

# SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

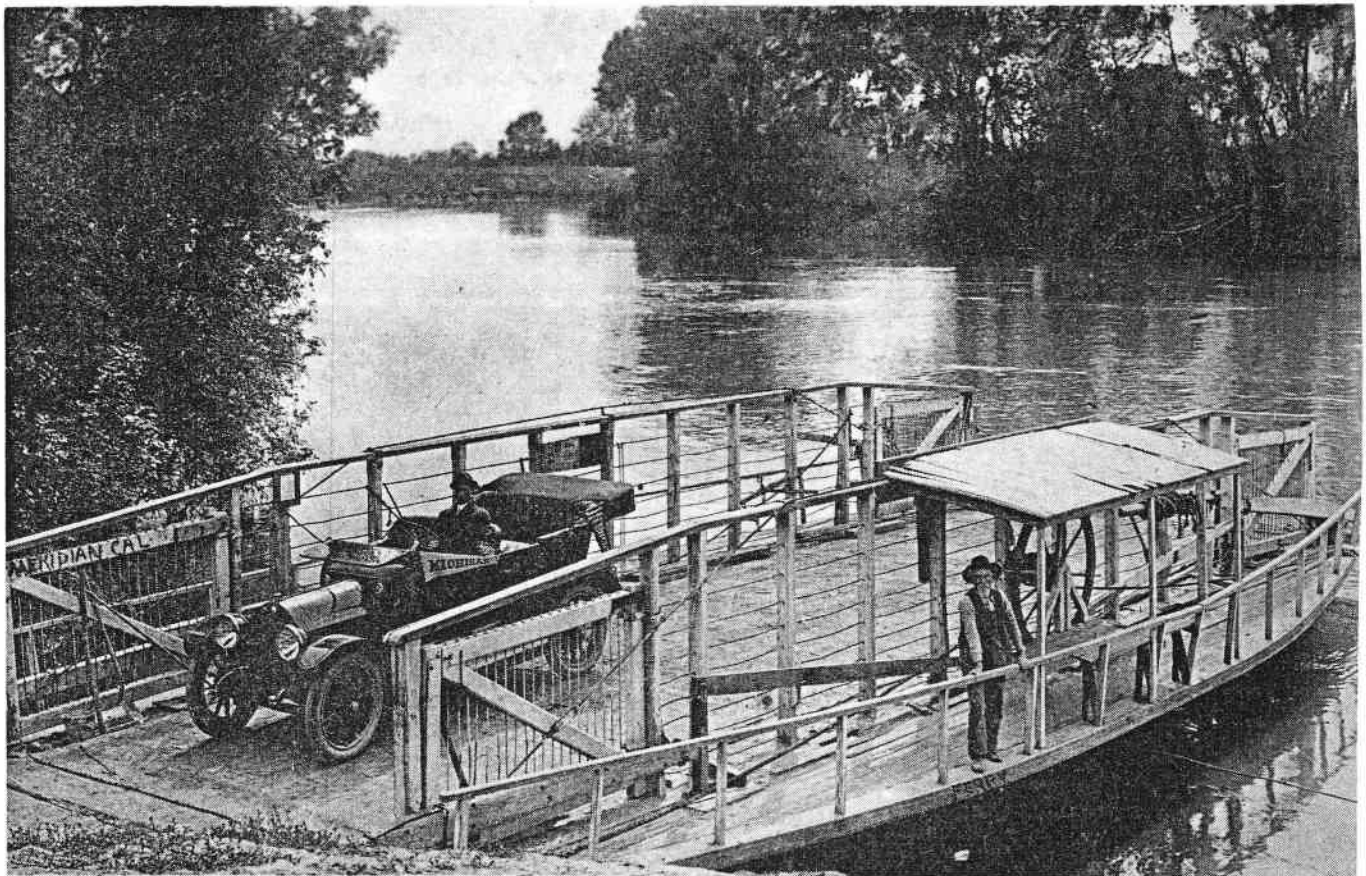
COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
1333 Butte House Road  
P. O. Box 1555  
Yuba City, CA 95991

## NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. XV111 No. 4

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95991

October, 1979



Meridian Ferry in the 1900's Gentleman standing by the rail is Edward B. Jacobs, father of Dr. E.V. Jacobs

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. XVIII, No. 4

October, 1979

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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 1979 dues are payable now. Your remittance should be sent to Sutter County Historical Society, P. O. Box 1004, Yuba City, CA 95991. To insure delivery of your NEWS BULLETIN please notify the Treasurer of any change of address. Dues are \$7.50 per person, \$10.00 per family, \$5.00 if over 70 years.

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THE NEWS BULLETIN

THE PURPOSE OF THE NEWS BULLETIN:

To discover, present and disseminate knowledge about the history of Sutter County and the adjacent areas;

To arouse interest in the past by publishing historical material;

To make historical data available to the general public;

To aid in bringing together the people of Sutter County interested in local history;

To encourage contributions of personal history from long-time residents and relatives and friends of "old-timers".

CONTRIBUTORS WANTED

Needed! Family histories, articles about schools, stores, ranches, business, churches. Articles about old times are needed for publication. Don't worry about the commas and periods -- we will edit the items for you. Send your items to Raona Hall, 373 Second Street, Yuba City, California 95991,

OR

Send the name of the person with a story that others will want to read about to Raona Hall, 373 Second Street, Yuba City and the Editorial Staff will make the contact,

OR

Send in a picture of people or places that would be of interest and can be used as a cover story.

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Bad for the Union -- The matrimonial market has been very dull of late. We have not had a marriage for over a month. The dis-union spirit seems to be penetrating even the social circle. Hurry up, boys, we have lots of spare territory to populate.

Appeal, May 5, 1861.

OCTOBER MEETING

Joe McGie of Gridley, Butte County, will present a talk and slides on the area of Lake Oroville, October 16, 1979 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Memorial Museum. Mr. McGie has researched the Butte County environs, assisted in compiling and updating the History of Butte County, served as President of the Butte County Historical Society, as well as teaching in the Gridley schools and at Chico State University. Historical Society members, their friends, and the public are invited to the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our first bus trip was a success. The question has been asked when is the next bus trip, and where will we be going? Do you readers have any suggestions?

The quarterly bulletin could use more articles of interest. Any of your recollections or anecdotes will be more than welcome. This is your bulletin -- let's make it live!

WANTED - Money Making ideas. The dream of a Farm Equipment building and area is too far from being a reality.

RANDOLPH A. SCHNABEL

I feel, as a "newcomer" to the area of Sutter County that this is perhaps the reason I have been asked to write a little about our "bus trip" to the Empire Mine in the Grass Valley area.

On a warm, sunshiny day, July 17, to be exact, the passengers awaiting the bus were busy with conversation. It was too long a wait, really, but when the bus arrived, all boarded with good spirits, and this attitude prevailed during the whole trip.

This was a "first time" trip for my husband and daughter and myself, with any group, and we found the people most congenial and informative. It was very enjoyable to sit and look out the windows, not having to watch out for any traffic or signs of where we were going. Of course, we thought the bus driver knew where he was going, but it took a few instructions from various passengers for him to finally arrive at our destination, but when we did arrive, we were met by a very pleasant couple who were "docents" (which means volunteers).

After being divided into two groups, we were guided through the Empire Mine areas, which were described to us by our docent, telling of the interesting facts of the working of the mine, and then toured through the vast area of the grounds and the "cottage" of the late William Bowen Bourn, Jr. We could not see inside the cottage, as the State is now restoring the buildings, and doing a very commendable job. It is now called Empire Mine State

Historic Park and is open to guided tours. The mine itself covers about 780 acres of which 12 acres of this is a very beautiful park area with restoration going on to renew the lovely brick "cottage" to its magnificent beginning. One pictures the rambling grape arbor which leads down through a rose garden to the fish-pond and greenhouse on one side and from the lawn down through the tumbling waterfall to the swimming pool on the other. When this structure and park are restored, it could well be an attraction as great as Hearst Castle. Our family is very anxious to return to see the "finished" product.

After touring the Mine, we all had a delightful picnic lunch, sitting on the pine-needles on the ground and sharing with one another. The animated conversation was most stimulating, and we were soon ready to return to the bus and travel on down to the Mining Museum in Nevada City where we were greeted by a very knowledgeable young man who described the workings of the Museum and where we saw the huge water-wheel which had generated the power to work the mines.

We returned home, a much quieter group than had started out, but still all seemed in a very congenial mood, and all said that they would like to go on another trip, so, Randy, we missed you on this trip, but hope you can plan another successful and enjoyable trip for us to one of the area's historic past.

FRANCES GENTRY

Community Memorial Museum  
Annual Report  
August 1, 1978 - July 31, 1979

During its fourth year of operation, 6,652 people visited the Community Memorial Museum. 27,955 visitors coming from all of the 50 states and from many foreign countries have been logged by the museum in four years.

The museum gave a total of 85 group tours to 1,810 people in this year. Of these, 50 were to public and private school classes (1,192 individuals). Special groups served were classes of educationally, physically, and emotionally handicapped children and adults. Fifteen youth groups (176 individuals) and 20 adult groups (442 individuals) also toured the museum. In four years, 7,558 individuals in 386 groups took advantage of the museum's special tours.

The Museum Concert Series, under the direction of Jane Roberts is in the fourth year of presenting programs featuring local artists. Nine Sunday afternoon concerts were held during the period covered by this Annual Report with a total attendance of 723.

In addition to the museum's permanent displays, eight special loan exhibits were featured during the year. A total of 694 individual gifts of artifacts from 74 donors were added in the 12 months to the museum collection. Added to the 3,750 items received the prior three years and the over 1,000 items in the original historical society collection, the museum collection numbers over 5,400 items.



Since the formation of the Community Memorial Museum Auxiliary in September, 1975, 12,200 hours of service have been given by volunteer Auxiliary Members. 2,866 hours were given during the period covered by this Annual Report. Through the scheduling of Auxiliary Chairman, Caroline Ringler, volunteers act as docents, accession and catalog gift items; prepare items for display; and work with Museum Director, Jean Gustin.

The seventeen member Community Memorial Museum Commission was formed by the Sutter County Board of Supervisors in November, 1975. Chaired by its president, Frances Gentry, members are drawn from each of the Supervisorial Districts, the Sutter County Historical Society, the Museum Auxiliary, and from the business community. Norma Harter, Loadel Piner and Jean Gustin are also members of this advisory board.

The Community Memorial Trust Fund was established in 1973 when Howard and Norma Harter gave to the County of Sutter the equivalent of \$100,000 in stocks to build a museum to be dedicated to the pioneers and veterans of the area. To this sum has been added additional gifts from many in the community. The museum was formally dedicated and given to Sutter County on October 19, 1975. Interest from the Community Memorial Trust Fund is used for museum development.

Additional fund raising efforts were begun in 1978. The Museum Expansion Fund was established to provide for future enlargement of the museum to house its ever-growing



collection. In August, 1978 a program of annual Museum Memberships was begun to provide the museum's operating and exhibit expenses.

LIST OF DONORS TO THE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM TRUST FUND  
May 1, 1979 through August 1, 1979

Mrs. Geraldine S. Boyd	in memory of Alice Van Arsdale
Dewey Gruening	in memory of Leonard Jones
Randy & Shirley Schnabel	in memory of Ray L. Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Harris	in memory of Donald W. Gillett
Mr. & Mrs. Starr Poole	in memory of Eda Robinson
Verna Sexton	in memory of Eda Robinson
Pat & Helen Burk	in memory of Ruby Inman
LaVerne Grell	outright gift
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Welter	in memory of Ralph Richard Welter
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bryant	in memory of Clarence Palm
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bryant	in memory of Donald Gillett
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Brandt	in honor of Bill & Winnie Greene Jr. on their 50th wedding anniversary
Helen Harris	in memory of Mary McNab
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Welter	in memory of Fred Stagmier
Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Ogburn	in memory of Eda Robinson
Douglass & Jean Goss	in memory of Geulah Brannan
Lorraine E. Ramsdell	in memory of Margaret Taylor
Caroline S. Ringler	in memory of Margaret Taylor
Jean Gustin	in memory of Margaret Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Hall	in memory of Lloyd F. Clark
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Hall	in memory of R.R. (Dick) Welter
Ellade Kylling	in memory of Caryl Kenyon

SUTTERANA

Gold Washing at Sutter's Fort

We noticed an honest miner hard at work a day or two ago at Sutter's Fort. He was at second hand mining, and most busily engaged in scratching up the dirt in and about this old institution, and running it through a rocker. He was making \$2.50 per day and deserved more for his perception and judgment.

Marysville Appeal, February 20, 1861.

Flowers from Hock Farm

A party of ladies and gentlemen returned to the city from a visit to Hock Farm on Wednesday loaded down with bouquets from that favored region. They describe the trip as having been delightful.

Sacramento Union, May 19, 1853.

In town -- The old California pioneer, General John A. Sutter, is now spending a few days in the city (San Francisco), says the ALTA of Tuesday, and witnessed the launching of the CAMANCHE yesterday. He looks as hearty as ever and is likely to outlive many a younger man.

NOTE: The Camanche was a popular riverboat which came up the Sacramento and Feather rivers during the 1860's.

Marysville Appeal, November 17, 1864.

Gone - The old adobe building which stood at Sutter's Fort and was known to forty-niners as Brannan's Store has fallen to the earth. The old landmarks and relicts are nearly all gone.

Marysville Appeal, August 15, 1860.

EARLY DAY HISTORY OF MERIDIAN  
by  
Ethel Albertson

Let us all go back together in our imagination to almost 100 years ago. It was winter and the Buttes were a beautiful sight, frequently crowned with a fringe of snow, over which the sunbeams and the dark shadows of the clouds play while the valley lies robed in green at their feet; or when the clouds hang low and sullen over the valley the three peaks disappear, their lofty tops thrust far into the murky blackness, or appear above the clouds, fringed with the encircling mist.

The surface of Sutter County is low and flat, except where the Buttes rear their lofty heads and spread their volcanic arms into the valley. These are the first objects to catch the traveler's eye, and to them he instinctively turns to note the points of the compass and to look for signs of rain. About the Buttes on every hand are broad fields of grain yielding soil, and many little valleys nestle among the branching ridges and spurs that shoot out like the arms of a cuttle fish. South of the Buttes lie the thousands of acres of tule and swamp lands, that in winter are transformed into a vast lake by the water poured into them from the two rivers through the sloughs, and from near their junction, rendering communication between the east and west sides of the county extremely difficult and sometimes impossible except by boat. On the west of this tract lies the little town of Meridian,

while on the east is the thriving town of Yuba City, perched high and safe on the west bank of "La Rio Plumas". Many times in the winters there is no Meridian at all, only a vast lake from the foothills of the Coast Range to the foothills on the east of the Yuba River. But when the water drains away there is a large and fertile valley there, and if one will climb upon the Buttes early in the morning, before the sun rises over the summits of the Sierra, he will see a picture painted by the Father of us all.

Nature is calm and hushed to repose. The busy hum of day has not commenced except by Heaven's own choristors, that were offering up to God their songs of praise, making the groves vocal with their music. The air is soft and balmy, and the sky beautifully blue. A belt of trees covers the luxuriant bottom land, mostly oak and sycamore, low and widespreading, affording shade of the finest kind. Here were to be seen splendid trees, clad with a gorgeous livery of foliage, growing with all the luxuriance in which nature delights in these solitudes. The festoons, draperies, and trestle work of vines as they clung from tree to tree, present a most graceful and attractive sight. Birds, too, of rich and varied plumage, having most sweet and liquid notes made the landscape vocal with their songs; while the chattering magpie and blue jay with an occasional whistle or peculiar call of the California Partridge, and the lonely sound of the mourning doves as they could be

seen playing among the dense foliage, or on the tops of the sycamore trees, give additional interest to this animated and truly magnificent scene.

Do not let your imagination desert you yet, for our minds have just emerged into the open plain, and there the lofty, snowy peaks of the Coast Range just begin to glitter in the first rays of the morning sun, which has not yet reached us. We turn to witness a sunrise on the peaks of the Sierra Nevadas. A long wall to the eastward rose thousands of feet abruptly from the plains. As the sun continues to rise higher, the scenery hourly becomes more grand and interesting, and the view from our Buttes is magnificent. The singular beauty of the plains is delightful to the eye, and the purity of the atmosphere is bracing to one's constitution. The sides of the Buttes glow in the sunbeams. The green verdure of the lofty summits and the bright flowers of every hue which dotted the long stretch of open prairie land contrasted beautifully.

At our feet lies the valley dotted with a long and rich growth of timber and the bends of the river as they sweep around in graceful curves, present a beautiful appearance, with ranches scattered along at various **distances**, half hidden in the green robed forest. The eye rests upon the valley spread out in all directions, carpeted with green as far as vision can extend, and flowing pastures here and there, dotted with groves of oak and sycamore.

The river is deep and mighty, the mountains are massive and shadowy. The whole scene is wild and romantic. Over all a lonely aspect and a peculiar cheerless desolation extends as the shades of evening approach. As the sun sets, a stillness most profound and terrible forces itself continually upon our minds. Here we stand -- alone in a strange place. The stillness of the place cannot but strike the traveler with a kind of solemn awe. We gaze with wonder, admiration and astonishment, drinking in the beauty and the strangeness of the scene, till our heart staggers under the emotions that crowd it, vainly asking for utterance. Its grandeur, its variety, its romantic character and its splendid beauty are incomparably magnificent. Eternal silent reigns around us, and solitude deeper than the forest embraces the subdued and humble traveler.

Do you of today feel the deep thrill and pride that came to us as travelers? Probably not. You have lived here too long and your eyes have been dimmed to the beauties around you. But that is not unusual, for when my forefathers and your forefathers first came to this valley in that time nearly 100 years ago, the native Californians and the native Indians felt much as you feel today. They resented the intrusion of so-called "foreigners". They knew there was beauty and space enough to be enjoyed by all, but they did not want to share it. They had an indefinite idea of their rights to the soil, and they

complained about the emigrants, but to no avail. They could not then, and we cannot now, hold back progress. The Mexican Government encouraged the settlement of intelligent and energetic foreigners, as the Americans were called who came from the east, but the native Californians fought them and held them out until about 1846. The only person who was able to resist them before that time was Captain Sutter who came to this valley to find sincerity. He had found that society was like fools gold, it glittered and beckoned, but was insincere, frivolous and shallow. He wanted a real life and he found it in our valley. He used our valley between the Feather and the Sacramento to graze his huge herds of cattle and horses. The wild grasses grew so abundantly, that they made a huge pasture.

In 1841, Sutter's home was the only settlement in our valley, but later that year a settlement was made in Grimes and in 1842 in Nicolaus.

The year of 1849 was to be the commencement of the era of settlement in Sutter County. Lawlessness was rampant. The existing laws were of Mexican origin, suitable to quiet life in missions and ranches. Camp Far West was the first military post established after the formation of the State Government. In 1849 it was a beautiful place, covered with tall pines and widespreading oaks. The Yuba River and also Feather and Sacramento all ran clear and beautiful at this time and abounded with fish of all kind



that could be clearly seen in the pure water. And it was in this year that Jack Robinson ~~or~~ Jack Dongaree settled just south of Meridian. Another man settled at South Butte at the same time and they were the only settlements on the Sacramento above the mouth of the Feather River.

Meridian did not flourish at this time because the mines lay near the banks of the Feather and the Yuba and it was the towns on those rivers that grew rapidly. It was at this time that Marysville was named for Mrs. Mary Covillaud, the most beautiful lady in this valley in January, 1850. She was also the only lady here.

Prior to 1849 it was impossible for other than small canoes, whale boats and small sailboats to navigate above Sacramento City. In 1850 the water in the valley was so high that whale boats came to Marysville over the flooded fields because the streams were too rapid. This flood cleared the rivers of snags and debris and after that, navigation was possible on all streams. It took eight hours from Sacramento to Marysville on the fastest boats and the fare was \$35. In 1851 more snags were removed from the river to improve navigation, and it became so popular that the fare to Sacramento dropped to \$11. By this time steamers could go to Red Bluff, and light steamers could go 40 miles further. For many years traffic went to Princeton regularly, hauling nearly all the grain grown in this valley. Stage lines also became popular in 1850 and it took only four hours and twenty-five minutes

from Marysville to Sacramento. W. F. Hall of San Francisco and Dr. J. R. Crandall ran the United States Mail Line clear through from Sacramento to Shasta in 1853. John Crandall is a family name on my mother's side and I have often wondered if W. F. Hall is a forefather of our own Wayne Hall.

The railroad tried to come into this county in 1851, but the people in Marysville did not want it, and they successfully fought it and kept it out until 1864.

In 1852 a man by the name of O'Neil settled on the land south of the main road in Meridian and built a cabin. At the same time a family by the name of McNair located two miles north of town. During that year many settled in Sutter County, most of them around the Buttes, and the nearest Meridian settler was J. G. Jones who arrived in the fall and bought in partners with McNair. They built a cabin in 1853, the day that President Pierce was elected to office. In June, 1852 C. D. Semple built a ferry across the Sacramento from the town of Colusa to a point above Meridian.

In the fall of 1858 J. G. Jones returned to the east and the next spring he returned from Illinois, bringing his parents, brothers and sisters with him. Ebenezer Jones left notes saying, "After crossing the plains by wagon, we reached Meridian, California where we found a wilderness, inhabited by only a few wood choppers."

Some of the very old timers and the dates of their arrival in Meridian are as follows:

G. S. Ely, 1852  
W. W. Wilbur at West Butte, 1853  
J. B. Ramsey, 1853  
John Birks, 1854  
William Doty at West Butte in 1854 and in Meridian in 1869  
L. S. Sullenger in Marysville in 1850 and in Meridian in 1861  
M. C. Wood, October, 1856  
Frederick Tarke, January, 1856  
Frederick Hoke, January, 1856  
R. M. Rockholt at South Butte in 1856 and in Meridian in 1876  
Rev. A. H. Mitchell in South Butte 1857 and in Meridian in 1861  
John Carroll in West Butte in 1859  
John H. Colclasure, September, 1858  
J. N. Decker, March, 1858  
James Dunn, 1858  
Mrs. B. Schillig, 1858  
Henry Stohlman, 1859  
W. H. McPherrin, 1859  
W. M. Johnston, 1856  
Joseph Hagerman, 1859  
Magdalena Charge, 1859  
B. D. Anson, 1859  
Levi Sultzaberger, August, 1859  
E. F. Thornbrough, early 1859  
A. S. Moon, 1860  
Joseph O'Connor, 1861  
Wesley Moon, 1863  
J. W. Howlett, 1864  
Ira H. Wood, 1865  
Leonides Summy, 1866

Others on whom we have no exact dates are the Mills, David Wheeler, Harris's, Elder Davis and P. W. Smith, one of Meridian's early merchants.

Meridian, back in these days was a land covered with brush and timber and wild animals were plentiful, especially bear, and several grizzly bears were killed. The Indians found here were heavier limbed and stouter than those found in the east. They were a hairy race and many had

large beards. Their color was light, mouths wide and lips were thick. They had a short, broad nose, and extremely low forehead. In some individuals the hair grew down to the eyebrows, leaving little or no forehead at all. They had eyes shaped like the Chinese race, and for the most part, had animated and agreeable expression of countenance. They had none of the proud and lofty bearing, or the haughtiness and ferocity so often seen in the eastern Indians, being much more timid and stupid. The men and children were entirely naked and the women almost so. They were seen by many early settlers, it is stated, grazing together in a meadow like so many cattle. They were very poor hunters, but skillful in catching fish and gathering food such as nuts and weed seeds. They were easily domesticated, not averse to labor, had a natural aptitude to learn mechanical trades and a fondness for music, but did not seem to care much for intoxicating liquors.

In 1857, J. F. Fouts bought the place from O'Neil and in 1860 he established a ferry and a Post Office. He was actually the father of Meridian, at that time known as Keokuk, but there being another place in the state by that name, it was changed to Fouts Landing and later to Meridian. This name was selected because the office was only 1/4 miles west of the Mt. Diablo Meridian of the United States Survey. Fouts not only established the first Post Office, but also the first store. His family included

his wife, two daughters, Iona and Nellie, and two sons, Louie and Irvine. Irvine died in infancy.

The first religious services of the Methodist, Episcopalian church were held in their home by Rev. A. S. Brown. The church was organized in 1861 with a membership of 35 and a Sunday School of 100. A. Davis was superintendent. When the school house was built in 1860 the church services were held there. The school was built near the river. There were no levees at that time and the entrance faced the river. It was built of straight boards up and down with lattices. Part of Art Bagley's present house is the old school house. Elizabeth Jones was the first teacher and she had 25 pupils. The river was pure in those days and it was from there that they carried the drinking water, or else drank directly from the river.

Later the school was a big one-room building situated about the center of the south part of Dr. Jacob's place east of town. There were many oaks and other trees around it. There were no roads. People just drove where they could, the travel being done in the big schooner wagons they crossed the plains in, or on horseback. The native horses used here were very small and called "cayuses." They later raised a larger strain of horse. Many oxen were used in farming, often six to eight were used together in a yoke. The oxen were brought down from the mountains for the winter. The Indians had very few

horses, and they came here only in the summer for the most part, leaving in the winter.

The social life of this time consisted mostly of visiting, always staying all night if it was any distance. In the spring they went on picnics, gathering wild blackberries, whole tubs of them. They were dried for winter use. Before the Post Office was established in Meridian, anyone going over to Yuba City would bring back the mail for the entire community.

In 1859 the first California State Fair Committee was formed on May 4. Dr. J. R. Crandall was one of the vice presidents of this first Agricultural Society of the Northern District of California. From this time on, beginning August 30, 1859, until the present day, very few years have passed without a fair.

In the fall of 1860, the settlers raised a subscription and built a small church, which was called Bland Chapel, in honor of Rev. Adam Bland who was the first pastor and served in this area until 1871. The building was south of Meridian near Kirksville, and later when the land overflowed, the church was taken away.

About this time, Sutter County became known as an agricultural land more than a mining county. The method of cultivation at that time was extremely primitive. Since no agricultural implements had been brought by the foreign emigrants or by American settlers, they were obliged to use the character of tools, and resort to the

same practices that the native Californians used. The enterprising farmer who desired to raise a field of wheat had to manufacture a plow from a small tree in the forest that had the proper shaped limbs. A triangular piece of iron about eight inches broad at the base was fastened to the lower branch with the apex of the triangle downward. The other branch was used as a pole for the animals, and the main stem served as a handle. Two oxen were fastened to the plow by a rope fastened around their horns, no yoke being used, and then as an Indian boy walked ahead, the oxen obediently followed him and a man came behind to guide the plow. The furrow cut was eight inches wide and quite shallow; the dirt was not turned over, but when the plow passed it fell back into its old place, being merely loosened.

After the field was prepared in this manner, the grain was scattered by hand and a brush was drawn over the field to harrow the seed and cover it. When the grain was ripe, it was cut with sickles and butcher knives. The grain was then bound and carried to the threshing place, where horses and cattle were driven over it to shell the wheat from the head. The straw was then removed and the grain thrown up into the air that the wind might carry away the chaff. Home made wooden forks and shovels were used for handling the grain and straw.

The year 1853 saw wheat and barley becoming very popular



but it was not until 1856 that local millers would use our wheat. They had previously thought it was not good quality and had imported wheat from Chili and Australia. Farming now came to a standstill until 1861 when some brave gentleman tried an experiment of shipping out produce overseas. This had been thought impossible, but when the cargo arrived safely and in excellent condition, our agriculture boomed and grain exportation became really big business. Then agriculture became the object of feverish desires, as mining had in former days, and all the state went into farming as fast as land could be located, and titles cleared. The first threshing machine was used in 1851, the first harrow in 1852; mowers and reapers in 1854 and headers in 1856.

As early as 1869 the farmers began to complain of the hardships wrought by the rings and speculators who dealt in agricultural products. Combinations of speculators had been formed that kept down the price of grain at home, so that the farmer, notwithstanding a good market abroad, could obtain but little for his produce. Transportation rates were kept at a high figure and the price of bags far above their legitimate values. After a few useless years of complaining, the farmers organized in 1872 and incorporated March 29, 1873. They bought their own bags, built warehouses, and maintained their own steamers. Results were immediately beneficial to the

farmers. The average yields of grain in these early years were from 15 to 30 bushels of wheat to the acre and from 20 to 40 bushels per acre of barley.

Organized speculators were not the only troubles that the farmers of this day had to struggle against. The mining debris question became of vital importance. Thousands of acres of the most rich and valuable soil were covered by sand. Streams were diverted from their obstructed channels and were compelled to seek new courses and outlets for their mud burdened waters. The banks of the Feather, Yuba and Bear Rivers were formerly several feet above the ordinary level of the water and were clear as crystal at all seasons of the year. But now the channels were choked with sediment and the waters heavy and black. At Timbuctoo ravine it is claimed that the Yuba River had been filled up with a deposit 80 feet in depth. At Marysville 22 feet of silt were deposited. This caused levees to become a necessity and the large expense of raising and maintaining them every year fell largely upon the farmers, burdening them with such enormous debts and heavy taxes that the load was well nigh unbearable.

In 1862 many hundred fruit trees were brought from Sacramento. They were packed in Tules and floated up the river. The different ranchers receiving them, took them from the river at the landings nearest their homes. This

year also saw the first stage road through the Buttes down to Meridian. It was built across the slough and made of rock crushed by hand. The unhappy side of this year was the great flood. All the land from the Yuba to the foothills of the Coast Range were under water. Three-fourths of the entire livestock population of the valley perished. Only a few escaped to the Buttes, and most of these few soon perished from starvation when an early frost nipped the grass. It was to be many years before many livestock were again seen in this valley.

In 1864 W. C. Smith proceeded to lay out town lots and sold the corner to E. F. Thornbrough and Co. who built a small store. On July 4 of this year, the Joneses, Wheelers, Conclasures' and two families from Colusa celebrated by raising the "liberty pole" with the American flag unfurled and waving on top of the Buttes. It turned out to be a dark and dismal day, finishing with a terrific thunderstorm, water pouring down in torrents, frightening the children, but not even dampening the spirits of the patriots celebrating. After the flagpole was erected, Judge John H. Leining of Colusa delivered a little oration. A bounteous picnic dinner was enjoyed, concluding the very first patriotic celebration ever held in, or over the top of any Buttes, between Yuba City and Colusa. The way home was made exciting when the horses pulling the wagon, Bully and Nig, tried to run away, but were finally

controlled by the driver, David Wheeler. Everyone in the wagon enjoyed the sport, coming home in high spirits from a wonderful celebration.

Several members of the party stayed to guard Old Glory, as another faction, not in sympathy with the administration, were intending to take it down. These sturdy patriots kept the flag flying for days enough to prove it was to be unmolested. That flag was kept in the Jones family for many years, and was finally lost with other prized possessions in the flood of 1901. Because many southerners and their sympathizers had settled in the central valley area, there was not unanimous support of the Union. In Colusa, at one time, the situation became serious and outside assistance to back up the Union Cause was asked. A call once came to Marysville for such assistance, but in the end all was peace and nothing serious occurred between the supporters of the opposing beliefs. California had been pledged to support the Union, and all the efforts to change that attitude were defeated.

In 1867 many things happened. Fouts built a saloon. J. G. Jones commenced the manufacture of brick on his place one mile north of town and all the brick used in the buildings in Meridian were made by him.

Henry Burgett had a steam chopping mill on his place near the slough for grinding corn, barley and broom corn. And the Good Templars Hall was built during this year.

Also, the Meridian Lodge No. 182 F. A. M. was organized February 4, 1867. Included in the 25 charter members were the names of Davis, Doty, Asbury, Tyler, Wood, Wilbur, Brooks, Decker, Summy and Moon. They built a \$3300 hall in 1871. It was moved in 1906 or '07 and burned January 15, 1940. During the winter of 1866 and '67 there were three very destructive floods and many Meridian people moved their homes to Colusa.

The years of 1870 and '71 were full of activity and growth in our community. The Long Bridge over Butte Slough was built at a cost of \$9,804. The first county roads were built, all on the section lines and at intervals of every few miles. Three ferries across the river were operating. Ledyard's ferry across Butte Slough that had been built in 1856, soon ceased operation after the building of the bridge, but Moon's ferry that had been built in 1868 and Fout's ferry continued operations for many years.

The first house south of the road, except the O'Neil cabin was built in 1871 by Will Welch. The Methodist Church had a regular Minister who was the Rev. H. J. Bland from Carrolltown, Illinois, who lived in Yuba City but came to Meridian every week from 1869 to 1872.

Reclamation District 70 was officially recognized in 1870. It was first organized in 1862 as Swamp Land District No. 20 and included 6,000 acres around which a small

amount of leveeing was done. In 1866 the boundaries were changed by the Board of Supervisors to include around 11,000 acres. In 1868 a reorganization was effected under the law passed that year by the Legislature and it became Reclamation District No. 71. Trustees were J. N. Decker, Leonidas Summy and Henry Burgett. They met much opposition from those who did not want to pay their share of the cost and it was taken to court. The suit was compromised, but it was reorganized by the Legislature March 27, 1878 and the question of its legal rights were not again questioned. In the meantime there had been much trouble. Masked men cut the levee in two places one night in 1871 and the resulting flow of the water badly damaged the levee on the Feather River as well as damaging Meridian and Kirksville. It caused the most severe damage that had ever been done in this particular area. The Colusa Levee was also broken as a result of this torrent of water, but had it not broken, the results in Meridian would have been disastrous.

The dam was cut once more by masked men, destroyed once by a terrific storm, and gave way once on account of faulty construction, but progress can never be stopped, and when the landholders voted in 1872 to restore the levee, it was rebuilt to stay. Early in 1900 the district was enlarged to cover 20,000 acres of the best land in California.

The social life by now was rather variegated and diversified, sometimes jolly, sometimes sad; same as today. They had churches then, only Meridian as yet had no church it could call its own. When preachers came there to save souls, they had to do the saving in somebody's residence or else dig up a place. But the old-fashioned camp meetings were humdingers of success; people used to come from miles away, and they would camp for a week or more, just filling up on religion and nothing else; because people were sincere in those days. They wanted to be good and they were good.

The Baptist church was built in 1875 by subscription and labor donated. The lot was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Betty. The Methodists held their services there until their church was built in 1880. This burned in 1929 and the present church was erected on the same lot.

Also by 1875 the little one-room school house was too small and some of the classes were held in the Masonic Hall with Mr. Brown teaching there while Miss Alice Paine taught in the school house. The new two-story brick building was completed in 1876 where the present school house now stands. E. A. Larkin taught upstairs and Miss Paine downstairs. They had around 50 to 60 students. A. J. Mitchell and J. G. Jones were the first school trustees in Meridian. By 1879 they had 118 pupils, 26 additional children under five and an average daily attendance of 67.



The Winship School was also built in 1875 and its first trustees were Charles Lathan, Joseph Girdner and J. A. Winship. It had 42 pupils, an additional 16 under five, and an average daily attendance of 19. Slough School trustees were J. N. Decker, Mrs. C. Anson and J. H. Wood. West Butte trustees were W. W. Wilbur, G. W. Santee and Fred Tarke and although this little school had only 28 pupils its average daily attendance was 25. It had 28 additional children under five years of age.

The Meridian Lodge No. 212 I. O. O. F. which had been organized November 14, 1872 moved into their new hall in 1878 and by 1879 their membership was 58. The hall burned March 23, 1917 and was rebuilt on the same lot. The town was growing rapidly now. In 1875, 120 votes were cast and Governor Perkins was elected. Meridian warehouse was built with a capacity of 1500 tons on the river north of the school house. The California Navigation Company built a small freight shed. The amount of grain shipped in 1878 was about 4,000 tons. Also in 1875, a flag pole was erected and in 1876 the first steam engine to do threshing was brought here. It was owned and operated by Dan Phillips and the uncle of Dan Smith. Before that time, horse power was used for threshing, and it took about 20 horses to operate the thresher.

By 1878 there was a mail stage each way daily from Marysville to Colusa. The Meridian Society, National Temperance Union, was organized with 62 persons signing

the pledge in October. Among those signing were Wheeler, Larkin, Connor, Wilbur, and Bingham. By 1879 there were 220 enrolled. The South Butte Lodge was organized June 16, 1878. Rev. A. J. Bland was secretary of this Lodge. On May 24, 1879 the Ada Chapter of Eastern Star was organized with 18 charter members. Among the names listed were Mitchell, Foutz, Wilbur, Wood, Doty, Jones and Schellenger.

Meridian now consisted of one hotel, one boarding house located where Arthur Smith later lived. It was operated by Mrs. Nordyke, two general stores, one drug store, two saloons, one meat market, one blacksmith shop, one shoe shop, barber shop, paint store, two carpenters, physicians, one C L and M telegraph office. Post Office, Masonic Hall, I.O.O.F. Hall, I.O.G.T. Hall, two warehouses, one church, school house, twenty-two dwelling houses. Four of the buildings were of brick. The population was about 120. The town also had a jailhouse or calaboose as it was called and a Chinese laundry.

During the 80's and 90's, picnics were very much in vogue. An oak grove on the J. G. Jones place north of town was a favorite place. In 1883 it was common to have a parade from town to the picnic grounds with a brass band. When they reached the dance platform, musical numbers and speeches would be enjoyed. At the Doty grove, south of town (east of the William Miller place) was also a place for gala times. Exciting horse racing on the one mile race

track were often enjoyed. Balloon ascensions by a Mr. Godfry from Colusa, brass bands, and everything for an enjoyable picnic could be found there.

In 1885 the Democrats staged a rally north of town with a parade complete with brass band, floats, torches, fireworks and a barbecue. One of the floats represented the Goddess of Liberty. They had a large open air dance floor with a speaker's platform. The speaker was E. Swinford from Colusa and 1500 people attended.

An annual event up until the arrival of the automobile was the Grimes picnic. Everyone in town and out of town came with baskets of food and waited at the landing for the steamboat to take them to Grimes with flags flying, bands playing, and the whistle blowing. It was an exciting and enjoyable event. As many as a thousand people often landed in Grimes in time for dinner on the picnic grounds.

In 1889 Meridian was completely surrounded by water again when the levee broke near the Wheeler place on one side and the Raursdell place on the other. This happened again in 1901 or 1902 and in 1907. Boats landed at the edge of the schoolyard, but all other travel was cut off for several months.

Church socials were very popular and everyone attended. They were held in the I.O.O.F. Hall. Games were played such as Needles Eye, Miller Boy and Pig in the Parlor.

Dramas and Saturday night dances were also social events.

In 1906 or 1907, the right-of-ways were purchased for the Sacramento Northern Railway, but the flood that winter damaged the work started and it was not completed until 1912. The right-of-way for the road took in one street and a row of houses north of town, These houses were all moved. The first car over the road was a flat car loaded with people from along the line all the way from Yuba City and Marysville.

In 1911 the Ladies Wednesday Afternoon Club was organized. On September 6, 1913, the bridge was dedicated and the trains ran through to Colusa. The day was celebrated with an all day picnic, free lunch, dance and speeches.

In 1917 and 1918 disastrous fires swept through Meridian. On March 22, 1917, practically the entire business district of Meridian was wiped out in the most disastrous fire in the history of the town. The exact amount of the loss was estimated between \$50,000 and \$70,000. A defective flue in the cigar store of Chris Daughy was declared responsible for the fire which spread rapidly, fanned by a strong wind. The entire block was in flames in a few moments and the town was without fire fighting apparatus. Farmers rushed in from the surrounding districts in automobiles and a bucket brigade was organized which finally stopped the spread of the flames

when it reached the home of Dr. W. L. Stephens. For a time it was feared the entire town would be wiped out.

A Marysville traveling man, whose name could not be learned, had his hand cut severely by flying glass. A dog belonging to M. Fraiss, the local barber, was burned to death along with numerous rabbits and pigeons of Seibert Stephens. Among the losers in the fire were The Odd Fellows Hall, loss of \$10,000 with insurance of \$3,800; I. S. Losey's Merchandise Store, with a loss of \$10,000 and insurance of \$5,000; Meridian Hall, recently built by the Meridian Social Club at a loss of \$3,500 with insurance of \$1,500; Mrs. William Brassfield Store lost \$1,500 and had \$500 insurance; Sacramento Valley Supply Company with loss unknown and the losses were also unknown for D. Kimmerer's blacksmith shop, the Meridian Garage, Fraiss' Pool Hall and barber shop, Daugherty's Cigar Store, Dr. W. L. Stephens' garage and outbuildings and the D. C. Smith property.

The loss of the Sacramento Supply Company was one of the largest as the result of the fire. No plans for rebuilding were made. The houses of Dr. Stephens and D. Kimmerer and Mrs. H. Gipson were saved, as were the Post Office and the store of J. W. McDaniel.

On July 21, 1918, the Post Office and general merchandise store, a butcher shop and a cigar store were destroyed by fire that broke out about noon. The blaze

originated in the ice plant at the rear of the Raub building where J. Thompson conducted a butcher shop and ice plant. The flames spread to a big barn at the rear filled with hay and destroyed it. The cigar store conducted by Chris Daughy was destroyed. The loss of L. E. Burris, who conducted a general merchandise store, was \$4,500, but he carried \$3,000 insurance. The loss of Frank Raub was placed at \$3,000 with \$500 insurance.

In 1922 a new school house was built with three classrooms, a music room, and an auditorium. It had three teachers and 80 pupils until the flood of March 1, 1940, when the enrollment dropped to 62.

And now to 1941. Shasta Dam was completed and the last flood was only a memory. George W. Wood, dean of the old-timers of western Sutter, resident of Meridian all his life was looking up old friends in the Hub Cities. There are not a great many who can recall personal memories over such a span of years as he, for he harks back to a community of pioneers, wrestling with nature for a livelihood. Only the strongest and most persevering survived.

At first had come the adventurers, who braved the perils of the plains to get to California. Next was the generations of sons of those pioneers who buckled to the job, giving the State its next step forward. Mr. Wood was one of this generation, the Wood home and ranch being one of the best known landmarks of the area. Succeeding generations have added to the picture, giving us the California of today, built

upon the foundations laid by the pioneers of yesteryear. Each has found conditions a bit better by reason of what was accomplished by those before him, so that a great commonwealth has been created out of a wilderness in which Indians and wild animals were the only inhabitants.

\* \* \* \* \*

High Water -- Hock Farm was submerged, the water being up to the floors of the houses. Only one spot of dry land could be seen on the farm. Never before since it was settled has it been so completely inundated. Great damage has also been done to the crops planted.

Sacramento Union, March 31, 1853.

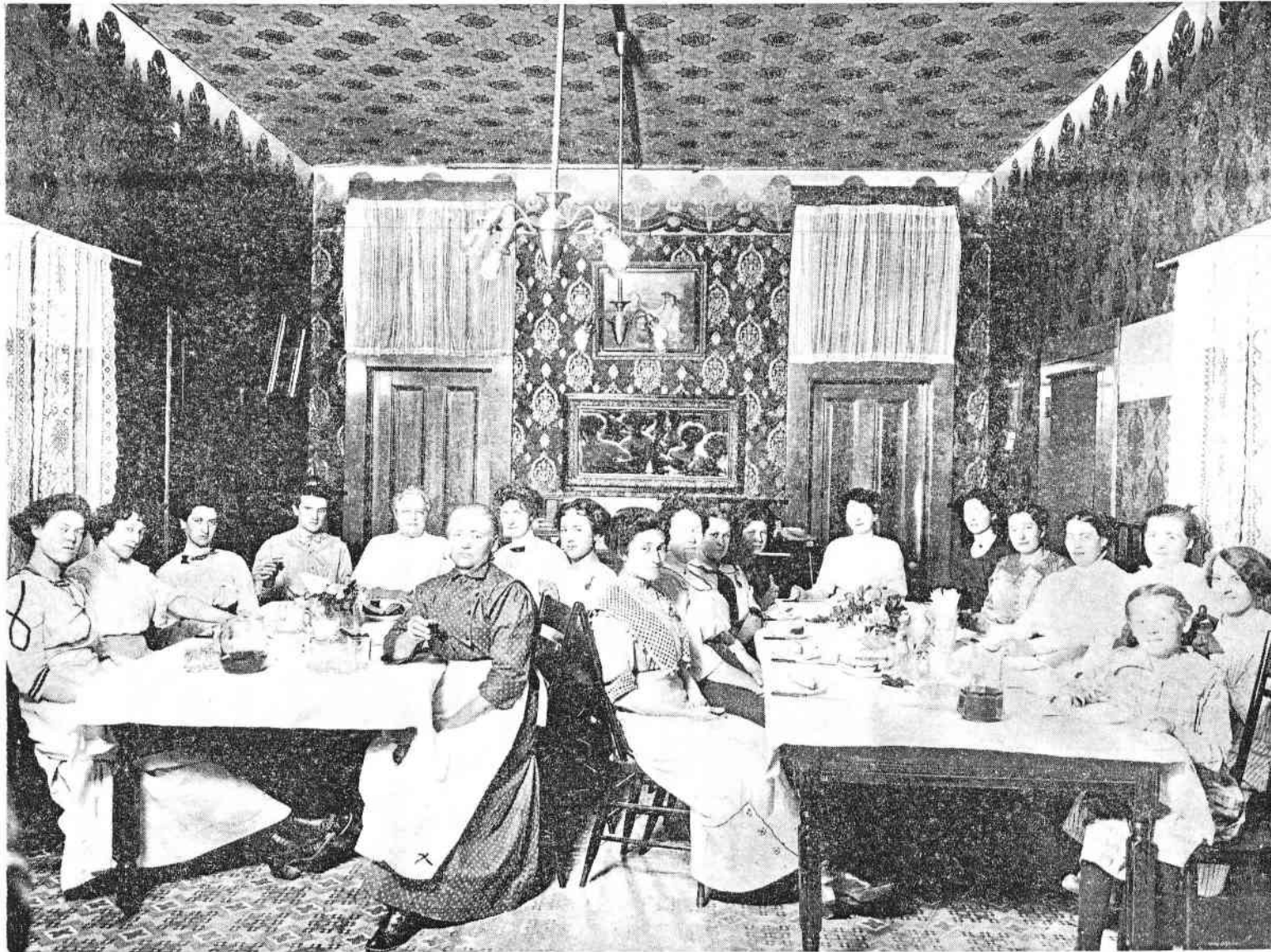
A patron of the Magnolia Saloon refuses to pay a bill for drinks he has received on credit. A trial is held. The patron contends that the saloon charges too much -- 25¢ a drink while other saloons charge 12 1/2 cents. But the judge ruled against the patron with the opinion that the Magnolia was a "touch above" the vulgar bars which served drinks for 12 1/2 cents.

Marysville Appeal, May 17, 1861.

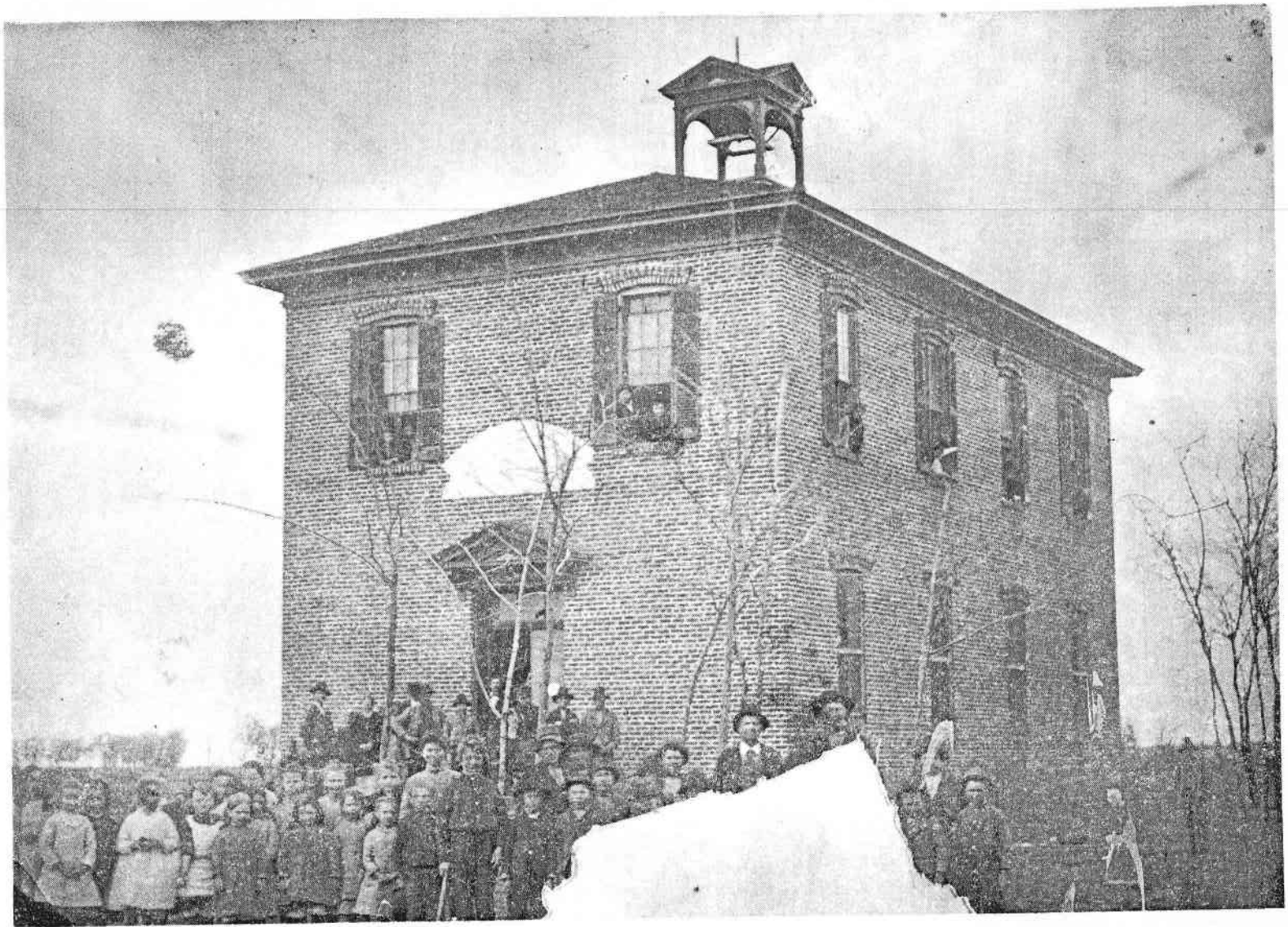
The bridge over the Yuba at Parks Bar was washed away in the flood, but the Timbuctoo stage crossed just ahead of the wash out. An Irish woman met the stage in Marysville and asked the driver, "Did yez cross the bridge afore it fell?"

Marysville Appeal, March 29, 1861.

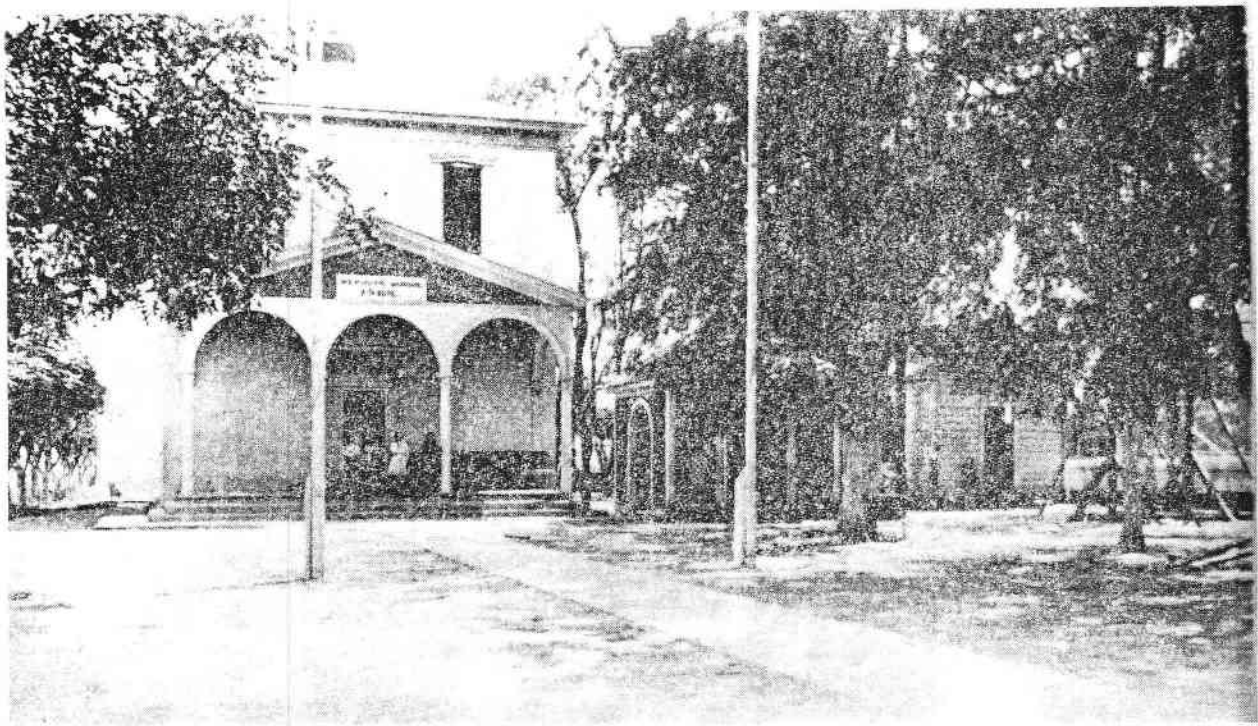




The Wednesday Embroidery Club at the Meridian Hotel – 1912  
Mrs. Boyd Taylor Proprietor



Early picture of Meridian School — built in 1876.



Later picture of Meridian School – about the 1920's.



WINSHIP SCHOOL

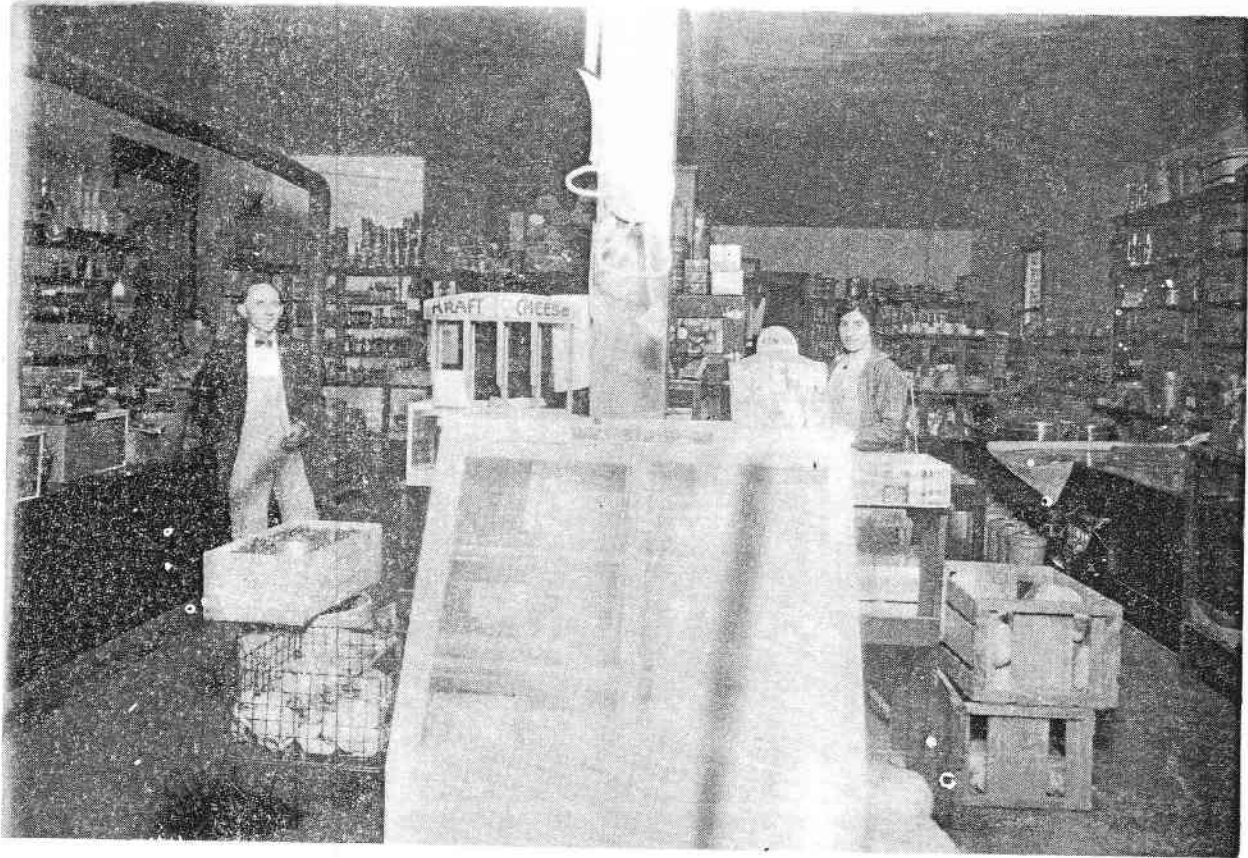


**PUPILS FROM THE MERIDIAN SCHOOL; 1895**

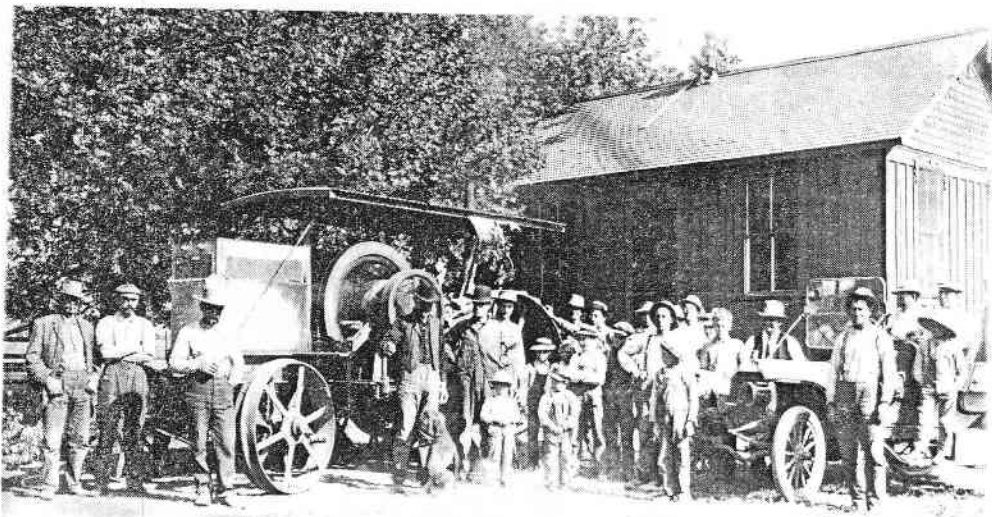
Ethel Jones Albertson is in the white pinafore;  
Erma Taylor is in the front seat;  
Stella Summiy is sitting in front of Ethel;  
Arthur Wood is behind Ethel's right shoulder;  
Clay Jones' boy is standing in front of the  
girl in the polka dot dress.



**Edwin and Ethel Jones Albertson.**

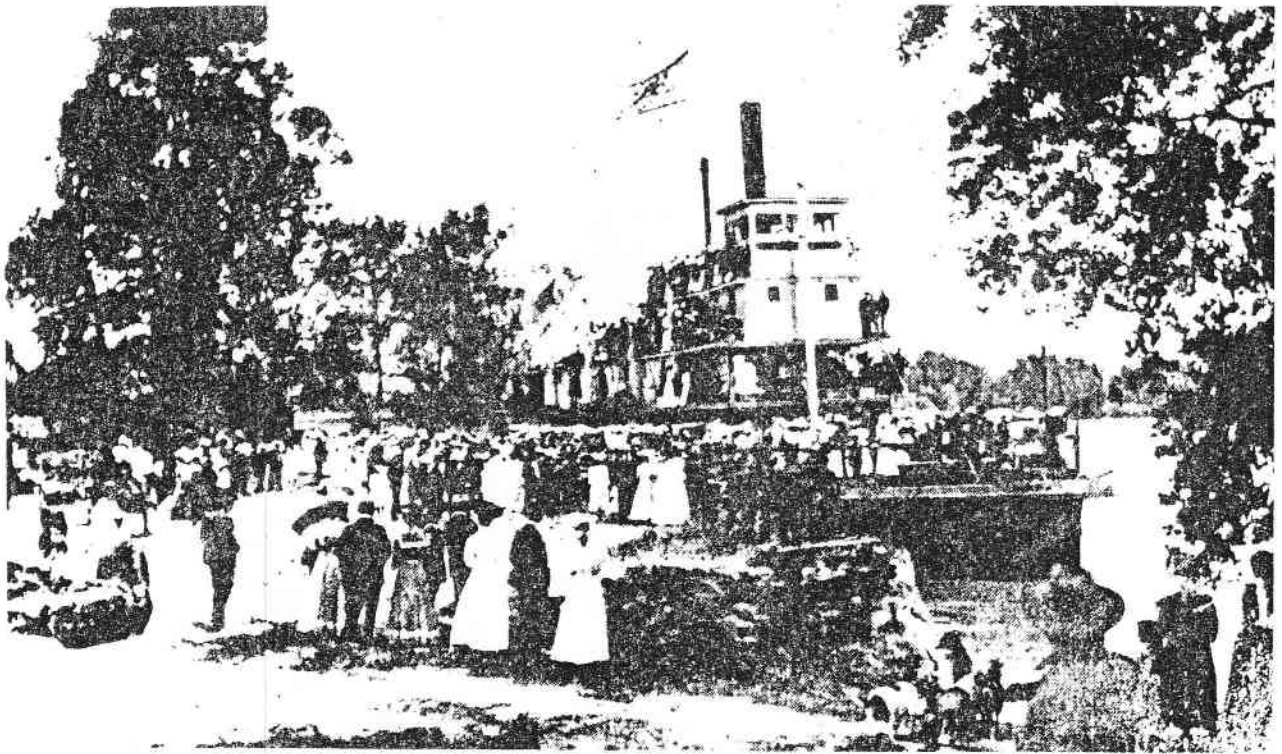


The Red and White Store — Mr. and Mrs. Albertson, Proprietors.



MOVING A HOUSE — 1912

Note the interesting machine being used in the moving

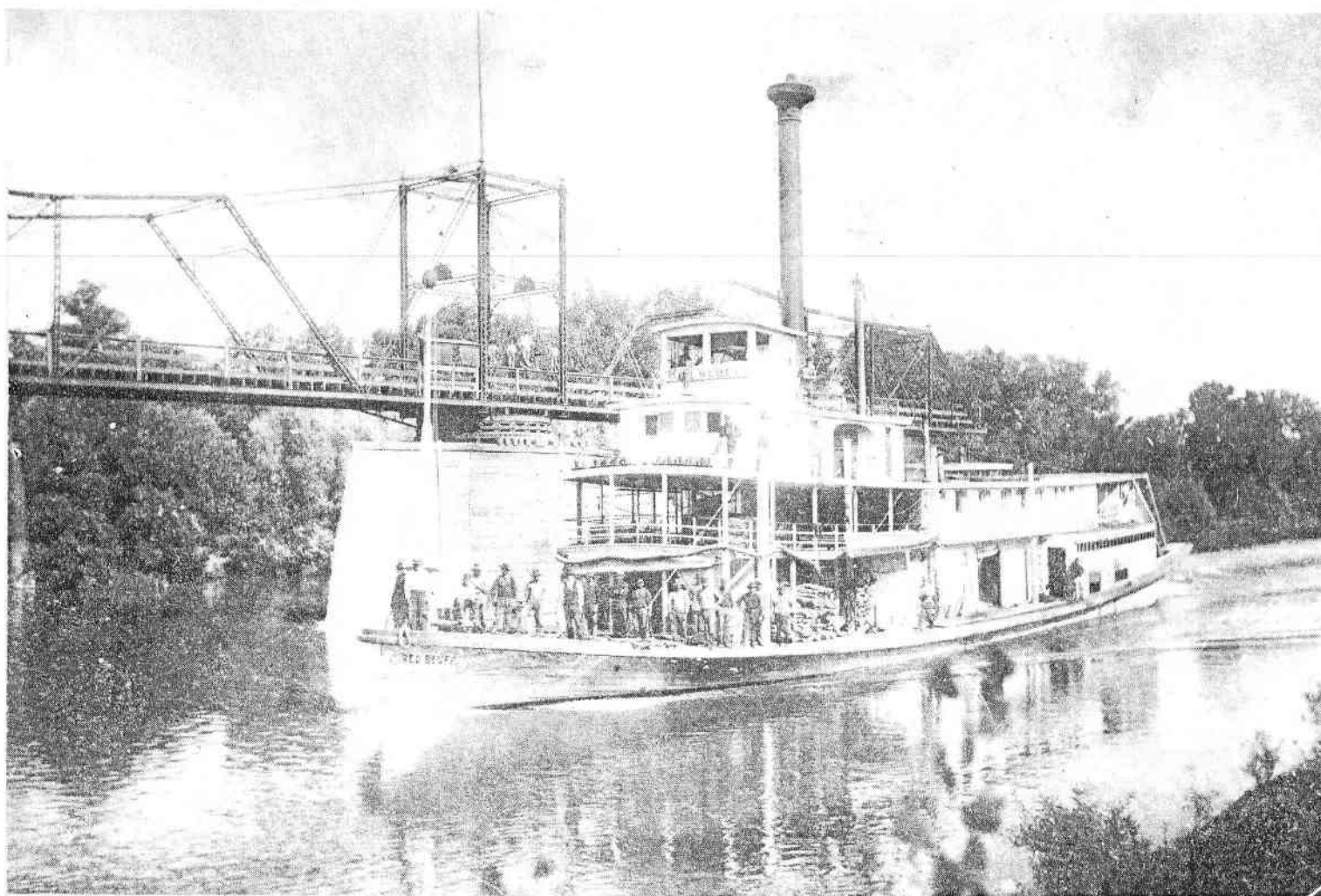


The Ferry at Meridian about to leave for the Grimes Picnic  
May 19, 1911

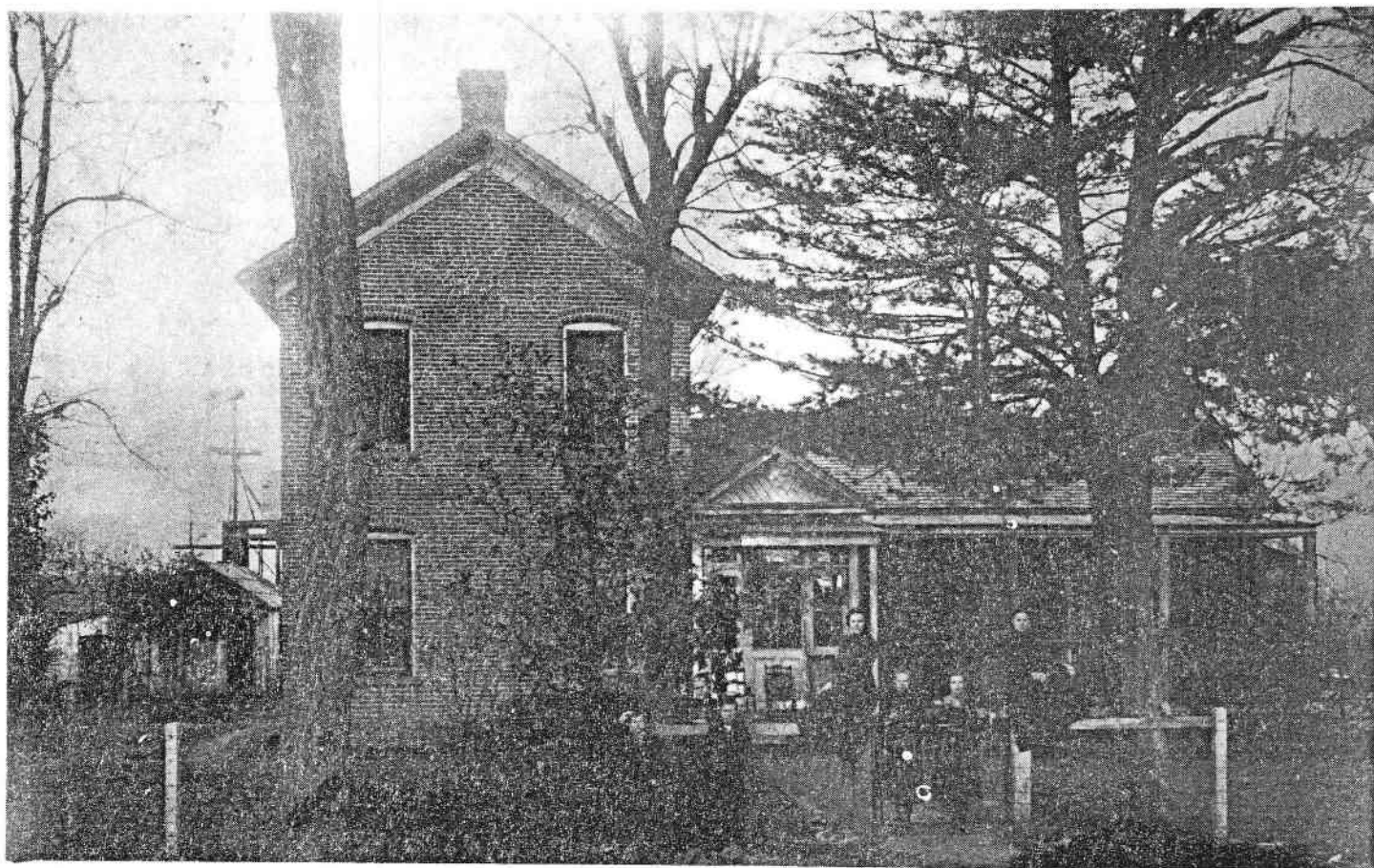


Looking north on First Street, Meridian — 1911 Dr. E. V. Jacobs' drugstore left side of photo.

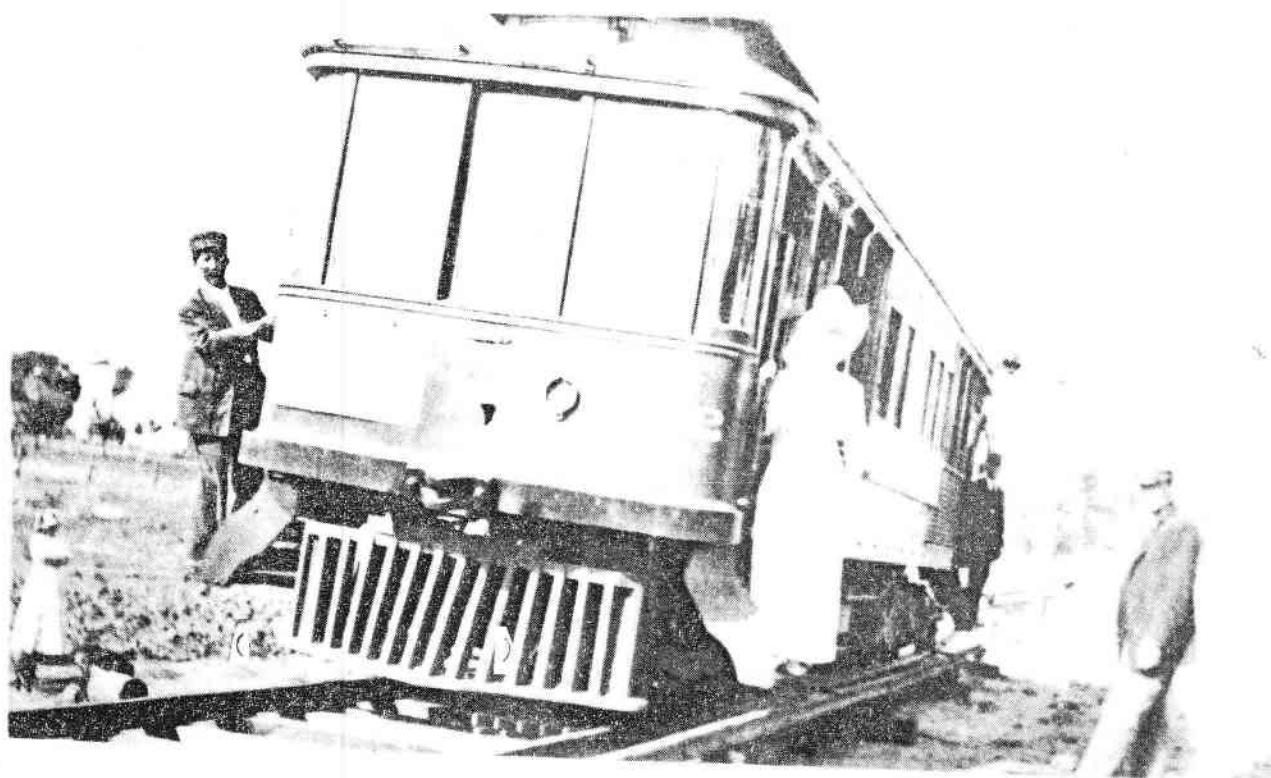




The boat 'RED BLUFF' at the Meridian Bridge — sometime before 1912



Home of J. G. Jones — first brick maker in meridian



First Northern Electric car into Meridian: Sept. 13, 1912



ROBBINS

It was about 35 years ago that the town of Robbins took form in the Sutter Basin area -- where in early days only a "sea of tules" had existed.

The town was started by the Sutter Basin Corporation on December 7, 1925. Presently much of the townsite is owned by individuals, with the dwellings and small business district clustered along Highway 40 Alt.

Robbins was named after George B. Robbins, an official of Armour Co., San Francisco and Chicago, which financially backed the reclamation of the Sutter basin in 1913. There is an Armour Road in the area.

Maddock station on the Southern Pacific roadway which crosses the basin, was about the site of the present town of Robbins. Up to 1920 the place was known by that name.

The land -- for many years inundated by overflow from the Sacramento river -- was brought into productivity by a system of drains and the pumping of water into the river. Now it contains a vast acreage of rice, beans, milo maize, safflower and other field crops, as well as livestock ranches. There are two aerial cropdusting companies, large rice elevators and a branch of the Marysville Tractor Company located in this agricultural area.

The old Rome precinct now includes the town of Robbins with about 250 voters.

Among the family names connected with the Sutter Basin and Robbins are Honig, Garner, Wagner, Leather, Kimerer,

Kuipers, Plantz, Van Zandt, Bouton, Ham and Crowley.

The Robbins-Sutter Union <sup>Sutter</sup> elementary district has a school in the town. This district was united in 1943 -- taking in Sutter district which first was organized in 1868. High school students from the Sutter Basin area come to Yuba City by bus.

(Taken from Centennial issue of Appeal Democrat paper, written by Jessica Bird.)

#### TIERRA BUENA

Dating back many years is the community of Tierra Buena which lies north of Colusa Highway and three miles northwest of Yuba City. It is in the heart of a highly cultivated and productive orchard section of Sutter County.

The village was "Terra Buena" until April, 1954, when in response to a petition from the county supervisors at the urging of residents in the area, the U.S. Department of the Interior officially corrected the spelling to "Tierra". The Spanish name means "good earth".

In the crossroads area on Butte House Road -- one of the oldest public routes between Yuba City and Sutter -- there are several places of business, a number of industries, the largest of which is Harter Cannery, a cluster of dwellings, a woman's clubhouse, large school building and the First Baptist Church on Tierra Buena Road.

The school is about to add again to a structure which

has been enlarged several times. The fall of 1959 saw a pupil enrollment of 284 with 13 teachers. Old records disclose that in October, 1908 the "new Terra Buena school opened with 16 pupils and with Miss Angela Bevan as teacher".

In addition to the Tierra Buena Women's Club there is an active Farm Bureau Center and Home Department in the community.

Names of early families still are prominent in and near Tierra Buena and Encinal. They include: Wilbur, Pease, Blaser, Van Tiger, Elmer, Harter, Frye, Williamson, Jensen, Krehe, Scheiber, Smith, Essay, Gruenthal and others.

(Taken from Centennial issue of Appeal Democrat paper, written by Jessica Bird.)

#### RIO OSO

Rio Oso, which took its name from Bear River, is located near the Sutter-Yuba county line and geographically is closely allied with Wheatland.

In 1953 the two counties obtained a new boundary survey, as meanderings of the Bear River which had served as boundary line were constantly changing it. Property owners on both sides of the river had become uncertain in which county some of their lands were located. But the new survey, confirmed by the State Legislature on May 12

of that year, provided a definite line.

The community has a post office building, dedicated late in 1959 and located opposite the Rio Oso Community Hall in the town's business district.

Brown's Elementary school located in Rio Oso, in the fall of 1959 had an enrollment of 173 pupils.

For several years Supervisor Eber F. Beilby of Rio Oso represented the entire southeastern section of the county. He is a member of one of the numerous pioneer families of the area.

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#### Plans for ORO collapse

A town that tried unsuccessfully to become the county seat of Sutter in 1850 -- even before it was built according to grandiose plans of the landowner -- was "ORO".

State Senator Thomas Green had bought the townsite from John A. Sutter in 1849, and while it was still in the mapped stage, he got the other legislators to name it the county seat.

Oro was just south of the Bear River in the vicinity of Barham's Crossing, which was named for John Barham who settled there in 1849 and in the next year built a bridge. When his plan failed, Green abandoned the "city" but on the site constructed a race track.

(Taken from Centennial issue of Appeal Democrat, written by Jessica Bird.)

EAST BUTTE LOCALE OF  
METHODIST CAMP BETHEL

There never was a town called "East Butte" in Sutter County, but that section along the slope of the Buttes was early settled and cultivated.

It also was location of the oldest and largest "Camp meeting" for Methodists of Northern California. Sheltered in an oak grove, "Camp Bethel" was built in 1862 by the Feather River Methodist Circuit which then included Sutter, Yuba, Butte and Yolo counties. It was maintained over 20 years.

The site was on land owned by Gilbert N. Smith, who had settled as a young man in 1851 near Sand Creek. He later married Mrs. Frank Thorpe, widow of a settler who came in the '50's to California.

"Bethel" included a pyramidal roof 100 feet square supported by pillars. It had plain board benches and accommodated 1,000 or more gathered for the evangelistic meetings. The floor, on such occasions, was covered with clean straw hauled in from a hayfield. Families came from miles around, camped in tents and used a brick bake oven provided for their use. Mr. and Mrs. Smith also sold some food and other refreshments to the crowds.

Nearby was the first Union District grammar school, started in 1868. Among the pupils was Henry Meade Bland, later California poet laureate, whose father then was a Methodist minister in the circuit. This little school

continued until 1917, when it closed for lack of pupils.

Smith prospered and erected one of the finest dwellings. It was completed in 1883, but at such heavy cost it proved his financial downfall. The Smith property in 1896 passed to Stephen Bokman, Live Oak Farmer, who bought the big house and acreage for \$11,000.

(Taken from Centennial issue of Appeal Democrat.)

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#### HISTORY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN YUBA CITY

The first white man, General John Sutter, came into this area and started a settlement in what we know as Sutter County in the year 1842. Just a short period of eight years passed before the work of the Methodist Church had its roots well established.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Yuba City was organized in 1850 as part of the Feather River Circuit, by Rev. Isaac Owens, Presiding Elder. This was the first circuit organized in Northern California. Miss Maria Keeler organized a Sunday School on June 15, 1850, which was the first Sunday School in this section of the State.

The first quarterly conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held in Yuba City on June 15, 1850. Rev. Isaac Owens, District Superintendent of Methodist work in California, presided at the conference.

In the early days of the Methodist Church the groups that were not large enough to erect a church building were

called "societies". The Methodist Society of Yuba City was placed by the quarterly conference on a circuit known as "The Feather River Circuit." This circuit included the counties of Sutter, Yolo, Yuba and Butte. The Yuba City society met in private homes until the group grew too large for the homes. After this the meetings were held in the Western and Elkhorn Hotels of Yuba City.

The group grew so rapidly that a larger place in which to meet had to be found. The courthouse was used as a meeting place until 1872, and in that same year a church building was erected on Yolo Street in Yuba City, which cost \$3,632.50.

#### Southern Methodists

A separate group, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was instituted in Yuba City only four years after the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized. The records show that this group was organized in 1854, at Second and C Streets, under the guidance of Morris Evans, Presiding Elder. In 1874 this group erected a church building on Second and C Streets. This building was 80 x 100 feet and cost \$6,000. In 1939 the unification of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church occurred. Since that date these three groups are known as the Methodist Church. Shortly after unification of the three denominations, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, at the corner of Second

and C Streets, has been the meeting place of the Methodist congregations in Yuba City.

Sunday School was maintained in connection with church. The corner stone for the new addition to the old church was laid in 1921. Rev. Redburn was the minister in charge at the time the improvements were made.

Rev. Bernard W. Lowry, Minister, presided at the Centennial dinner of the Methodist Church held in the Yuba City Masonic Hall April 29, 1950. The \$5-a-plate dinner added to the church funds for erection of its new edifice at 627 B Street. Groundbreaking for the new church was held on Sunday afternoon April 30, 1950. First services were held in the new church on Easter Sunday, 1951. The edifice at Second and C Street was sold to Sutter County to be used as a Veteran's Building. Rev. Howard Daulton of Biggs was appointed to Yuba City in June 1951.

The Methodist Men finished the room upstairs for the Church School as their project in 1955. The educational unit was added in 1956 and also a stage was added to the social hall. September 1, 1959 Harry Vise, lay leader, entered the ministry, and served as Associate Minister until June 1961. He was appointed to Woodland Church as Associate Minister. January 1, 1961 Rev. Daulton was transferred to Santa Rosa and Rev. Edgar Nelson, a native of Sutter County was appointed. Sunday, October 15, 1961, the Dedication of Hall-Sweetland Annex was held in the social hall (now to be known as Hall-Sweetland Annex) in memory of S. W. Hall, layman and Otis Sweetland, lay leader.