the Feather River was needed. Nicolaus Altgeier, sometimes spelled Allgeier, one of Sutter's employees, had built an adobe hut for him at Hock Farm. To compensate for this and in anticipation of further work to be done, Sutter gave Altgeier a plot of land one mile square on the east bank of the Feather River about one and one half miles south of Hock Farm. This land was valued at \$400. The first house built there by Altgeier in 1842 was a rude hut made from

poles covered with tule grass and dirt. In 1843 a primitive ferry was constructed which was rowed by Indians. Many of Sutter's possessions crossed on this ferry on the way from New Helvetia to Hock Farm. A small adobe house was built in 1847 near the ferry. This was about 150 yards above the location of the former Nicolaus bridge, a drawbridge opened in 1919.

Nicolaus Altgeier (1807-1866) was born in Freiberg, Germany and came to America about 1830. He was employed by the Hudson Bay Company as a trapper. In 1840 he came overland to California and was soon employed by Sutter.

By 1849 the residents of the settlement included Altgeier, Charles Berghoff, Fred Vahle, Jacob Vahle, Philip E. Drescher, Jacob Waldorff, August Oswald and a man named Lintner. All were immigrants from Germany.

Berghoff was an educated man and Altgeier hired him as his assistant and as manager of his affairs.

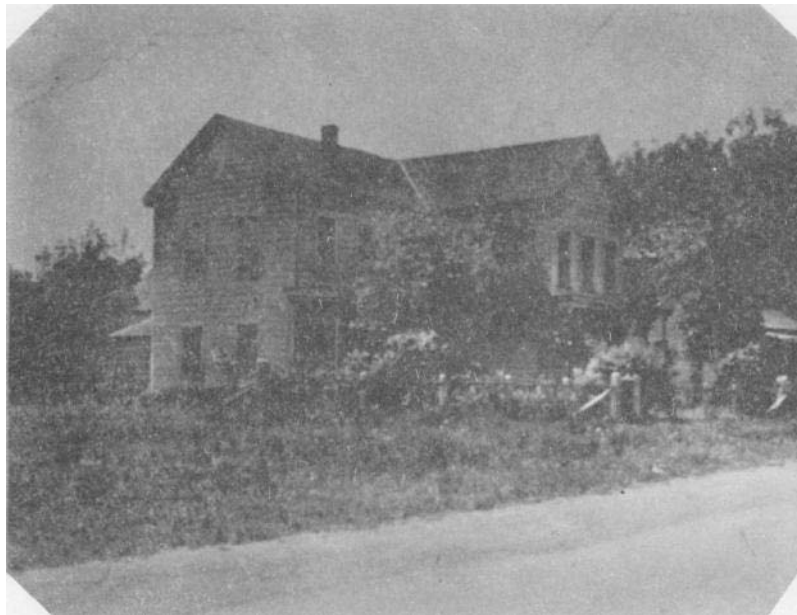
The Vahle brothers settled here after spending a short time at the mines. They helped in the construction of a two story adobe hotel and trading post for Altgeier. They later obtained holdings and became permanent residents. They are credited with the planting of many of the orange and lemon trees that can be seen today in Nicolaus. The present Nicolaus grocery store is on former Vahle property and county court was held in the Frederick Vahle home in the early 1850's. This house still stands in good repair and is owned and occupied by the Frank McKague Family. A plaque marking this historical spot was placed in front of this residence by the East Nicolaus 4-H Club on January 24, 1970.

Philip Drescher was employed as a cook in Altgeier's hotel for a short time. He acquired land nearby, married a sister of the Vahles' and



PICNIC IN "SAM BRANNAN PEAR ORCHARD" July 1, 1900

Pictured are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Engasser, Mrs. Philip Drescher and sons Carl and Ben, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Mulvany and children Josephine and Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Zimmerman and daughter Christina, Mrs. Nora Peterson and son Louis, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Grider, Jim Wright, Peter Minden, Henry Sievers Fred Wessing, George Engasser, Charles Grider, Fritz Howlett, Fred Beamer, John Waddell, J.J. Watson, Hahn Minden, Edith Jones, Gusta Peters, Amelia Engasser, Lena Sievers, Anna Erich, Annie Peters, Cora and Roy Pierce, Jessie and Ethel Smith, George Howlitt, Emil Engasser, Tom Bevan, Frank Breitbart, Elton Franks.



The old Bell Hotel, later the home of Judge Mulvany and now the home of the T.C. Mulvany's.

established a permanent home. Three sons, Carl, Philip and Benjamin, lived most of their lives in Nicolaus. Drescher became the first Sutter County surveyor. A road that runs through this property now is named Drescher Road. The original Drescher home still stands. It is situated close to the road a little below Nicolaus and is now owned by Joseph Krieg of Trowbridge.

Waldorff had come to California on a whaling vessel. He was employed by Altgeier to transport goods in a launch from San Francisco to Nicolaus. This launch was propelled by oars and a sail and had half a dozen Indians for deck hands. Oswald and Lintner managed the ferry at Nicolaus.

A man named Joseph Graf arrived a little later, but not much is known of his activities in Nicolaus.

In the fall of 1849 Fred Vahle built a large ferry boat for Altgeier. It was attached to the bank by a rope. Gunwales for this boat were brought from Nevada County and cost \$4,000.

At this time the settlement had good prospects for the future. It was situated on higher elevation than the surrounding country and was about as far up the river as boats could go. In the fall of 1849 speculators offered to buy Altgeier's holdings for \$85,000, or would have taken one half interest, as they thought this was a good town site. Berghoff advised against this, as he apparently did not wish to lose his lucrative position. This proved to be poor advice because the property declined in value. In January, 1850 Altgeier employed a Mr. Eddy for \$4,000 to lay out the whole mile square property in town lots. Eddy sent S. W. Higgins from San Francisco to survey the site of the town. It was then named Nicolaus after Nicolaus Altgier. This map was kept by Jacob Vahle and later was given to the Mulvany Family. It is now in the Sutter County Museum.

Joseph Grant from New Orleans was appointed agent for sale of lots. Between 200 and 300 lots were sold. The first two tiers along the river each 80 by 100 feet, sold at \$400 each. Corner lots cost more and never were sold. Purchases were made by San Francisco and Sacramento speculators and by merchants, miners and mechanics for business and residential purposes.

A notice of this sale of Nicolaus lots appeared in the Placer Times on February 16, 1850. Posters advertising the lots have been found in various places. One obtained from an antique shop in Long Beach now is in the possession of the Ray Nowell Family in Nicolaus, and one is on display in the Sutter County Museum. By the spring of 1850 about twenty-five frame houses had been erected and about as many canvas ones. There were five stores, three hotels, five saloons, one restaurant, one bakery, one meat market, one brewery, two blacksmith shops, two carpenter shops, and a post office. The town had two lawyers. Colonel Richard Snowden was elected Alcalde and Nicolaus cast 103 votes in a county election. Steamers stopped here to unload freight destined for the mines and passengers could obtain meals at the hotels. Stagecoach lines ran through Nicolaus on the way to the mines. By 1851 the town boasted fifty or sixty frame houses. The California Steam Navigation Company built a large two story warehouse to store freight destined for the mines.

Two of the hotels were the American Hotel and the Bell House. The American Hotel built in 1850 had materials and furnishing brought around Cape Horn. It had sixteen rooms. Many travelers stopped there on their way to the mines and there was a boat landing to accommodate those arriving by steamer. This hotel was owned and operated by a Mr. and Mrs. Andrews who had come from Windsor, Canada. After her husband's death Mrs. Sarah



Andrews continued the operation of the hotel. The American Hotel was on the bank of the Feather River. Two barns from this establishment are still standing and on one of the outside walls can be read several advertisements placed there in the early days. A walnut orchard now grows on some of this property. It is owned by Joseph and Charles Goyette who are descendants of Mrs. Andrews.

The Olash Indians were located near Nicolaus. Relics of these Indians have been found near the site of the American Hotel. In 1917 a group from the University of California came here to dig for artifacts and a few years ago another interested person dug on this site. Skeletons, arrowheads, beads and other artifacts were found.

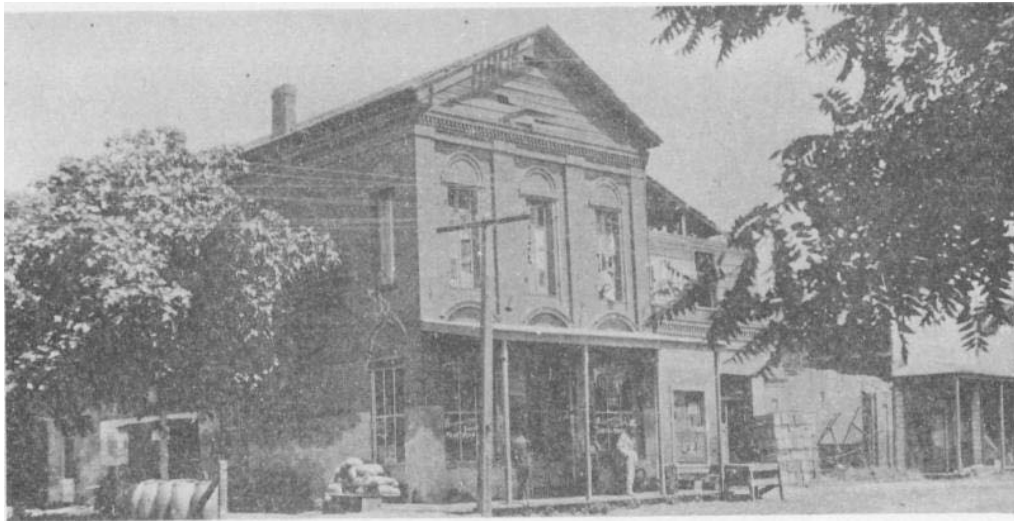
The Bell House was built and conducted for sometime by a man named James Bell. It came into the possession of Mrs. Andrews from a family named Harris and then to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Mulvany, who operated the hotel in the late 1890's and early 1900's. The building was torn down in 1940. The present Thomas C. Mulvany home is on the exact site of the Bell House.

In late 1849 and spring of 1850 a number of whale boats and large schooners which had sailed around Cape Horn came up the river to Nicolaus and to upper cities. A full-rigged ocean going vessel was brought to Nicolaus by George C. Johnson. This vessel belonged to the United States government. It had come around Cape Horn with government supplies for United States troops. After discharging some cargo at Benicia he brought the vessel to Nicolaus with supplies for Camp Far West. This was a small military post established on Bear River about fifteen miles northeast of Nicolaus for protection of settlers from unfriendly Indians. The barque never returned to salt water, but Nicolaus could boast of being the only



MAIN STREET BEFORE 1900 (Looking southwest)

The house to the right was built and occupied for many years by a family named Wagner. The entrance to Mrs. Wagners dance hall can be seen. Farther on the two story brick building had a store with a hall on the upper floor. This hall was used for dances and meetings. The Masons met here before moving to Wheatland in 1871. The barn to the left was on Bell House property later owned by the Mulvany family.



Brick building where the Masons held their meetings.

town north of Sacramento that had a full-rigged ocean vessel stop at its port. Johnson built an imposing row of houses opposite the American Hotel. In one of these he carried on a successful produce and general merchandise business. He went to San Francisco and established a foundry. Later he was appointed United States Consul to Norway and Sweden. He left an estate of over one million dollars when he died.

By 1851 steamers were going farther up the river. Marysville became the landing place and Nicolaus began to decline. Many houses were deserted. In 1852 many were moved to Sacramento, others to ranches in the country and some were torn down. The Steamer Navigation Company warehouse was torn down and the lumber sold.

The first manufacturing in the county was done in Nicolaus in 1850. A brewery was located here. It was abandoned in 1852 when it became apparent that Nicolaus would never become a large town.

On May 9, 1860 Dr. W. B. Mitchell was authorized to treat county patients in his private hospital. This was conducted in a brick building in Nicolaus. The rate was set at \$2.00 per day. C. E. Wilcoxon, County Clerk, was authorized to certify the indigent sick to be cared for by Dr. Mitchell.

The first school was held in the Philip Drescher residence in 1853. The trustees were Philip E. Drescher, Claus Peters and J. H. Holmes. In 1854 it was moved to the Miner's Store built in 1850 by the Thrift Brothers and abandoned by them in 1852. This was a two story building north of the American Hotel. A new one room school was built in 1863. There was one teacher for seventy-five pupils. This was replaced in 1919 by a two room building which still stands on this same site. Nicolaus kept its school until it was voted March 20, 1962, to join the Marcum Illinois School District.

This became effective the following year. The building now is owned by St. Boniface Catholic Church and is used as a parish hall. The Marcum Illinois trustees returned the old school bell to Nicolaus. It is now installed in a framework near the school on the original spot where it had been used during both old and newer school days. This was done through the efforts of the East Nicolaus 4-H Club. There is no school in Nicolaus now. Children attend Marcum Illinois Elementary and East Nicolaus High School which was built in 1924.

For several years in the 1850's Nicolaus was the county seat. The first meeting of the Court of Sessions was planned for Oro. This was an imposing town on paper, situated on Bear River about two miles north of Nicolaus. This meeting was held June 10, 1850 in a small tin building. Due to the extreme heat the meeting was adjourned immediately to the American Hotel in Nicolaus. For a time Nicolaus had six lawyers. Later the court was moved to Auburn, then to Vernon and back to Nicolaus where court was held in the American Hotel and the Frederick Vahle home. In 1856, after a public election, Yuba City became the county seat. This was another blow to the growth of Nicolaus.

Early religious services were held by Methodists in 1860 and Lutherans in 1865. First services of St. Boniface Catholic Church were held in the school in 1868. In 1869 a church organization was formed and a church was built at a cost of \$5,000. This was damaged by a storm in February, 1878 and repaired for \$3,000. The first officers of the church were John A. Peter, M. Salatine, John McNamara and D. O. Mahoney. In 1879 the officers were Peter, McNamara, Mahoney and John Schwall and Peter Mutchler. The present church was built in 1952 on the same property.

A centennial celebration was held by the parishoners May 18, 1969.

The Masons organized a lodge in Nicolaus on May 13, 1858. This was Nicolaus Lodge No. 129 F. and A.M. The charter members were E. Crain, C. W. Arens, Timothy Wharton, M. Gray, J. Hart, R. D. Carlos, W. H. Beatty and S. M. Clay. They held some meetings in the upper story of the Thrift Brothers Building (Miner's Store) and later in a brick building that stood for many years. The lodge moved to Wheatland in 1871. The brick building was torn down in the early 1970's. A walnut orchard now is on this site.

Sutter Lodge No. 100 I.O.O.F. was organized in Nicolaus November, 1860. The charter members were D. Ray, Noble Grand; R. McMahan, Vice Grand; J. T. Lee, Secretary; Francis McMahan, Treasurer; Francis Heyland, Eli W. Sheets and John McNamara. This lodge was transferred to Wheatland in April, 1868.

The Sons of Temperance, Nicolaus Division, No. 204, organized June 30, 1862 with twenty-four charter members. This existed only a short time.

The Native Daughters of the Golden West were active in Nicolaus for several years dating from about 1912.

Records show the first post office was established on July 28, 1851. Over these one hundred twenty-one years seventeen postmasters have served. Their names and dates of appointment are: France A. Russell, July 28, 1851; James R. Dickey, January 17, 1856; John Bickford, May 16, 1859; Paul N. Harris, July 29, 1861; John Bickford, April 8, 1862; George Kerkalde, August 20, 1862; Paul N. Harris, December 12, 1862; Mrs. Almuth Arens, June 25, 1873; J. D. Barbee, October 5, 1881; Charles E. Bevan, November 27, 1882; George H. Arens, December 2, 1884; Edward J. Messing,

November 1, 1893; Julius J. Watson, February 9, 1898; Frederick W. Wessing, February 6, 1905; L. M. Webb, March 6, 1915; Nettie M. Birka, 1948; Edith I. Schneider, February 21, 1958 (presently serving).

The Nicolaus cemetery is located one mile east of the town. The first recorded burial was in 1861, but there were earlier burials. These early markers were made of wood and were destroyed by floods. One can see where some of these graves are located in the older section of the cemetery. This cemetery was part of the Hermann Minden Ranch of which mention will be made later in this account. Some early burials were made in a cemetery near Oro on Bear River.

The growth and economy of Nicolaus in the early years has been closely associated with the agricultural development of the surrounding country. In the early days of Sutter's holdings the land between the Feather and Sacramento Rivers was used as a grazing range for immense herds of cattle and horses. Altgeier raised grain where he later built the town of Nicolaus. In 1847 Sutter sold a tract of land one mile square south of Altgeier's holdings to Edward Farwell. This became known as the Farwell Tract. Altgeier bought this property in 1849 and moved there from Nicolaus in 1850. He built a one story frame house and lived there until his death in 1866. This property is called the "Nicolaus Ranch" by many. A large grove of oak trees on this property was the scene of many Nicolaus picnics.

Another tract just below Nicolaus was sold to Henry Thomen in 1847. Thomen never lived on the land. He sold it to Captain George C. Johnson who lived there for a time. This property later became the Claus Peters ranch.

Jacob and Frederick Vahle and Philip Drescher obtained land in Nicolaus and immediately adjoining to the south and southwest. This

property has been broken up into small parcels and has had various owners over the years.

The tract one and one half miles north of Nicolaus known as Sutter Reserve was bought from Sutter by James Thrift and his two brothers. They built the two story frame building called the Miner's Store. A number of squatters settled on this land. The Thrift Brothers became involved in litigation with these squatters and abandoned the property in 1852. The next owner was F. A. Russell who became the first postmaster in Nicolaus.

Two brothers named Biddick settled on land just east of Nicolaus. This was later owned by John Peter and then by his nephew Adam Peter.

The land adjoining the Peter Ranch was taken up by Hermann Minden in 1856. After his death it remained in the possession of his sons for many years. Clay from this ranch was transported to the Lincoln Pottery for use in the making of their products. This land is now owned by Harlan Van Dyke. He has developed there an attractive fifty-acre lake and fishing resort. The pit from which the clay was taken was used to form part of this lake. Accommodations for campers and trailers are provided. The resort is named "Lake Minden" after the original owner of the ranch.

Joseph Schwall settled in Nicolaus on the ranch formerly owned by James A. Harris. This land was bought by Mrs. Sarah Andrews and later by Thomas J. Mulvany and presently is owned by his son Thomas C. Mulvany.

As the California gold rush subsided and more ranches were settling in the surrounding country and in Bear River district, a brisk trade developed with them. This trade kept Nicolaus thriving until the building of the railroad from Folsom connecting Lincoln with Sacramento. More trade

was lost when the railroad was extended north and the town of Wheatland was established. Shipping of grain was no longer dependent entirely upon the river steamers as some ranches brought their produce to Wheatland and Lincoln for transportation on the railroad. Then Nicolaus had to depend entirely on local trade. Grain farmers from the surrounding country continued to bring their produce to Nicolaus for storage in the several warehouses on the river bank. This continued for many years. At times wagons would be waiting in line a half mile back to unload at the warehouses. The Nicolaus Farmers' Warehouse was organized in 1873 with a paid up capital of \$4,900 in shares of \$100. A frame warehouse was built the same year on the river bank at Nicolaus. The shipment of grain the first year was 4,000 tons. First officers of the association were: A. L. Chandler, President; J. D. Barbee, Secretary; and John A. Peter, Treasurer. Large steamers came to Nicolaus to transport grain from these warehouses.

Some hops were raised in Nicolaus and with the development of dairying, alfalfa was grown along the river.

Storekeepers were also doing a thriving business. People came from several miles around to trade. Many took occasion also to visit the saloons of which there were four or five in the town at one time.

As late as the year 1879 business was good. The population was about 200 whites and 30 Chinese. Nicolaus had one hotel, four saloons, one general store, one drugstore, two blacksmith shops, two wagon shops, one boot and shoe shop, one tin shop and well-boring establishment, one harness shop, four carpenters, one physician, one lawyer, one warehouse, one church, one schoolhouse, one ferry, and a post office. There were six brick buildings and twenty-eight dwellings. Many of these prospered



into the 1900's. Some early storekeepers were Tom Brotherson, Charles E. Engasser, John Holmes, Arens and Barbee and Arens and Pendleton, Levi Lee, Hubert Wessing and his nephews, Edward, Gus and Fred.

There were no levees in the early days and the land below Nicolaus was flooded every year. The town itself being on higher ground escaped many of these early floods. After hydraulic mining in the Sierras clogged the river bed, the floods of 1852, 1875, 1895, 1907 and 1909 caused much damage. During these years levee districts were formed but they were small and inefficient. In 1910 Natomas Company bought a large acreage of land below Nicolaus and in Bear River District. They organized Reclamation District 1001 which contained 33,000 acres. Clamshell dredges were used to build huge levees which furnished good protection from floods. When the State Reclamation Board was formed, it took over some control of these activities. The area was well protected until December, 1955. The levee break of that year caused Nicolaus and the surrounding country to be inundated. The bridge for the highway that passed through the town was destroyed. A new state concrete bridge later was built some distance below Nicolaus. This bridge was formally opened in January, 1959. Highway traffic now by-passed the town. In some years prior to the 1955 flood high water and debris caused damage to the old bridge and several times sections of the causeway were washed out.

The Nicolaus ferry was continued until the 1919 bridge was opened. An operating contract was given to the lowest bidder and the job changed hands many times. The last operator was Albert Erick, usually called Cap Erich who held the job for many years. The ferry was held in place by a cable stretched across the river. The cable was lowered when steamers passed. This ferry was powered entirely by the force of the current

against a wooden apparatus under the craft. There was a large bell on each side of the river to be rung by prospective customers to summon the ferry.

As more land below Nicolaus was settled alfalfa became an important crop and many dairies were started. At one time the Nicolaus dairies furnished one-third of the milk consumed in Sacramento. Cheese was also manufactured and shipped to Marysville, Sacramento and San Francisco. The largest of these dairies was owned and operated by the Scheiber Brothers, Morris, John, Albin, and Joseph. They had come from Switzerland and were also owners of the "Nicolaus Ranch" from the early 1890's to 1911. At this time it was sold to Mrs. Isabella Garwood and the property is now owned by her nieces, Mrs. Louise Ingraham, Miss Laura Pauline, Mrs. Frances Schneible, all living in Evanston, Illinois.

Since the flood of 1955 there are fewer dairies operating in Nicolaus, but alfalfa continues to be an important crop along the river. Peaches, pears, walnuts and almonds are raised in the locality; and barley, wheat, rice and corn are important crops in the surrounding country. In recent years cattle raising has been an important industry.

In the early 1900's the Northern Electric Railroad obtained its right-of-way two miles east of Nicolaus and the town of East Nicolaus was established. The railroad began operating in 1906. This was a further blow to the growth and business of Nicolaus. From this time on more places of business were abandoned and many buildings were torn down.

Baseball has played an important part in the life of Nicolaus. In the early days games were played in fields where permission of the owner could be obtained. Only the minimum of equipment was needed. Often



ARENS AND PENDLETON STORE

(Left to Right, bottom row) T.C. Jones, L. Stopper, John Michel, F.B. Noyes, D. McGrew, Billy Holmes, Jr., Roy Pierce, Tom Holmes, (Top Row) Unknown, Ed. Wessing, Gus Wessing, Joe Wilson, H. Sievers, Fred Wessing, Charles Grider, Pat Mulvany, Mike McNamara, Joe Claus, Pete Peters, John Vahle, H. Matson, Frank Michel.



The old Wagner home, originally a one story adobe building.

heated arguments developed from an umpire's decision, but this only added to the excitement of the day.

Emil J. "Babe" Engasser was manager of Nicolaus baseball teams for forty years and did much to keep an interest in baseball alive among the young men. Nicolaus won the championship of the Peach League in 1936 and 1937. The members of this team were: Joseph Peter, John Peter, Marion Engasser, Louis Shalz, Eber Beilby, Gregorio (George) Dominguez, Lessero (Shorty) Dominguez, Carl J. Scheiber, Roy Richmond, Robert May, and Clyde Mourfield. Emil J. "Babe" Engasser was manager and Kenneth Engasser was bat boy.

In 1947 while the team was a member of the Placer-Nevada League, the schedule included games with Folsom, Auburn, Roseville, Lincoln, Placerville, Colfax, and Grass Valley. The Nicolaus team gave a good account of itself in this league.

In 1950 Nicolaus won the Tri-County League championship. This league had teams from Sutter, Yuba and Butte counties. Members of this team were Kenneth Engasser, Charles and Joseph Goyette, Orlin Van Dyke, Donald Pierce, Marion Engasser, Nick Maglarus, John Iribarren, Roy Richmond, Carl J. Scheiber, William Hudson, Walter Merger, and Frank Peter. Louis Shalz was director, Emil "Babe" Engasser, manager and John Iribarren Jr. bat boy.

Since 1952 there has been no community team. Interest in sports centers around the East Nicolaus High School which has teams in football, basketball and baseball.

On June 3, 1949 a "Days of 49" Centennial Celebration was held in Nicolaus. The town was turned into a replica of a Forty-Niner village.

Among the festivities was a parade with many floats and approximately 300 riders and horses from all over northern California. Holden Scheiber of Nicolaus was the Grand Marshall. A special feature was the Sacramento Sheriff's Posse led by Sheriff Don Cox. The reviewing stand was occupied by the Sutter County Board of Supervisors. Eber Beilby, supervisor of the fifth district presided over the celebration.

The 6:30 p.m. parade was followed by a Swiss Dance in Hermann Sons Hall. Music was supplied by Otto Scheiber and Joe Reichmuth.

Queen of the event was Patricia Dillard, an East Nicolaus High School student and Sharon Iribarren was child sweetheart as "Little Miss Sunbeam."

Co-chairmen of the celebration were Carl J. Scheiber and John Iribarren. Kenneth Engasser headed the dance committee.

Mrs. Edith Grider and Ben Drescher were honored as the oldest natives of Nicolaus.

The Hermann Sons, Von Moltke Lodge No. 24 and Sutter Lodge No. 36, Women's Auxiliary of the Hermann Sons, are active in Nicolaus at the present time and hold their meetings in the Hermann Sons Hall.

Von Moltke Lodge No. 24 was organized in Nicolaus, June 24, 1897. Among the first officers were Julius Erich, John R. Rickets and V. C. Peterson. Early meetings were held in a building owned by Ernest Rudin. (This building is now "The Bridge House") Later the meetings were moved to the brick building owned by T. J. Mulvany where the Masons formerly met.

The present Hermann Sons Hall was purchased by the lodge in 1924. This hall previously had been used as a skating rink. In 1930 a dance hall was added to the rear of the original building.

Louis Regli of Nicolaus is the oldest living member of the Nicolaus lodge, having joined in 1905.

For many years the Hermann Sons sponsored a picnic which was held in the oak grove on the "Nicolaus Ranch" also known as Garwood Grove. The first was held May 13, 1899. Included in this event through the years were ball games, races, a dance, which featured a prize waltz, and the singing of the Schnitzelbank Song led by Nathan D. Wise. Music was furnished by the Marysville Band directed by Wilson McRae. These picnics were discontinued in the early 1940's. Many residents of Nicolaus and of nearby and far away communities remember the good times at the Hermann Sons Picnic.

Sutter Lodge No. 36 was organized November 3, 1924 and President Otto Niedermuller came from Santa Barbara to officiate at the inaugural ceremony. The first officers were: President, Maria Peter; Vice-President, Margaret Jesch; Secretary, Maria Neidhart; Treasurer, Maria Teresa Rolufs; Conductor, Mrs. Louis Ludwig.

There were twenty-six charter members. Of these seven presently are active in the lodge. These are Maria Peter Rolufs, Anna Ulmer, Frieda Nock, Emma Roseman, Margaret Friedrich, Louisa Rothman, and Anna Peter.

The Sacramento Swiss Sports Club holds some meetings in Nicolaus and has many members from here and surrounding communities. This organization sponsors a Swingfest which for the past several summers has been held in Nicolaus.

At the present time there are only a few houses in Nicolaus. The population on the roadside sign is posted as four hundred thirty-three,

but this includes the entire area served by the Nicolaus post office. Business houses include a grocery store, the Bridge House, which is a restaurant and tavern, a bar called the Nicolaus Tavern and the post office which includes a branch of the Sutter County Library. The Alpine Village and a service station are located on the highway a little below Nicolaus. The community is not isolated as good highways give easy access to Yuba City, Marysville and Sacramento.

#### REFERENCES

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45, 47, 79, 85, 92-95.

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1965, July, 1967.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank all those who with pictures, hooks and from memories of Nicolaus, have helped with this account, especially my husband, Thomas C. Mulvany, Mrs. Amelia Tyler and Emil J. "Babe" Engasser.

Valuable assistance was given in finding information by Mrs. Irminna Palmer, former Sutter County Librarian and Miss Thelma G. Neaville, Marysville Librarian, and Miss Jessica Bird.

## OLD FAMILIES

It is interesting to note the number of early family names still represented in the community. Following are families here before 1900 and the descendants presently living in Nicolaus and nearby communities:

JOHN McNAMARA - From Illinois in 1854  
Farmer - Descendant; Granddaughter, Caroline Peckham, living in Rio Oso.

HERMANN MINDEN - From Germany in 1856  
Farmer - Descendant; Granddaughter, Donna Van Dyke and two grandchildren living in Pleasant Grove.

MRS. ALMUTH ARENS - From Germany in 1859  
Postmaster 1873-1881 - Partner in general merchandise store. Owned land near Nicolaus. Descendant; Granddaughter, Mrs. Almuth Rowe, living in Nicolaus. Mrs. Rowe is also a granddaughter of Thomas Jones, a blacksmith who came in 1857.

CHARLES E. ENGASSER - From France in 1860  
Worked for Nicolaus Altgeier - Businessman  
Descendants; Daughter, Mrs. Amelia Tyler; Son, Emil J. "Babe" Engasser; Grandsons, Marion and Kenneth Engasser, all living in Nicolaus.

SCHWALL BROTHERS - Joseph, John and Martin - From Germany in 1860  
Farmers - Joseph - Moved to San Jose in 1883.  
John - Descendants; Grandson, Albert J. Schwall, Great Grandsons, Robert, Harold and Lawrence Schwall and fourteen great-great grandchildren.  
Martin - Descendants; Joseph and Frank Schwall, Andrew and Raymond Schneider; Granddaughters, Anna May and Ann McKague; Great grandchildren, Clara Michel, John May, Dolores Vincent, Thomas and Gene Raymond Schneider and six great grandchildren, all living in Nicolaus or East Nicolaus. The above are also descendants of Nicholas Martini and Frank Schneider who came from Germany in 1883.

JOHN A. PETER - From Germany in 1861  
Farmer - Descendants; Grandnephews, Joseph, John and Frank Peter; Grandniece, Anna Peter, all living in Nicolaus.

JOHN ADAM MICHEL - From Germany in 1863  
Farmer - Descendants; Grandsons, Emil and Eugene Michel, Grandchildren, Leo Michel and Cecelia Engasser and six great grandchildren.



WILLIAM A. MAY - From Germany in 1873

Farmer - Descendant; Son, Nicholas A. May, Grandsons, Albert and John May, Granddaughter, Dolores Vincent and three great grandchildren, all living in Nicolaus or East Nicolaus.

THOMAS J. MULVANY - From New York in 1875

Teacher in nearby communities - farmer - Justice of Peace in Nicolaus for forty years. One of first trustees of Reclamation District 1001. Descendants; Son, Thomas C. Mulvany; Grandsons, Joseph and Charles Goyette, all living in Nicolaus.

JULIUS C. ROLUFS - From Germany in 1877

Farmer - Descendants; Daughter, Stina Trimble, Grandson, Julian Rolufs and four great grandchildren, all living in Nicolaus.

KRIEG BROTHERS - Adam and John - From Germany in 1883 Farmers - Adam - Descendants; Son, Joseph Krieg and four grandchildren, living in Trowbridge.  
John - never married.

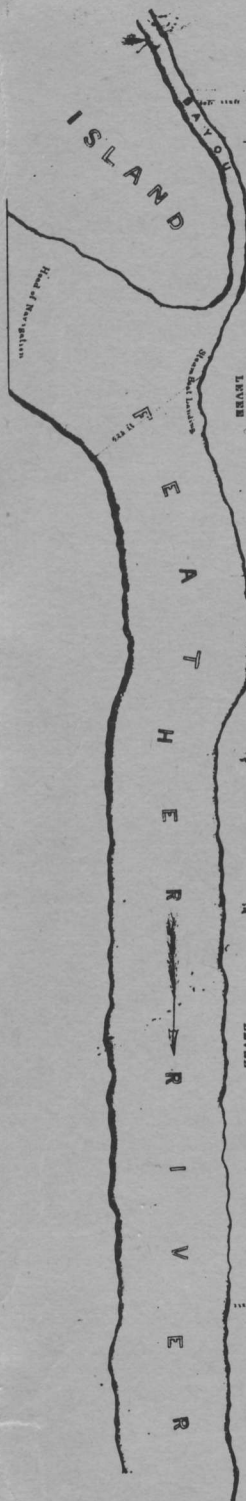
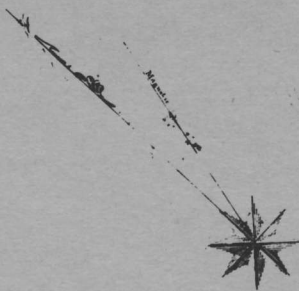
SCHEIBER BROTHERS - Morris and John - From Switzerland in 1890 Dairymen and farmers - Descendants of Morris; Grandsons, Morris, Holden and Allan Scheiber, all living in Nicolaus. Descendants of John; Sons, Otto and Carl J. Scheiber; Grandsons, Ronald, John, Max and Mark Scheiber and eight great grandchildren, all living in Nicolaus.

The Sutter County Farmer, January 3, 1888

Nicolaus

We understand that Captain Hunter of the steamer "Knight" had a very serious injury last week. While backing down river, the rudder struck a sand bar and sent the wheel whizzing around, tearing it out of his hands, and throwing him down on his knees, rather too suddenly for comfort. It is a wonder he had not been thrown over it and killed.

An index and file of all of the past issues of the NEWS BULLETIN may be found in the Sutter County Library and in the Marysville City Library.



	1. 5	1. 6	1. 7	1. 8	1. 9	1. 10	1. 11	1. 12	1. 13	1. 14	1. 15	1. 16	1. 17	1. 18	1. 19	1. 20	1. 21	1. 22	1. 23	1. 24	1. 25	1. 26	1. 27	1. 28	1. 29	1. 30
OLAS	2. 5	2. 6	2. 7	2. 8	2. 9	2. 10	2. 11	2. 12	2. 13	2. 14	2. 15	2. 16	2. 17	2. 18	2. 19	2. 20	2. 21	2. 22	2. 23	2. 24	2. 25	2. 26	2. 27	2. 28	2. 29	2. 30
EDDY	3. 5	3. 6	3. 7	3. 8	3. 9	3. 10	3. 11	3. 12	3. 13	3. 14	3. 15	3. 16	3. 17	3. 18	3. 19	3. 20	3. 21	3. 22	3. 23	3. 24	3. 25	3. 26	3. 27	3. 28	3. 29	3. 30
HUMBOLDT	4. 5	4. 6	4. 7	4. 8	4. 9	4. 10	4. 11	4. 12	4. 13	4. 14	4. 15	4. 16	4. 17	4. 18	4. 19	4. 20	4. 21	4. 22	4. 23	4. 24	4. 25	4. 26	4. 27	4. 28	4. 29	4. 30
SUTTER	5. 5	5. 6	5. 7	5. 8	5. 9	5. 10	5. 11	5. 12	5. 13	5. 14	5. 15	5. 16	5. 17	5. 18	5. 19	5. 20	5. 21	5. 22	5. 23	5. 24	5. 25	5. 26	5. 27	5. 28	5. 29	5. 30
TAYLOR	6. 5	6. 6	6. 7	6. 8	6. 9	6. 10	6. 11	6. 12	6. 13	6. 14	6. 15	6. 16	6. 17	6. 18	6. 19	6. 20	6. 21	6. 22	6. 23	6. 24	6. 25	6. 26	6. 27	6. 28	6. 29	6. 30
FREMONT	7. 5	7. 6	7. 7	7. 8	7. 9	7. 10	7. 11	7. 12	7. 13	7. 14	7. 15	7. 16	7. 17	7. 18	7. 19	7. 20	7. 21	7. 22	7. 23	7. 24	7. 25	7. 26	7. 27	7. 28	7. 29	7. 30
WASHINGTON	8. 5	8. 6	8. 7	8. 8	8. 9	8. 10	8. 11	8. 12	8. 13	8. 14	8. 15	8. 16	8. 17	8. 18	8. 19	8. 20	8. 21	8. 22	8. 23	8. 24	8. 25	8. 26	8. 27	8. 28	8. 29	8. 30
JACKSON	9. 5	9. 6	9. 7	9. 8	9. 9	9. 10	9. 11	9. 12	9. 13	9. 14	9. 15	9. 16	9. 17	9. 18	9. 19	9. 20	9. 21	9. 22	9. 23	9. 24	9. 25	9. 26	9. 27	9. 28	9. 29	9. 30
SINCLAIR	10. 5	10. 6	10. 7	10. 8	10. 9	10. 10	10. 11	10. 12	10. 13	10. 14	10. 15	10. 16	10. 17	10. 18	10. 19	10. 20	10. 21	10. 22	10. 23	10. 24	10. 25	10. 26	10. 27	10. 28	10. 29	10. 30
HENSLEY	11. 5	11. 6	11. 7	11. 8	11. 9	11. 10	11. 11	11. 12	11. 13	11. 14	11. 15	11. 16	11. 17	11. 18	11. 19	11. 20	11. 21	11. 22	11. 23	11. 24	11. 25	11. 26	11. 27	11. 28	11. 29	11. 30
FARWELL	12. 5	12. 6	12. 7	12. 8	12. 9	12. 10	12. 11	12. 12	12. 13	12. 14	12. 15	12. 16	12. 17	12. 18	12. 19	12. 20	12. 21	12. 22	12. 23	12. 24	12. 25	12. 26	12. 27	12. 28	12. 29	12. 30
BIDWELL	13. 5	13. 6	13. 7	13. 8	13. 9	13. 10	13. 11	13. 12	13. 13	13. 14	13. 15	13. 16	13. 17	13. 18	13. 19	13. 20	13. 21	13. 22	13. 23	13. 24	13. 25	13. 26	13. 27	13. 28	13. 29	13. 30
ALLCEIER	14. 5	14. 6	14. 7	14. 8	14. 9	14. 10	14. 11	14. 12	14. 13	14. 14	14. 15	14. 16	14. 17	14. 18	14. 19	14. 20	14. 21	14. 22	14. 23	14. 24	14. 25	14. 26	14. 27	14. 28	14. 29	14. 30

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