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SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

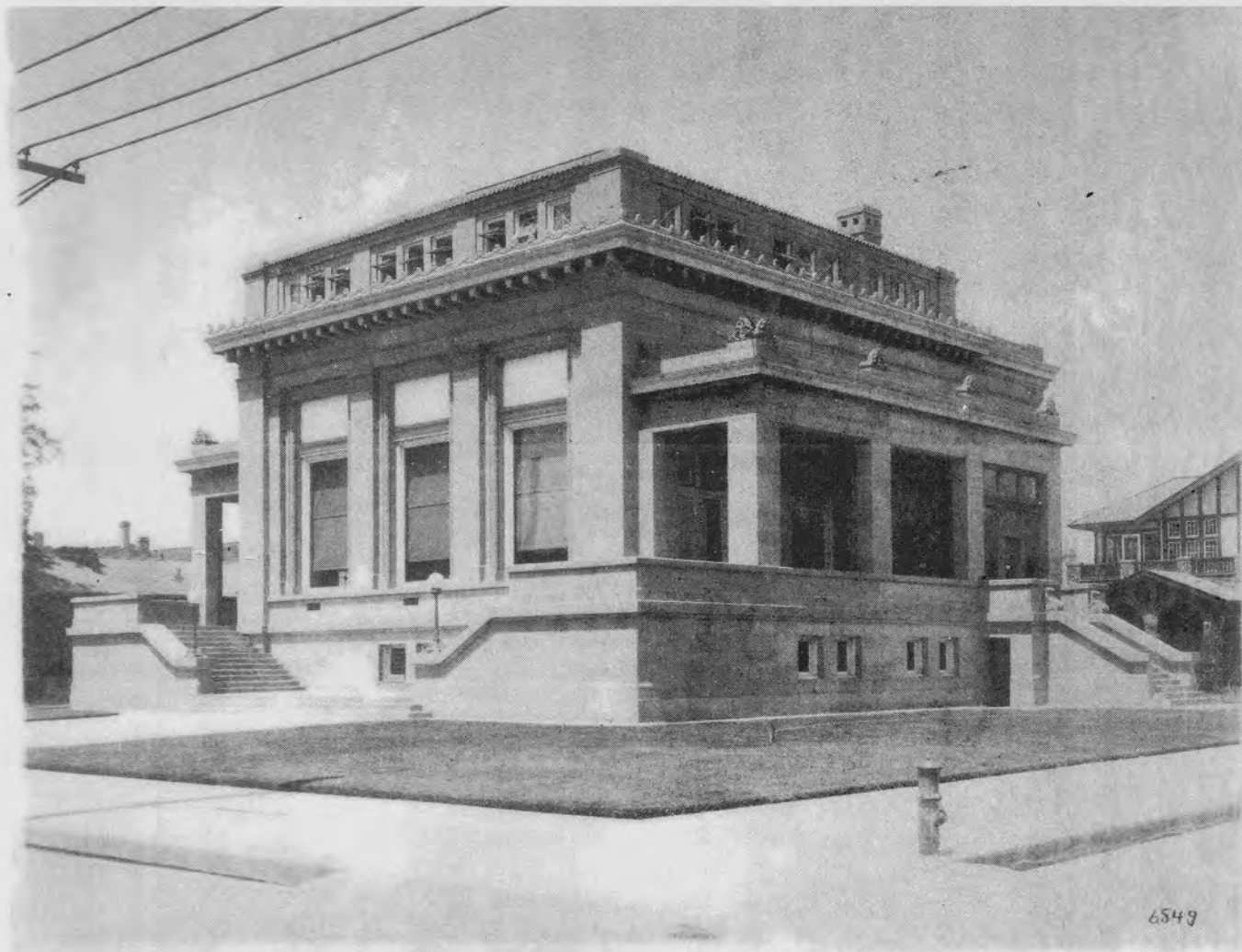
NEWS BULLETIN

YCHS LIBRARY

VOL. XVI, NO. 2

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95991

APRIL, 1977



6549

IN THIS ISSUE --

THE PACKARD LIBRARY BY EARL RAMEY

REFLECTIONS: ROCKHOLT WAY BY HAROLD ROCKHOLT

THE FRONT COVER -

This photograph is dated 1915. The pedestal lamps of 1908 show in this scene hit the huge cyprus tree now in the lawn had not been planted. If this date, 1915, is correct, the scene would indicate that the tree is not more than 60 years old. In the right background appears the fine B e r g residence erected in 1911 and razed recently to provide a parking lot. This view shows the 18 small windows of the theater in the top floor.

(Courtesy of Marysville Library)

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. XVI, No. 2

April, 1977

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The NEWS BULLETIN is published quarterly by the Society at Yuba City, California 95991. The annual membership dues includes receiving the NEWS BULLETIN. JANUARY 1977 dues are payable now. Your remittance should be sent to Sutter County Historical Society, P. O. Box 1004, Yuba City, California 95991. To insure delivery of your NEWS BULLETIN please notify the Treasurer of any change of address. Dues are \$3.00 per person, \$5.00 for family.

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

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NOTE: THE JULY ISSUE WILL INCLUDE AN ARTICLE BY ROBERT L. RYAN TELLING THE HISTORY OF THE SUTTER COUNTY EXTENSION OF THE CALIFORNIA NORTHERN RAILROAD WHICH RAN FROM YUBA CITY THROUGH TUDOR, NELSONS POINT AND CHANDLER TO KNIGHTS LANDING. ALSO THIS ARTICLE WILL TELL THE HISTORY OF THE SUTTER BASIN EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC FROM KARNACK THROUGH MARCHANT AND ROBBINS TO JOSEPHINE.

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 * APRIL MEETING *
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 * The annual dinner meeting of the Society will take place *
 *
 * Tuesday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Veterans Hall in Meridian. *
 *
 * The Rebekahs will serve the dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Kay as *
 *
 * co-chairmen. The speaker will be Ray Winton, deputy district *
 *
 * director of the State Department of Transportation. *
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 * * * * *

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lack of a quorum at our January membership meeting, perhaps be-
 cause of the inclement weather, made it impossible to conduct the
 scheduled election of officers and directors for the coming two-year
 term. It may be some changes in the Sutter County Historical Society
 By-Laws are needed to prevent such a situation from happening again.
 Our speaker, John Cowan of Gridley, braved the heavy fog to be present
 at the meeting. We were sorely embarrassed to have only three of our
 members present to greet him.

We report with regret the recent death of one of our Honorary
 90-year-old members, Mrs. Ida Mildred (Peck) Davis of Yuba City. She
 was born in Yuba City on May 17, 1886.

WANDA RANKIN
 President

SUTTERANA

Sutter's Fort -- Nearly every vestige of the adobe wall which but
 a short time since nearly encircled Sutter's Fort has disappeared and
 nought is now visible to the passing beholder but the crumbling corner
 turrets and the very unmilitary appearing frame building within the
 former enclosure. We greatly fear the progressive spirit of the age
 will shortly aid old father time himself in demolishing this sole land-
 mark of the heroic veterans valor in this valley in the days prior to
 the golden age.

From the Sacramento Union, October 17, 1854.

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM NOTES
Jean Gustin, Curator

The Community Memorial Museum Commission has issued the third in its series of limited edition commemorative plates featuring historic Sutter County. Each plate has a paragraph on the reverse side giving historic information about the site. To date the Sutter Buttes, The Sutter County Hall of Records, and the Meridian Bridge plates have been issued. The plates have been very well received, and the museum is keeping a list of people who want to be called when the new plates are issued. Contact the museum if you are interested in being on the "calling list." Also, any suggestions for historic sites to be featured on the plates would be welcomed by the museum commission.

One of the most interesting parts of my very interesting job here at the museum is the receiving of new items given to the museum. There is no predicting what we might get next; it's like having Christmas every day. Some of the items that were accessioned recently will give an idea of the variety: a magic lantern, complete with slides; a 1908 bread, cake and biscuit mixer; a sewing kit used by a soldier in the Civil War; 6½ yards of white silk, beautifully hand embroidered in areas to conform to a ladies dress pattern; a history of "Noyes Cemetery/Noyes Grammar School and Community;" a 1923 calculator; 1886 and 1887 issues of the Sutter County Farmer; a World War II helmet and machete; and circa 1880 mother of pear opera glasses. (The opera glasses came from a person in Oakland who wanted to give them to a small museum where they were more likely to be used.) Among the interesting books received is Maidenhood and Motherhood or Ten Phases of Woman's Life written by John D. West, M.D. in 1886.

We are delighted with the community's continuing response to the museum, both in attendance and in the giving of gifts. Our plea for back issues of the Sutter County Historical Society "Bulletins" was answered by members of the society. We now only need the first issue of the "Bulletin," November 1954, to complete our set. We would be happy to duplicate this issue for our library if we could borrow a copy. The "Bulletin" is especially valuable for the growing use of the museum for historical reference and research. NEW PLEA -- one of our special "needs" at present is player piano rolls. Our 1911 Baldwin player piano is of special delight to young people, and also to those not so young. The rolls we have been using to date are borrowed.

I hope you have been attending our Museum Concerts, 1977. "The Performing Arts, 1776" concert series that was presented as a Bicentennial celebration proved so popular that it was decided to continue these monthly musical programs. Concerts, held in the museum the last Sunday of each month, feature our very talented local artists. The concerts begin at 2:00 p.m. and there is no charge for admission.

This Spring will also see the culmination of another Bicentennial project. The fountain that was the Sutter County Bicentennial Commission's project to celebrate our country's first 200 years will be installed in the octagonal area in the front walk to the museum. The fountain, designed by Jim McGee, will commemorate many pioneer families and community organizations as well as our country's Bicentennial.

LIST OF DONORS TO THE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL
MUSEUM TRUST FUND CONTINUED FROM
THE JANUARY BULLETIN

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sagner	in memory of Reginald C. Estep
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sagner	
and Miss Carol Sagner	in memory of Reginald C. Estep
Janet Sullivan and Mary Jane Zall	outright gift
American Association of University	
Women	outright gift
William H. and Helen Lou Reasoner	in memory of Reginald C. Estep
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Howard and Norma Harter	in honor of Norman F. and
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Howard and Norma Harter	in memory of Hattie Ware
Howard and Norma Harter	in memory of Dorothy Newkom
	Mosier
Roy and Estelle Welch	in memory of Hattie Ware
Verna M. Sexton	in memory of Hattie Adelle Ware
Ivadell McBride	in memory of Hattie Ware
Ivadell McBride	in memory of Dorothy Mosier
Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Dawson	in memory of Delmar C. Seawright
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Ivadell McBride	in memory of Paul Kunde
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Mr. and Mrs. John H. Palmer	in memory of Paul Kunde
Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Welter	in memory of Louis Harris
Yuba Sutter Business and Professional	
Women's Club	outright gift
Mr. and Mrs. Alton Harris	in memory of Louis W. Harris
Helen O'Brien Harris	in memory of Louis W. Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Starr Poole	in memory of Reginald C. Estep
Delta Chapter of Alpha Sigma	outright gift
Mrs. Rosemary Redhair	in memory of James Spilman
Florence and Earl Ramey	in memory of Delmar C. Seawright
Bert and Shirley King	in memory of Charles Goetz

Tenco Tractor	in memory of Charles Goetz
Yuba City Women's Club	outright gift
Howard and Norma Harter	in memory of Ida Peck Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Philip A. Holmes	in memory of M. L. Castleman
Phydelia Wagner	in memory of Mabel Richard
Mr. and Mrs. Wesley D. Chipman	in memory of Emma P. Sullivan
Verna M. Sexton	in memory of Eric H. Weren
Mrs. Thomas Mulvany	in memory of Wilma E. Dorris
Mrs. Thomas Mulvany	in memory of Mabel Richards

* * * * *

Quoted from the Marysville Herald in the Sacramento Union of November 12, 1851:

Man Overboard -- On Sunday afternoon a man fell from a loaded flat-boat into the Feather river just below the mouth of the Yuba. He was near being drowned, but some of the Yuba City Indians, among whom was Wocataw, their chief, swam to him, and bore him in an exhausted condition to the bank. The flat-boat was towed to the shore and the man taken on board. In the course of a few minutes he revived. Had it not been for the timely assistance of the Indians, he must inevitably have drowned. It would be well for those who are in the habit of cursing and ill-using "Digger Indians" to think of this act of theirs.

NOTE: For more about Wocataw, or Wauketaw, see this News Bulletin for July, 1963.

Excerpt from "The First Forty-Niner" - book about Sam Brannan:

The real beginning of the celebrated Vigilance Committees was organized in San Francisco in Sam Brannan's office on June 9, 1851. He was its first president. This was the greatest work of his life.

Marysville Appeal, November 12, 1864

Three Cheers -- A little crowd of secessionists and copperheads, six of one and half a dozen of the other, got together on Thursday opposite this office and gave three cheers for New Jersey and Allison's ranch.

R E F L E C T I O N S

ROCKHOLT WAY

"THE ALLEY"

By Harold Rockholt

My grandfather, Rubin Rockholt, crossed the United States in 1861 by wagon train when he was 18 years old.

Born in Missouri, he learned the blacksmith trade and in California he set up a shop at Cranmore, which is now only a cross-roads a few miles south of Meridian, California.

He married Annabel Nolan who as a young woman crossed the Isthmus of Panama by mule train and then sailed to San Francisco by ship. My grandfather repaired wagons and sharpened tools for all the local people. Grandma had the Post Office and raised a family of five, two sons and three daughters.

George Rockholt moved to Meridian and had a prune ranch. His brother, Louis Rockholt, came to Marysville in 1906 and learned the cabinet and wood milling trade. He became manager of the Swift Planing Mill, located on the corner of Second and E Street, Marysville. The Swift Co. was then enlarged and relocated next to the Ball Park (now Hust Brothers) at Third and G Street. The mill was sold to the Shasta Lumber Company of Marysville and both were eventually sold to the Diamond Match Company which is now Diamond National Company.

The mill burned completely in 1927 and Louis started a business for himself with a partner, Mr. Libby Stone.

Louis married Lottie Miller, daughter of M. J. Miller, a Marysville painting contractor. Lottie came to California by train when she was 12 years old. She attended Marysville schools with her two sisters. Louis and Lottie raised two sons, Louis Jr. (1909) and Harold (1912).

Plumas Street in Yuba City was a gravel road and the dust was thick. Dad and Mother bought a building lot which was 50 feet wide and a half block long on Plumas Street for \$250.00. On this lot he built one of the first houses in the area. He built a three room house, now 747 Plumas Street.

Because of the dust problems and a large apricot tree the house was built far back on the lot. The well was under the kitchen so the pitcher pump could give direct water into our sink. The



original sink was made of wood and later replaced by a metal one.

The house was added to room by room. At that time babies were born in their homes and Mother had a nurse for a few days to help take care of her and the house.

Growing up in the country on Plumas Street was fun -- all the room that young people nowadays miss. We had a horse and buggy, one cow, a pet goat, pigeons, chickens, rabbits and a large garden.

We had everything but a rear entrance to our lot. Dad moved wire fences and talked to some people who lived on Shasta Street and we developed a passage for our wagon. The alley was very muddy until the first pavement was put down the center of Plumas Street. My mother talked to some of the street graders and they dumped left over gravel on this alley way and we worked it down. In 1920 Dad bought a 1918 Chevrolet which could not move the distance to our place from Teagarden Street without getting stuck in the mud.

My father, Louis Rockholt, was trustee of the Yuba City Elementary School during the time Chester Winship was principal.

Colusa Avenue or Highway 20 was called "Sumner Street" at this time and there were Chinese vegetable gardens next to the river, north of Sumner Street. These people would come by with a wagon loaded with fresh vegetables everyday or so, and we kids would all get a radish or something as a gift.

The iceman would come by so all of our butter and milk would be kept cool, as Dad made a home-built ice chest. Earlier, we used a wood frame covered with burlap and an arrangement of a can of water that would drip on this burlap and keep it moist. With even a slight breeze this would cool the milk.

When Yuba City installed the street signs it was a great surprise to Dad when the alley was named Rockholt Way. Louis Rockholt was very much a part of this area. He died in 1966 at the age of 80.

The Rockholt Stone Mill was located at 523 J Street, Marysville. I acquired Mr. Stone's interest in 1939 and the name was changed to Rockholt & Son.

The shop was moved to the Yuba County Airport Industrial Tract in 1956. The older J Street property was sold in 1960 to the engineering firm that is still there.

**This bulletin is
continued in Part 2.**

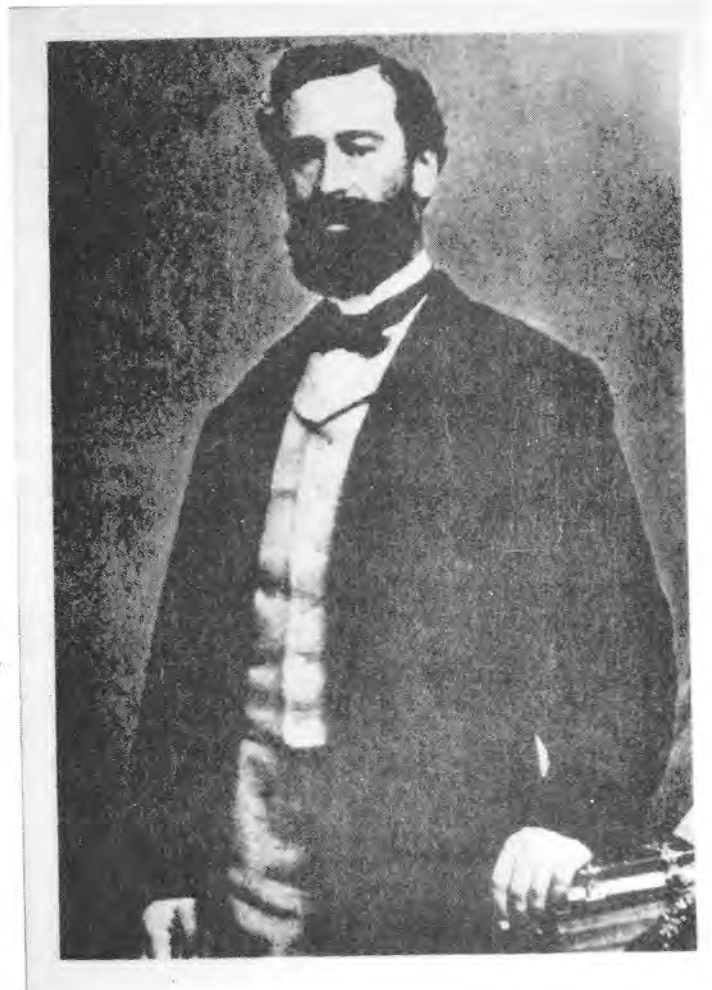
Sutter County
Historical Society
News Bulletin
Apr 1977
Part 2

THE PACKARD LIBRARY BUILDING WILL BE OPENED THIS EVENING

A MAGNIFICENT GIFT TO THE PUBLIC

Men, Women and Children
Have Ample Accommoda-
tions in New Structure—
History of the Library and
Brief History of the City's
Benefactor.

This news item of October 12, 1906 announces
the opening of the new library and gave a history
of the Association and City Library.
(Courtesy of Marysville Library)



JOHN QUACKENBOS PACKARD
(Courtesy of the Appeal-Democrat)

Marysville

OUR FEATURE ARTICLE

We are pleased to take a part in the dedication of the new Packard Library in Marysville by publishing this history of the original Association and City Library. Residents of Sutter County had a much closer relation with the old library than might ordinarily be supposed. There was no public library in Sutter County before 1917 when the present county institution was established. The Marysville Library was the nearest place where Sutter County residents could turn for their literary demands; and a large fraction of non-resident borrowers of the Packard Library were from Sutter County. Also, several members and patrons of the Association of the 1850's were Sutter County residents.

THE PACKARD LIBRARY OF MARYSVILLE

by

EARL RAMEY

On February 3, 1855 a meeting was called with the announced purpose of organizing a "Young Men's Association." This call was not as exclusive as it might appear because a large fraction of the male residents of Marysville, at the time, were young.

The main objective of the association was to be the establishment of a library and a reading room. Marysville was yet quite primitive. A suitable place with enough light to allow reading after dark was as scarce as were suitable books to read. Not many persons could afford the cost of a private library, and living quarters were poorly lighted. So these young pioneers with literary interests concluded logically that they would have to organize a cooperative library and reading room as a means of satisfying these interests.

Twenty men signed a preliminary document setting forth their intentions and objectives. Nine of these were elected to form the first Board of Directors.

A few days later another meeting was held and officers were elected. Edwards Woodruff, of anti-debris fame, because the first

president of the Association. Dr. D. W. C. Rice, president of "Cal P," Sutter County's first railroad, was vice-president. Dr. J. T. McLean and F. H. Woodward were secretaries and Mark Brumagim, the first banker of Marysville, was treasurer. At this meeting a plan of solicitation to build the membership was adopted. The latter part of the year 1855 was devoted to this campaign for subscriptions. At a called meeting on February 22, 1856, the results of the campaign were announced.

There were six life members who subscribed \$100 each and 138 share holders subscribing \$25 each. Nineteen members pledged to contribute a fee of five dollars per month for the privileges of the library. The subscriptions would have provided a beginning capital of \$4,145, but as we shall note later not all of the pledges were fulfilled.

The list of charter members would serve as a directory of the professional and commercial pioneers of Marysville. The physicians were D. W. C. Rice and J. T. McLean. Attorneys were J. O. Goodwin, R. S. Messick, T. B. Reardon and C. E. Filkins. The bankers were Mark Brumagim, John Jewett, Peter Decker, Lewis Cunningham, John Paxton and Frederick Low. Warren Miller was the leading architect and builder. The Reverend Messrs. D. A. Dryden, W. A. McKaig and E. B. Wallsworth were pioneer clergymen of the town. H. S. Hoblitzell, C. M. Patterson and A. G. Coffin were bookkeepers and accountants. The others were the early wholesale and retail merchants, including W. T. Ellis, Sr., John C. Fall, John Q. Packard, W. K. Hudson, Wm. Hawley, Lorenzo Babb, A. A. Vantine, J. S. Eckman, G. Amy and Levi Hite. This list could be extended to include the 163 charter members.

At the first regular meeting of directors held on March 4, 1856, standing committees were appointed and authorized to rent a room for library purposes and to engage a librarian. A room over Cheesman's store at D Street and the Plaza was secured at \$25 per month. Henry Walton volunteered his services as librarian without cost to the Association.

A. G. Coffin made a trip to the eastern states during the summer of 1856. His literary tastes were evidently valued because he was authorized to purchase books while in New York at a cost of \$1,000 provided that he could get terms of \$500 cash and \$500 on credit. At the time there was only \$240 in the treasury, but it was assumed that some member would advance the \$260 needed to make the cash payment. Just where the \$500 to meet the time payment was to be found was not clear until later when banker Brumagim advanced the amount.

This problem of paying for the first purchase of books is evidence that the pledges subscribed had not been met. But Mr. Coffin was able to purchase 70 books in spite of his very limited fund. It is of interest to note that he enlisted the assistance and advice of the librarian of the New York Mercantile Library Association in selecting and purchasing the books. Also the New York Association sent the Marysville Association copies of their catalog, by-laws, reports and other records which served as a guide for the organization of the new Association.

One problem regarding the new books was very discouraging. They had to be shipped by sea around the Horn, and were so long in arriving (December, 1856) that some members despaired of ever

opening the library.

Fortunately, a large number of books, pamphlets, maps and magazines were donated to the Association by benevolent friends of the project, which gifts allowed the fitting out of a reading room. The largest single donation came from a pioneer of Sutter County, Congressman Joseph W. McCorkle, who gave nearly his entire private library. This collection of 141 volumes was valued at \$1,500. The directors ordered that the collection be kept intact on shelves and be designated as the McCorkle Library. But to the shame of succeeding custodians there is no trace of this special collection today. This case illustrates a sad phase of the history of the Marysville City Library. Many valuable items have been entrusted to the care of the institution only to vanish.

The Rev. Mr. Wallsworth donated a large number of volumes, and many others gave single or smaller numbers of volumes. The leading stationers, Amy Brothers, maintained a table on which they kept the latest newspapers and magazines from the East. Governor Latham, Senator Gwin and other elected officials supplied documents. The Association succeeded in getting on the free list for publications of the Smithsonian Institution, and the publishers of the local newspapers furnished free subscriptions.

The Association had several other objectives in addition to the library and reading room. They proposed to sponsor a series of lectures to be delivered by visiting celebrities. Only a few of the proposed lectures were presented because it was discovered that not a sufficient number of persons were willing to pay one dollar to produce the fee of fifty dollars for the speaker. Even

after reducing the price of admission to fifty cents the lectures did not pay, and they were abandoned.

Another project was of general interest at the time. This was referred to as the "cabinet." It was a case designed to hold, behind glass, specimens of gold-bearing ore. There was intense interest in quartz mining which was taking the place of hand placer extraction which produced only gold dust. Dust was no longer a novelty, but a piece of rock showing a deposit of gold was a spectacle. This cabinet and its contents also have vanished.

The Association proposed to collect works of art. A Mrs. Wills donated a picture of Joan D'Arc and was made an honorary member, becoming the first woman to hold membership. Colonel Emil Sutter, son of Captain John Sutter of Hock Farm, donated a collection of shells and medals, and he was given honorary membership. Many other objects of art, including a plaster bust of Captain Sutter, were donated, but they are not to be found today.

The library and reading room were opened on March 22, 1856. The room, with the librarian in charge, was to be open on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for reading and withdrawing books. The directors very gallantly decreed that ladies would be admitted on Tuesday evenings and would be allowed to draw out books on order of a member. The member, presumably, would be responsible for the books taken out by the lady.

On February 17, 1857, Mr. Walton, the librarian, made his first annual progress report. There were 125 members including 16 life members, 70 shareholders, four honorary members and 35 active members paying the monthly fee of five dollars. There were 2,000

books and pamphlets on the shelves. The circulation was 709 for the first year.

The second annual report made by President Coffin on February 17, 1858, was very discouraging. Interest in the Association had declined. The lecture program had been abandoned. Membership had increased to 131, but 57 members had declared intentions to withdraw. There were debts outstanding to the amount of \$121 with only \$57 in the treasury. Delinquent dues amounted to \$174. However, there were 2,060 volumes on the shelves and circulation for the year had increased to 1,113.

At a special meeting on September 17, 1858, a committee was appointed and instructed to investigate the proposals to arrange for the Masonic Order to take over the library, or for the City of Marysville to accept ownership and to operate the library as a public city institution. This committee reported on September 23 that the Masons had declined to undertake operation, but that the Common Council of the City had appointed a committee to confer with the library committee.

Peter Decker was mayor of the City at this time and was also a charter member of the Library Association. He is credited with persuading the Council to accept the library, although two members were opposed.

On December 15, 1858, a "Deed of Gift" was signed by A. G. Coffin, President, E. E. Rice, Secretary and H. G. Walton, Treasurer of the Marysville Library Association as party of the first part and by the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Marysville as party of the second part. The Association gave to the Mayor and Council

and their successors in office forever all of the books, bookcases, maps, pictures, mineralogical and cabinet specimens and all other property belonging to the Association to have and to hold subject to these conditions:

The City would furnish rooms and provide a reasonable salary for the librarian.

The Library and property would be under the direction, management and supervision of a Board of Directors.

The Directors would be ten persons including the Mayor as presiding officer and

Three to be elected by the Council;

Three to be elected by the School Commissioners;

And three to be elected by these seven and to represent the shareholders and donors of the Association.

The Mayor and Council would make the Library free to the residents of Marysville.

The Directors would keep the library rooms open from early candlelight to 10 o'clock on those nights designated by the Directors, and would provide adequate lighting.

The Council would appropriate \$250 each year for books.

A further condition provided that if the City failed to fulfill its obligations the property conveyed would revert to the Association. But any property added by the City would remain City property.

A farewell meeting of the Association was held on Christmas Day of 1858. The announced purpose was to thank and honor Henry Walton who had given three years of free service as librarian. There is evidence that these three years of Association by the young men had

caused the Marysville Library Association to take on some of the characteristics of a fraternity. The last record made in the book of minutes carries a slight note of sadness:

"A friendly glass of eggnog was drunk all around in memory of the past, and as a pledge for the future of the Library which was about to pass into the hands of the City. The deed of gift having been perfected, speeches were made and toasts drunk by sundry gentlemen present, and after a pleasant hour of rational enjoyment the company separated."

So ended the Marysville Library Association.

* * * * *

The first meeting of the Directors of the Marysville City Library was held on December 29, 1858, at the office of W. C. Belcher who was serving as School Commissioner at the time. Mayor Peter Decker presided. Representing the Council were Aldermen Thad Dean of the Union Lumber Company, John Love, a county official and S. W. Selby, a pioneer hardware merchant. The School Commissioners were Belcher, an attorney, S. C. Tompkins, city assessor and the Rev. E. B. Wallsworth. These members elected A. G. Coffin, John Jewett and J. T. McLean to represent the donors. Augustus Wedel was elected to serve as librarian.

The Council had assigned a room on the second floor of the City Hall at Third and Maiden Lane (now Oak Street) to be used as a library and reading room. The Directors met in this room on January 10, 1859, and adopted a very elaborate set of rules which defined in detail the duties of the Directors, committees and Librarian as well as regulations of circulation and conduct of the reading room. Borrowers were required to deposit five dollars as a guarantee of care and return of books, but this deposit was to be returned on demand.



After a fire destroyed the first City Hall this second building was erected in 1854 at Third and Oak Streets. The c u p o l a was added in 1864. This building was vacated in 1938 when the present City Hall was erected at Sixth and C Streets. The old building was sold and razed in 1961. The library occupied a room of the second floor from 1859 to 1906.
(Courtesy of Mary Aaron Museum)

No 1301.

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE Marysville Library Association.

SEC. 1. The Library shall be open on Friday evening of each week, between the hours of 8 and 10 o'clock.

SEC. 2. Any member applying to the Librarian personally, or by written order, shall be entitled to receive one volume if it be a folio or quarto, and two if an octavo or duodecimo, or volume of less size.

SEC. 3. Every member may detain each book or set delivered as aforesaid, if a folio or quarto, four weeks, an octavo three weeks, or a set of less size, two weeks, except NEW publications, which, until they shall have been in the Library two months, shall not be detained, an octavo longer than two weeks, and books of less size one week, and which shall not be renewed.

SEC. 4. No book shall be reserved by the Librarian for any director or member.

SEC. 5. Any member who shall detain a book or set of books, longer than the time above limited, respectively, shall forfeit and pay to the Librarian, for the benefit of the Association, for every day a volume is so detained, twenty five cents.

SEC. 6. If any member lose or injure a book, he shall make the same good to the Librarian; and if the book lost or injured be one of a set, he shall pay to the Librarian, for the use of the Association, the full value of said set, and may thereupon receive the remaining volumes as his property.

SEC. 7. No member shall be permitted to receive a book from the Library, or allowed the privilege of the Library Room, until he shall have paid all assessments or other dues to the Association, and made good all damages and losses he may have occasioned.

These regulations which were enforced by the original association were modified when the city assumed control in 1859.
(Courtesy of Marysville Library)

~~May 11, 1865~~
From a letter of Richard G. Stanwood
to a sister in the East.

We have got our library
moved into the Masonic Building
at last and it is quite a contrast
to the small, ill ventilated room we
had before in the City Hall.

I think it ought to be well patronized
now, for it is in a part of the city
that is always quiet evenings,
and ladies can do there on their
own hook, which is more than
they liked to do in the old place.

The city pays \$25⁰⁰ a month for the
place and the use is free. E. C. Stone
is librarian as before, and he is
busy rearranging the books
according to subjects. They really
needed looking to in that
respect for novels, histories, and
patent office reports were admirably
shuffled together in the old arrange-
ment.

Richard G. Stanwood was the father of Edward B. Stanwood, former District Attorney of Yuba County and Bessie Stanwood a veteran teacher in the Marysville Elementary School. The father was a lumber merchant of Marysville. This is an enlargement of the original. 1865 (Courtesy of Marysville Library)

The new City Library was opened to the public on January 13, 1859. On March 8, 1859, the Librarian reported that 37 persons had deposited the fee of five dollars and were using the library. Presumably, the 16 life members and 42 shareholders of the Association at the time the City took possession were considered eligible to use the library without the deposit.

During the year of 1859 many developments and problems were recorded in the minutes of the meetings of the Directors. The Council had to be reminded to appropriate \$250 for books as required in the gift deed. The salary of the Librarian was set at \$40 per month. A label for books was adopted, which label listed the rules to be observed. A gift of books was received from Mr. Sands of New York. A rack for newspapers was purchased. Some books were not returned. The room was open from 10 to 12 a.m. and 8 to 10 p.m. every day except Sundays. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company offered free transportation of books from New York. An order for books to cost \$244 was sent to New York. And it was ordered that a book be kept to record donations (which book does not exist today). The Directors approved a proposal to communicate with public libraries in the East requesting any duplicate volumes which might be sent to the Marysville Library.

Evidently the position of librarian was not very attractive. Augustus Wedell resigned in 1861 and was followed by Messrs. Vail, Kennedy and Leonard who were in turn followed by the Rev. Mr. McKaig. Mr. McKaig resigned in 1872 and was replaced by Miss Jane Jones, who had the longest tenure, from 1872 until her death in 1894.

Miss Jones and her sister, Polly, had come to Marysville from their native England in 1868 and were conducting a private school

for small children. The library position which paid only \$25 per month, having been reduced from \$40, was a means of supplementing the limited income from the school.

Miss Jones was a very capable woman. It is evident from her annual reports that she is to be credited with the professional character and the literary achievements of the Marysville City Library during the early years of its history.

The position and function of the donors on the Board of Trustees (or Directors) is an interesting matter to follow in the records of the City Library. It has been noted that Jewett, Coffin and McLean were the first donors to serve in 1858. Mr. Coffin left Marysville in 1859 and Peter Decker took his place. Dr. McLean left the City and D. W. D. Rice replaced him. Dr. Rice was in turn replaced by W. T. Ellis, Sr. These three, Decker, Jewett and Ellis, were the last charter members of the Association to serve as donor representatives on the Board. After these three died or moved from the City they were replaced by younger men of the second generation. Decker died in 1888 and F. W. H. Aaron took his place. Jewett moved to Sonoma County in 1890 but maintained interests in Marysville and was kept on the Board as donor until his death in 1911. W. T. Ellis, Sr. was probably the last surviving charter member serving as donor representative. He died in 1913.

After 1915 the donor representatives included Richard Belcher, Harry Carden, W. B. Swain, and George Rubel, no one of whom had been born when the original Association was disbanded in 1858.

Very soon after the City Library was founded a fund was established, the earnings of which were to be used for the purchase of books.

This fund was provided by bequests made by residents and former residents of Marysville. There were ten bequests which by 1925 provided a fund of \$9,250 giving an annual earning of \$754. After 1900 it was no longer necessary for the Council to appropriate \$250 annually for books as required in the deed. The income from the trust fund provided more than was being spent for new books.

Over the years this trust fund and the earnings became somewhat confused in and mingled with the general City budget. On February 4, 1935, at the request of "The Marysville Library Association" the Council appointed a committee to administer the fund and agreed that the earnings would be used for library purposes only. Again on September 17, 1951, the Council gave official recognition of the fund and repeated the policy of using the earnings for the purchase of books.

The term "Association" was continued by the Trustees for many years after the City acquired the original library. This practice was probably continued in deference to the donors and their descendants. In the minutes of the period from 1884 to 1892 the references are to the "Marysville City Library Association." Then it becomes "Marysville Library Association" which designation gradually gave way to the "Marysville City Library."

There have been some practices and customs in the history of the library which today seem quaint. During the month of August in 1896 and 1897 the library was simply closed to allow the librarian to take a vacation without pay. In March of 1903 during an epidemic of scarlet fever, measles and smallpox when several homes were quarantined, the City Board of Health ordered that no books be issued

and that those books returned from the quarantined homes be fumigated.

The librarians were authorized to purchase and pay for supplies. They were reimbursed if the Council approved. The librarians also employed and paid persons to do cleaning before regular janitors were employed and paid directly by the Council.

City bonds of \$3,500 had been purchased for the trust fund. When the bonds became due the Council redeemed them but put the City's note in the fund rather than cash. However, the interest was paid in cash until the note was taken up.

In April, 1901 the Trustees ordered that the library be opened during three shifts each day -- morning, afternoon and evening; but the librarian's salary was increased from \$35 to \$50 per month.

A suitable location and rooms for the library were a difficult problem for the Council for fifty years after the City took possession. It was provided in the gift deed that adequate rooms would be furnished by the Council. It has been noted that a room at the south end of the second floor of City Hall was assigned. There arose many objections. The view from the windows included the recreation yard of the jail and the inmates at play. Council ordered the only solution possible which was to brick up the windows.

The room was heated by a wood burning stove. It was necessary to employ a man to start a fire each morning. Then the librarian had the responsibility of keeping the fire going. A large box for wood occupied needed and limited floor and wall space. This problem was solved by moving the box to the hallway to allow more shelves where the box had been.

The most serious objection was made by ladies who found it very

distasteful when their floor length skirts brushed the filthy tobacco stained steps of the stairs leading to the second floor. There was no solution to this problem. The ladies could not shorten their skirts, and the men could not stop chewing tobacco.

As early as 1860 the Council was looking for a better location for the library. They considered renovating the room over the quarters occupied by the Salamander Hook and Ladder fire company, but the cost was estimated to be too great. Then it was proposed to rent a room in the new Odd Fellows building at Third and D, but the rental was more than Council was willing to allow. A new Masonic Hall had been erected at Third and E in 1861; so a room on the second floor was rented at \$25 per month.

In 1858 when the City of Marysville had granted a franchise to D. E. Knight for his Marysville Coal Gas Company, it was provided that the City Hall would receive gas for lighting free of charge. The library room had been furnished free lighting according to this provision; but when Council assumed that the free gas would be supplied at the new location in the Masonic building, the gas company refused, contending that they were obliged to furnish free gas only to City Hall. So, rather than pay the monthly charge for gas, Council ordered the library returned to City Hall in 1871.

The heating problem was solved in 1873 by extending steam pipes to the library room from the boiler in the fire station on the first floor of City Hall. A head of steam was maintained constantly by the fire department to allow quick action by the steam pumpers on the horse-drawn engines before the modern motorized equipment was available. Heating for the library was a by-product of the fire department.

The lighting by gas was never very good. In 1885 a company was granted a franchise to generate and distribute electric current for lighting; and again it was provided that free lighting would be furnished for rooms in City Hall.

This first electric current was very weak, and the type of lamp was inferior. The librarian noted in her report of 1885 that "so called" electric lights had been installed, although she admitted that the new lights made the room more cheerful. Not until after 1898 when stronger current from Yuba river power and the new incandescent lamps were available was the library room adequately lighted.

* * * * *

John Q. Packard, a charter member of the Association, had prospered in Marysville as a merchant, property owner, and capitalist. But this versatile pioneer was not content to limit his activities to Marysville. He was away from the City much of the time, although he maintained interests which called him back frequently. From 1862 to 1872 he was a cotton grower in Louisiana. From 1879 to 1886 he was a mining capitalist in Utah. During the 1890's he built a railroad from Santa Cruz to San Francisco and acquired 8,000 acres of land in Santa Cruz County, which land included valuable deposits of limestone which he later sold at a profit to the Portland Cement Company.

Packard was acquiring so much wealth that he needed an outlet for some of it. When he learned of the bad time the Marysville City Library was having in maintaining adequate quarters he resolved to provide a building.

In October, 1900, Packard deeded to the City of Marysville lots number seven and eight on the northwest corner of Fourth and C Streets. In this deed he reserved control of the land for five years during which time he proposed to erect a building for library use. He was prepared to spend \$70,000 for the building. The Council accepted the deed with the conditions.

Packard came to Marysville on a visit in March, 1905, and announced that work on the new library building would begin soon. He had employed William Curtlett, an architect of San Francisco to draw up plans. And he had awarded the contract for construction to R. Dewar of San Francisco. The cost of the building was to be \$66,300.

The gray sandstone for the new building came from Packard's land in Santa Cruz County where it was quarried. The raw stone was sent to San Francisco on Packard's railroad where it was cut into building blocks by the latest mechanical devices of the time. From San Francisco it was shipped to Marysville on the Southern Pacific railroad. A few years earlier it would have come to Marysville on river boats and barges.

After the old Gillispie brick stable was removed from the site, work began, and the cornerstone was "quietly put into place." A copper box containing newspapers, personal cards, coins, history and other items was placed in the cornerstone. This was done "quietly" because Packard, who was a timid and retiring person, had requested that there be no ceremony.

The last stone block was hoisted and put in place on October 29, 1905, and the last nail was driven on March 14, 1906.

The architect and A. C. Bingham, Packard's agent, accepted the

building from the contractor on April 4, 1906, and the keys to the new library were delivered to the Mayor on June 4, 1906. The building was lighted for the first time on July 13 and was opened to the public at 7:00 p.m. on October 12, 1906. On this opening evening, 1500 persons visited the new building.

The Mayor and Council soon discovered that the fine new library building was bringing far more cost than the old simple one-room quarters in City Hall. The librarian was paid \$50 per month and a full-time janitor was paid \$95 per month. There was an electric bill of \$28, a bill of \$10 for oil, one for coal of \$205 for the coming winter and a monthly bill of \$5 for water. An insurance policy on the plate glass windows cost \$27 and equipment and furniture had cost \$3,800. The tax-conscious residents became alarmed.

There had been no professionally trained librarian employed throughout the history of the Association or the City Library. The position was assumed to be a part-time job requiring no special skill. But after the new plant was occupied there was recognized a need for professional administration. The Council appropriated \$125 towards the cost of sending the librarian, Miss Mary Subers, to summer school "to instruct her in the different methods of handling a library."

In 1908 the Women's Improvement Club of Marysville undertook as a project the installation of pedestal lights on the steps facing Fourth Street. The Club gave dances and other fund raising programs. On November 12, 1908, it was announced that "the new electroliers on massive bronze columns, each globe containing a cluster of five lights, were burning brightly."

These ladies of the Improvement Club assumed a special interest

in the new library. They are the first on record to propose making the library a county institution. At one of their meetings a resolution stated "The members wish it understood that the reading room in the City Library is open to the public. The room is arranged in a very comfortable manner." These ladies also denounced and demanded the removal of "a dilapidated and unsightly fence on Fourth Street across from the library. The fence is an eyesore."

In 1914 W. H. Parks, Jr., son of a prominent pioneer, provided in his will a small sum of money to be used by the Improvement Club for any purpose they might choose. They chose to have a book plate engraved to serve as a memorial to Mr. Parks, which plate was to be furnished for use by the library. Imprints of this plate might be found in some of the very old volumes if they have not been discarded.

In 1910 The Native Sons of the Golden West proposed to gather pioneer relics, photographs and other items then in private possession and place them in the City Library for safekeeping. For this purpose they established the California Room on the second floor. This room was in the beginning referred to as the Poppy Room. The contents of this would-be museum and archive have become dispersed, some of the material going indirectly to the Mary Aaron Museum.

A very useful and much-needed feature of the new library building was the "Little Theatre" on the second floor. The availability of this informal meeting place encouraged the women of Marysville to organize an Art Club in 1913. This Club used the theatre for many years for their meetings and programs until the 1930's when a separate building was erected on D Street.

The ladies of both the Art Club and the Improvement Club came

to the rescue of the library in 1920 when they organized opposition and prevented the erection of a large billboard by Foster and Kleiser on C Street opposite the library where the present Post Office is located.

In August of 1911 Miss Harriet Eddy of the State Library came to Marysville on a campaign to promote the establishment of county libraries. She appeared before the Supervisors and explained the system and published a long article in the Marysville Appeal describing the plan of assistance offered by the State; but no action was taken by the county government.

The library building at Fourth and C Streets had one narrow escape from demolition. In October of 1955 a committee of the Chamber of Commerce selected the library site as a desirable location for off-street parking. The building was to be razed and the land sold for an amount adequate to construct a new library. The committee proposed to pay \$150,000 for the land, which amount they deemed sufficient to pay for a new building. But the Council demanded \$200,000 as necessary for construction. The committee then offered \$175,000.

A special committee of citizens was appointed by the Council to choose a site for the new library, but this committee never reported. Then when the Supervisors accepted Cortez Square as a site for a new courthouse, it was provided in the deed from city to county that any space not needed for the courthouse would be available for the library. In the meantime, however, interest in the parking lot shifted to the southeast corner of Fourth and C Streets and the library site was dismissed.

The growth of the library during the 66 years from 1859 to 1925 could be estimated in terms of volumes on the shelves, circulation and borrowers. But there are only incomplete records of these factors. It has already been noted that in the first year of the Association (1856-57) there were 2,000 volumes with a circulation of 709. The next year (1857-58) these figures were 2,060 and 1,113. At the time of a report in March, 1859, we are told only that there were 37 borrowers who had made the required deposit of five dollars. For the next twelve years the records are scant because the several librarians evidently did not feel obliged to make annual reports and probably were not keeping specific accounts. After Miss Jane Jones became librarian the annual reports were improved.

In 1879 there were 142 borrowers, but by 1880 this figure had decreased to 126. It had risen to 141 by 1883 but there are no further records of borrowers for the next eighteen years.

The figures for circulation after 1880 are more nearly complete, and it is this factor by which we must estimate the growth. In the years 1883, '84 and '85, the circulation was 2,956, 3,261 and 2,748. In 1890, '91 and '92 the figures were 2,792, 2,770 and 2,759; but by 1900 it had grown to 6,451.

In April, 1900 new requirements for borrowers were adopted. Citizens of Marysville were given the choice of two qualifications. They could continue to maintain the deposit, or they could secure the signature of some responsible resident as sponsor. Non-residents were required to make the deposit. During the year of 1901, 231 new borrowers qualified and circulation rose to 10,947. The next year, 1902, it grew to 14,416. We are given no more figures in the minutes

until 1925 when there were 758 borrowers and a circulation of 12,840. A final indication of the use or misuse of the library is an item in the minutes of 1925 stating that \$80 in fines was collected.

The last figure for the number of volumes in the library was given in 1880 at 3,295. For some years we are told the number of new books purchased. One gets the impression from the minutes that about 100 volumes were being added each year. During the period from 1880 to 1925, this number, 4,500 added to 3,295 of 1880 would have given 7,795 for 1925; but this estimate is probably too low.*

After 1925 the Council allowed nearly all traces of the old Association to disappear. The Board of Directors provided in the gift deed was allowed to die a natural death. The charter member donors were gone. Even the School Commissioners no longer existed, having been replaced by trustees of special districts. The library became a department of the city government and was administered directly by the Council.

Those of us who have spent the last fifty years using the old Packard Library at Fourth and C are going to feel some of the sadness which was felt by the young pioneers on Christmas Day of 1858 when they disbanded their Association and donated their library to the City of Marysville. However fine the new city-county library might be in contrast to the old sandstone building, the nostalgia we shall

* * *

*Aside from the librarians in charge during the earliest years of Marysville's literary venture, and after the death of Librarian Jane Jones in 1894, numerous persons filled the position as the years went by.

The list, although incomplete, included Mrs. Susan K. Saul, Miss Mary E. Suber, Mrs. Jennie C. Engell, Miss Clara Tietjens, Mrs. Mary R. Hatch, Miss Donna Louise Burchell (who became Mrs. Kenneth Dempsey), Miss Maxine Rogers, Mrs. Dempsey (second term), and Miss Ella T. Danielson. The latter was followed by Miss Thelma Neaville, who continued until her retirement in 1972. She was succeeded by Ivan Edelman. The present librarian is Jonathan Little.

inevitably experience could become slightly painful. But this experience will serve as a preconditioner for the sadder event when we must witness the destruction of the last souvenir of the venerable institution where five generations have exercised their literary interests.

* * * * *

ABOUT OUR AUTHOR

Earl Ramey of Marysville, author of the Bulletin article on the early years of the Packard Library, is exceptionally qualified for this task. He was asked to write it because of his extensive research of historical records in the library and elsewhere in this part of California.

His interest in area history began many years ago and not only has earned him renown as a scholar, but official designation by the Yuba County Board of Supervisors as "Yuba County Historian."

Born in Missouri, he came to California as a youth. He enlisted in the Marines in World War I. Sent overseas, he was wounded and as a result lost his left leg. As a disabled veteran, obtaining federal financial aid, he entered Stanford University. In 1925, after he received there his Bachelor of Arts Degree, he came to Marysville and joined the faculty of Marysville High School to teach social studies, with emphasis on history, and mathematics. He also was a lecturer in the first years of the Yuba Community College. In 1929-30 while on leave from the high school position, he returned to Stanford and obtained his Master of Arts Degree in history.

His marriage to Florence Bridge, a Marysville grade-school teacher, took place in 1928. Mr. and Mrs. Ramey made an extensive

tour of Europe, and in following years have traveled to other lands, including South America and Hawaii. They make their home near East Ellis Lake, in a Mexican-type adobe house which Mr. Ramey himself built with the aid of special artisans.

After his retirement from teaching and for about 19 years, Mr. Ramey has worked in a secluded part of the library on Fourth Street on an almost daily schedule as a volunteer researcher. He frequently is sought out for information on some phase of the area's history, and his interest in studying the minutes of Marysville City Council sessions provide a unique cross-filing of community dates and events. The coordinated data, in the process of being listed will be and has been invaluable to students of history.

Long a member of Sutter County Historical Society, which he served for a time as treasurer, Mr. Ramey has contributed to the Bulletin numerous valuable articles concerning Sutter and Yuba counties. The Society and others are grateful for his freely-given aid, especially his fellow-members of the Bulletin editorial staff.

WILLIAM DAWSON

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NEWS BULLETIN LISTING
(continued)

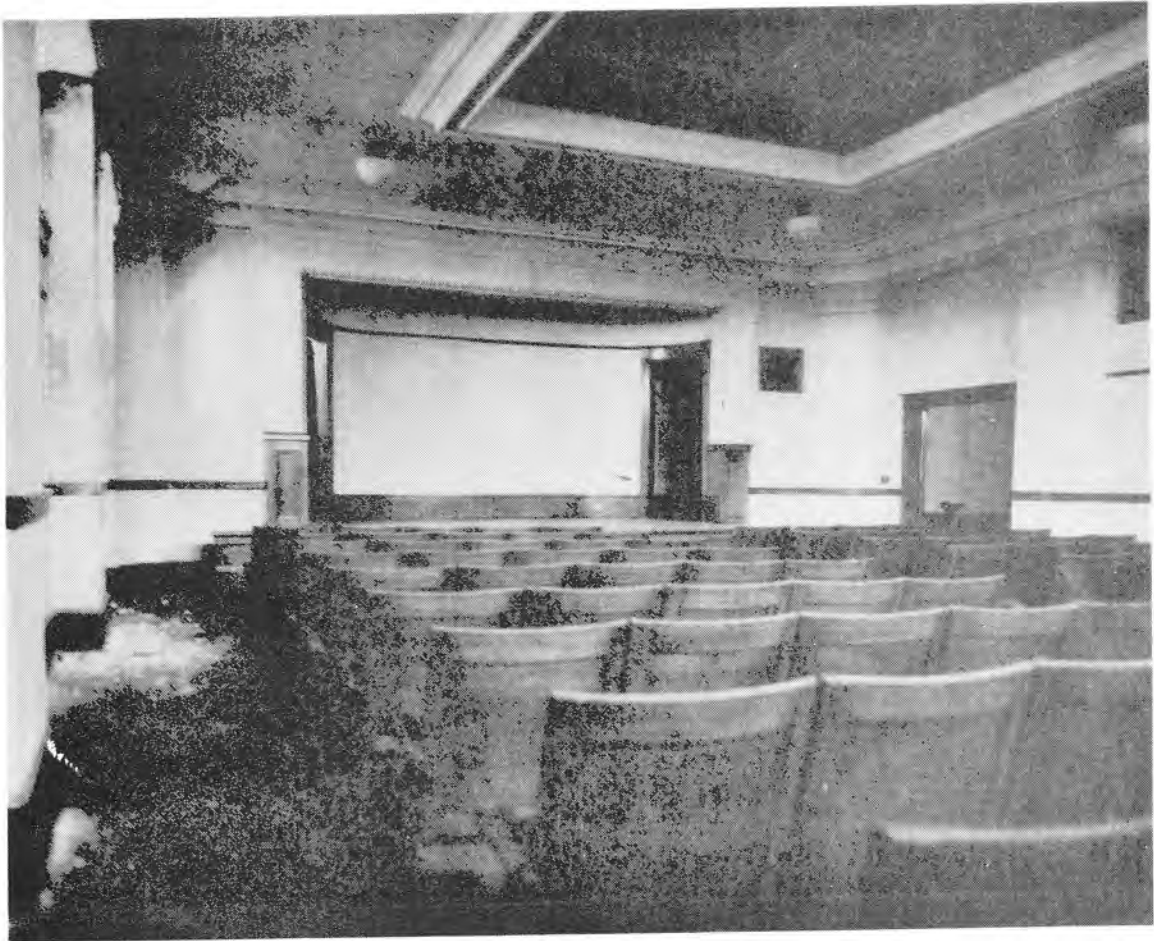
The Sutter County Historical Society, which since 1954 has issued the informative NEWS BULLETIN to its members, continues herewith the listing of dates and contents of the quarterlies for the benefit of present-day members of the Society. The first list appeared in the January, 1977 issue.



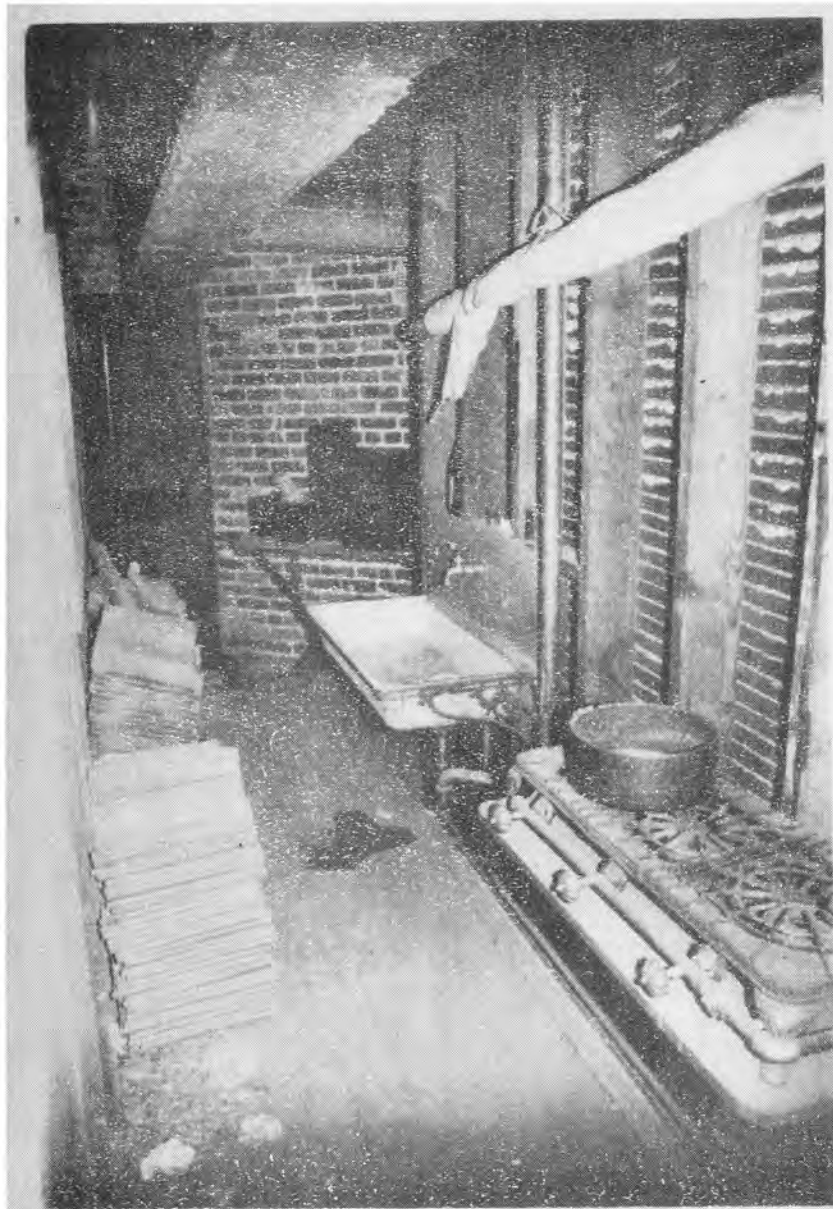
This scene is on the mezzanine now used to display prints and books of art.
The doors at the left lead to the former California or Poppy Room.
(Courtesy of Wm. R. McNabb)



This scene of the circulation desk shows Laurien Kupser, and assistant librarian of long tenure, behind the counter. This photograph was made after 1948. The portrait of George Washington has been replaced by a painting of Mary Covillaud. (Courtesy of Marysville Library)



This view is from the rear of the theater showing the small stage. Also the permanent type of theater seats can be seen.
(Courtesy of Wm. R. McNabb)



The architect failed to anticipate all of the requirements of the ladies of the Marysville Art Club. At their request in 1917 water and gas were piped to the third floor, and this elegant kitchen was provided to allow preparation of refreshments for the meeting and recitals in the theater. The ladies have not used the kitchen for over 40 years; so they are not responsible for its present appearance. (Courtesy of Wm. R. McNabb)

The libraries of Sutter and Yuba Counties and the Sutter County Community Memorial Museum in Yuba City have available files of the publication and key listing of issues, dates and authors of articles.

The Bulletin listing continues as follows:

July, 1956, "History of the Hock Farm" by Honora Laney.

October, 1956, "Hawaiian Colony of Vernon" by Bernice Gibson

January, 1957, "My Pioneer Mother" by Phoebe A. Morton;
"Old Camp Bethel" (no author listed); "History of
Ladies Improvement Club of Sutter" by Mrs. W. H.
McPherrin.

April, 1957, "The Early Traveled Roads of Sutter County"
by Bert Ullrey.

July, 1957, "A Centennial of Education in Sutter County"
by Honora Laney.

October, 1957, "Historical Notes on Development of
Agriculture in Sutter County" by T. D. Urbahns.

January, 1958, "Yuba" by A. M. Robertson; "First
Impressions of Yuba City" by Ruth Smith Grant.

July, 1958, "The Boga Grant 1843-1881" by Earl Ramey;
Report on panel historical discussion at Sutter County
Historical Society meeting, with quotations from Bert
Ullrey, Frank Bremer, Hugh Moncur, Arthur Coats, Eugene
Boyd and Edward von Geldern, and with R. A. Schnabel
as Master of Ceremonies.

October, 1958, "Dedicate to Yuba City" by Honora Laney.

(To Be Continued)

THE CUPOLA

(After Holmes)

Aye, tear her battered structure down.
Long has it stood on high
And many an eye has danced to see
That cupola in the sky.
Beneath it rung the lawyer's shout
And burst the judge's roar.
This symbol of our liberty
Shall brave the storm no more.

Her floor where many a person stood
While winds were hurrying over the flood,
No more shall feel the curious tread
Nor know the schoolboy's pride
As guardedly he carves his name
Upon thy sacred side.
Man, disdaining thy most glorious fame,
Will tear our cupola down.

O, better that the tempest's might
Should claim her shattered form
That has so oft withstood
The wind, the hail, the storm
Nail to the pole her holy flag
Lose every weakening rail,
And give her to the God of Storms,
The lightning and the gale.

By Arthur Coats, 1942.

The staff is glad to report that the cupola on the Sutter County Courthouse is still there and has not been removed as mistakenly reported in the January Issue. We apologize for this and any mistakes we may have made.