

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. XXII NO. 2

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95992

APRIL 1983



BILL GREENE — AG COMMISSIONER 1959 — 1970

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COST: \$ 8.50 PER PERSON

Community Memorial Museum
1333 Butte House Road - P.O. Box 1555
Yuba City, CA. 95992

NOTE: In accordance with the requirements of our hosts,
there will be NO SMOKING at this gathering.

Since our last dinner in Live Oak, that town has produced some changes -- among them the erection of the beautiful octagonal church building where we'll be meeting this time. But if the usual heavy attendance of North County members at Live Oak affairs has not changed, it will be wise to get your reservations in early, so as not to be disappointed if we reach capacity and are unable to accommodate late-comers.

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Vol. XXII, No. 2

April 1983

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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 1983 dues are payable now. Your remittance should be sent to Sutter County Historical Society, P. O. Box 1004, Yuba City, California 95992. 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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An index and file of all the past issues of the NEWS BULLETIN may be found in the Sutter County Library, the Marysville City-County Library, and at the Community Memorial Museum.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members attending the January 24th meeting received an interesting introduction to the world of the VCR - Video Cassette Recorder. Alice I. Wygant demonstrated some of her state-of-the-art equipment, and discussed the techniques for practical uses to which it might be applied. From her newspaper and free-lance writing background, she fielded questions regarding oral history recording, documentation of household or fine arts inventories, and cost of production figures pertinent to this new and growing communications medium.

We are saddened to hear of Jean Gustin's imminent departure for the Great Southwest. We'll all miss her, personally and professionally, because the sure touch she brought to Museum and Society affairs has been uniquely her own. Our best wishes for continued satisfaction and accomplishments in your new life go with you always, Jean!

For those of us who have on occasion been forgetful, the Annual Dues are already past due. If still unpaid, please remit to the Treasurer.

The spring Dinner Meeting should be interesting and informative, as always. It gives us a chance for some social visiting, and we see old friends who haven't been around for a while - which is always good. See you there!


Dewey Gruening

Butterfield's

Antique Auctioneers and Appraisers,
San Francisco, Since 1865

Antique Evaluation & Appraisal

Specialists in furniture, paintings, jewelry, silver, Oriental art and rugs, coins, household and personal items; Butterfield's experts are certified and bonded and can provide complete and accurate appraisals in all areas of fine art and collectibles.

Who: Butterfield's of San Francisco—Auctioneers and Appraisers since 1865.

What: Yuba City's First Annual Evaluation and Appraisal Clinic.
Home Security Information—provided by the Crime Prevention Unit from the Sutter County Sheriff's Department.
Insurance Analysis and Information—provided by Farm Bureau Insurance.

When: Sunday, April 10, 1983
12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Where: Sutter County Veteran's Center
1330 Butte House Road
Yuba City

Why: Opportunity for the public to bring collectibles and antiquities to be evaluated or appraised by certified experts of international reputation.

Fees: \$7.00 per item for evaluation. (\$5.00 per item for members, 28.6% discount*)

Evaluation: informal appraisal of item's current market value.

Limit: A maximum of five items per person for each turn.

\$125 per item for written appraisal. (\$100 per item for members.)

Appraisal: written and certified appraisal of item for probate, marketing and insurance purposes. This service provides a permanent record (photographic negative and certified affidavit of each item) to be held in their files. It also provides for the privilege to call upon Butterfield's experts for court testimony if necessary.

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM NOTES

Jean Gustin, Director/Curator

In 1964 by opening the first public free museum in Sutter County, the Sutter County Historical Society achieved one of its goals, that of the collection and preservation of items of the county's past, which goal was stated at the time of the society's organization in 1954. In 1975 the historical society's collection was given to the County of Sutter to be placed in the newly completed Community Memorial Museum facility. It was at this time that I was hired as the museum Curator.

This will be my last contribution as Director/Curator of the museum to the Historical Society Bulletin, as I will be leaving my job here this Spring. The museum has come a long way in the past eight years. The time and dedication of many people has been responsible for the improvements over the years in museum services to the community. The work of these volunteers in the museum, their participation in fund raising events, and their promotion of the museum in the community has been invaluable. The help and support of all these people has also made these past eight years a very pleasant, challenging, interesting, and personally rewarding part of my life. I know that I leave the museum in good hands, and that it will continue to carry out the original purpose and goal of the historical society.

Specail museum exhibits coming up include the outstanding exhibit for March and April, an unusual and fascinating collection of arts and crafts from New Guinea, acquired by Dr. Martin Simon and graciously loaned to the museum by Mr. and Mrs. John Simon of Yuba City.

In May we will have the pleasure of receiving for display the paintings and sculpture of the well-known west coast artist, Melvin Schuler. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schuler of Tierra Buena,

Mel is descended from Conrad Schuler who came to California from Germany in 1868. From Yuba College he went to California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, earning a Master's Degree in Fine Arts in 1947. He attended the Danish Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, 1955-56, and is a Professor Emeritus, Humboldt State University. Schuler has exhibited extensively throughout the west coast, and his works are in many prestigious public and private collections, including the National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution. Scheduled through Labor Day, this promises to be an exhibit you will want to see again and again.

March 13 - Chamber Concert featuring Grace Berg and String Ensemble, 2:00 p. m. at the museum.

April 10 - Antique Appraisal and Evaluation by "Butterfield's" of San Francisco, brought to you through the combined efforts of the museum and the Sutter County Arts Council. Pick up a brochure on this event at the museum. Special reduced rates will be charges for the evaluation of antiques and collectibles for members of the Arts Council or of the museum. Be sure to take your 1983 Museum Membership card with you.

May 6 - Wine and Posies - our annual wine tasting party this year will feature wines from the historic Charles Krug Winery. As in the past, flower filled May Baskets will be raffled. Tickets for the event will be available at the museum in early April.

LIST OF DONORS TO THE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM TRUST
FUND AND BUILDING FUND

November 30, 1982 through February 25, 1983

Maude K. Roberts	in memory of Jennie Stoker
Lorrie Ramsdell	in memory of Thomas F. Webdell
Caroline S. Ringler	in memory of Thomas F. Webdell
The Allen Sutfin Family	in memory of Jerry Marumoto
Pat & Helen Burk	in memory of Donnell Hancock
R. E. & Lucille Berry	outright gift
Helen Brierly	in memory of Ferdinand Ettl
Helen Brierly	in memory of Ralph Dean
Dr. Albert Shumate	in memory of Marie Fillmore
Bogue Country Club	in memory of Jennie Stoker
Helen Harris	in memory of Jennie H. Stoker
Howard & Ruth Anthony & Sons	in memory of Jerry T. Marumoto
Mr. & Mrs. T. S. Miller	in memory of Jerry T. Marumoto
Maude K. Roberts	in memory of Bert Yarborough
Maude K. Roberts	in memory of Damon Green
Mrs. Anabel Johnson	Outright Gift to further Museum Programs
Helen Harris	in memory of Thomas F. Webdell
Foster & Barbara Kalkoffen	in memory of Harold & Dorothy Newkom
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Welter	in memory of Albion E. Bodle
Elizabeth F. Cothrin	outright gift
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Greene, Jr.	in memory of Buck Harris
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Green, Jr.	in memory of Edith Huffmaster
Howard & Ruth Anthony & Sons	in memory of Edith Huffmaster
Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Gilpatric	in memory of Buck Harris
Bud & Lucille Berry	in memory of Irwin B. Harris
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Holmes	in memory of Sally Becker
Richard & Elaine Tarke & Family	in memory of Ed Burrows
	in memory of Muriel Purcell
	in memory of Arthur Woods
	in memory of Edythe McKinsey
	in memory of Irene Whiteaker
Albert, Mary & Kelley Ulmer	

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER SYSTEM

The California Statutes of 1881, Chapter LXXV, an Act to protect and promote the horticultural interests of the state, approved March 14, 1881, provided for three commissioners to be appointed by the county board of supervisors to be known as the County Board of Horticultural Commissioners. The Act provided for (1) specific abatement procedures for "scale bug, codling moth, red spider, or other noxious insects" either liable to spread contagion or injurious to fruit or nut trees; (2) the establishment of districts; (3) the appointment of local inspectors; (4) the recording of "official doings"; and (5) reporting annually to the Board of State Viticultural Commissioners. A salary of \$5.00 per each day was provided for County Commissioners and Inspectors payable out of the County Treasury.

By November 12, 1881, the Supervisors of 17 counties had already appointed County Boards of Horticultural Commissioners. The Counties were Alameda, Amador, Butte, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Los Angeles, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Solano, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Yolo.

There was some rather interesting reasoning that went behind the enactment of this legislation and the subsequent developments. Back in those days, California was predominantly a cattle raising, mining and lumbering community, and the Legislature felt that if the fruit growers and other people who raised annual crops needed protection from pests, such protection should be a function of local government, because that type of agriculture didn't look like it was going to amount to much in California. Therefore, they authorized the appointment of County Horticultural Commissioners, and for some time the only effective organization in the State to carry out this type of work was at the county level. This pretty much antedated the creation of the State Department of Agriculture, which did not come along until much later.

By 1909, it was recognized that the work of the Boards of Horticultural Commissioners had become sufficiently complex and technical in nature to require a full time administrator trained in the biological sciences. It was on March 6th of that year that legislation was enacted changing the three man county boards of horticultural commissioners to the single positions of County Horticultural Commissioner.

The need for technical competence was recognized in that a State Board of Horticultural Examiners was formed to administer

examinations to persons desiring to become Horticultural Commissioners. The Horticultural Commissioner was appointed by the County Board of Supervisors, but from a list of persons certified as technically competent by the state examining board. Thus local authority was maintained, but professionalism was established at a time when local cronyism was all too common.

The salaries of Horticultural Commissioners, Deputies and Inspectors were fixed in the enabling legislation. Horticultural Commissioners were allowed \$6.00/day, Deputies \$5.00/day, (Limit of two Deputies per county) and Inspectors \$3.50/day. Until the year 1911, the duties of the county horticultural commissioners were limited to just a few obligations. These had to do with preventing the introduction into the state of pests from outside its boundaries, prevention of spread of insect pests and plant diseases through the media of nursery stock, fruit boxes, and other containers, and inspection of nurseries. The years that followed would find these duties not only intensified in the same areas, but expanded into many other aspects of agriculture.

In the beginning, the regulatory concern was to protect the California farmer from the depredations of exotic pests. Now, they would be expanded to include concerns of the market place (standardization) and such cultural aids as assistance to the farmer in weed control and control of rodents and other damaging creatures.

Pesticide Enforcement dates from 1909, and by the end of 1910 four counties, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ventura had county ordinances regulating commercial pest control operators. The California Horticultural Statutes of 1912 (Section 2333a) enabled County Commissioners to exercise regulatory authority in counties which did not have ordinances. The California Agricultural Code of 1935 (Section 150) added authority for the Director to make rules governing pest control operators to be enforced by the Commissioners.

The State Department of Agriculture was created on July 22, 1919 from a combination of various boards and commissions in state government.

In 1929, the title of County Horticultural Commissioner was changed to County Agricultural Commissioner.

WHEREAS, the California Legislature enacted a law on March 14, 1881 which provided for the office of horticultural commissioner, now known as agricultural commissioner; and,

WHEREAS, an office of the horticultural commissioner was established in Sutter County on March 9, 1887; and,

WHEREAS, while the original charge of the horticultural commissioner was to protect agriculture from certain pests, today the agricultural commissioners are responsible for promoting and protecting agriculture, the consumer, and the environment; and,

WHEREAS, the agricultural commissioner system is unique to California and has demonstrated a method of delivering services that is both effective and efficient; and,

WHEREAS, the agricultural commissioner system provides local control over areas of great concern to the citizens of this county; and,

WHEREAS, the agricultural commissioners offices provide many special services that are responsive to the needs of the local community; and,

WHEREAS, the agricultural commissioners have maintained a program to insure that pesticides are used in a safe manner thereby protecting agricultural workers, the environment, and providing consumers with food that is both safe and wholesome; and,

WHEREAS, the agricultural commissioners have served to prevent the introduction of pests into California that would be detrimental to agriculture and the environment, and to further carry out a comprehensive program to detect and eradicate those detrimental pests that are introduced into the state; and,

WHEREAS, the agricultural commissioners have contributed to stable markets and consumer confidence in fruits, vegetables, nuts and honey through a program of quality control inspections; and,

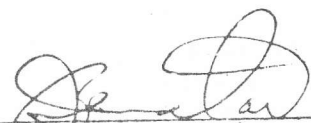
WHEREAS, the agricultural commissioners have provided leadership, research and field activities for the control of crop depredating vertebrate pests and noxious weeds; and,

WHEREAS, the nursery, seed and apiary industries have been served and protected by the programs carried out by the agricultural commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, March 14, 1981 marks the one hundreth anniversary of the institution of county agricultural commissioners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors of the County of Sutter on behalf of its citizens does hereby recognize this centennial anniversary of the county agricultural commissioner system in California and does further congratulate each agricultural commissioner and staff member for the dedicated service that has been performed for the citizens of this county and the state.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of March, 1981.



Joe Benatar, Chairman
Sutter County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



Lonna B. Smith
Sutter County Clerk

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS' SYSTEM

by W. A. Greene, Jr.

On March 9, 1887 a petition was presented to the Sutter County Board of Supervisors, asking the Board to select and appoint three competent persons to be known as a Board of Horticultural Commission. This petition, by virtue of an act of the State of California, was titled "An Act to Protect and Promote the Horticultural Interests of the State" and was approved on March 14, 1881.

Ordered by the Board of Supervisors that R. C. Kells, James G. Gray and H. P. Stabler were appointed to a county Board of Horticultural Commission. Provided always that in no event shall the services, acts or things done or performed by the commission become a charge against the county, in any way whatever, until the further order of the Board.

The records show a certain wariness on the part of the Board, regarding salaries.

Among the names appearing in the County Records as Inspectors were:

J. D. Grant
Seaforth Grant
C. F. Butler
E. E. Munger
J. Haynes
N. E. Haynes
John Markley
Berry, Carpenter and Hull

The early secretaries' names were not available, but, from Mr. Urbahns' tenure, these later ones are listed: Jeanette McLaughlin Reische, Johanna Meischke Schuler, Mary Gray Poole, Helen Meade, Mary Willard Butler, Alice Mattoon Willing and Cervada Dodson.

I can remember going to Mr. Stabler's office in Yuba City with my father, who owned a prune orchard near the Hop yard west of Nicolaus.

As I recall, Mr. Stabler was a stern, no-nonsense gentleman, well dressed in a business suit.

Their conversation probably was concerned with spray materials, the old standbys, Bordeaux mixture, liquid lime sulphur, and nicotine sulfate, or black leaf 40, as it was commonly known. There were a host of materials, on a trial and error basis.

At this time, about 1918, the extension service, or Farm Advisors were beginning to make recommendations, based on work done at the experiment station at Davis. This caused a difficult time, because the Horticultural Commissioner had been the main source of information, particularly on pest control. Eventually they found their proper fields (regulatory or law enforcement for the commissioners), extension bringing better farming methods to the farm and orchard.

Notwithstanding these diverse views of the future of California agriculture, there were many who foresaw the potential of California produce and its impact to the markets of the Eastern states. They also saw that California's geographical location - Pacific Ocean to the west, high mountains and the so-called desert to the east, and Mexico to the south would lend itself to slow the spread of pests.

"The First 100 Years", an informative booklet published to commemorate the development of the California Food and Agriculture Department traces the history of the various state boards, commissions and acts of legislation. The beginning of the border stations, the inspection of ocean vessels, inspection of U. S. mail (1915) all played their parts in the building of the Quarantine system.

Upon Mr. Stabler's death in 1927, Mr. T. D. Urbahns was appointed Horticultural Commissioner. Mr. Urbahns was a graduate of Colorado State University, with a degree in entomology, and with wide experience throughout the West. He published several bulletins on the control of grasshoppers and seed weevils of alfalfa.

In 1929 the title was changed to County Agricultural Commissioner.

When the medfly was discovered in the state of Florida in April of 1929, California immediately strengthened the Quarantine service. The services of Mr. Urbahns were loaned to the state of Florida, and he spent several months there until the successful conclusion, and it was believed to have been eradicated.

During Mr. Urbahns' long tenure in office, major changes took place in Sutter county agriculture. Raisin grapes gave way to cling peaches. Prunes and walnuts were increasing - tomatoes, too. Rice became the major field crop.

Problems encountered during the next few years were an infestation of Khapra Beetle that required fumigation of the old flour mill in Yuba City. Discovery of a virus-like disease (yellow leaf roll) in cling peaches that required removal of trees, went on for several years.

One of the interesting things that occurred during the 1950's was the discovery of Khapra beetle, a serious pest of stored grain and other commodities. The original infestation was in a warehouse in Williams, California, and subsequent inspections turned up an infestation at the General Mills plant in Yuba City.

Khapra beetle was on an eradication program, and a decision was made to fumigate the premises. The buildings were enclosed with pliofilm sheets, and nearly 8,000 pounds of methyl bromide were pumped in under the sheets. A portable laboratory was set up in a trailer to record the concentration of gas within.

Wind damage tore some sheets loose and more gas was applied until it was determined that the time and concentration requirements had been met.

Mr. Urbahns retired in 1959, and I in 1970, leaving the job in the capable young hands of A. C. Perrin, Jr.

+ + + + + + + + + + +

The agricultural wealth of Sutter county has grown to over 300 million dollars.

In 1968 the Board of Supervisors appointed Bill Greene Air Pollution Control Officer and Al Perrin as Assistant Air Pollution Control Officer because of the Agricultural emissions from agricultural burning and also emissions from related facilities in the county.

Their thinking was that with predominately agricultural emissions in the county the job could best be done by the Agricultural Commissioner's office. In that same year an air pollution ordinance was written patterned after the Sacramento County ordinance which had been in effect since 1959. Thus, Sutter County became the second Northern California county to have such an ordinance.

The State legislature in 1970 enacted the California Air Quality law which made every county an Air Pollution Control District. Sutter County had a head start in this area of environmental and health protection.

In the summer of 1950 a new disease was found in a peach orchard in the Hallwood district of Yuba County. Subsequently it was also found in Sutter County that same summer.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture, working in conjunction with the University of California, determined the disease to be a virus and named it "X" Disease. They felt it was a strain of "Buckskin Disease" of cherries and Yuba and Sutter Counties, plus the counties adjacent to Yuba and Sutter began a survey to determine the extent of infection. Further inspection revealed the disease in Butte County and portion of Placer County.

A State Interior Quarantine was established against spread of the disease which ultimately had serious consequences for nurseymen as well as peach growers in the Peach Bowl area since no budwood could leave this area and growers who formerly purchased trees from Sutter and Butte Counties now had to purchase them from San Joaquin Valley County nurseryman.

The following 1950's were spent by Bill Greene, Don Harris and Al Perrin, of the staff in Sutter County, cutting down all discovered trees which were infected with the virus and treating the stumps to prevent new growth until growers had time to remove them.

This disease was later found to be a mycoplasma instead of a virus and was identified as "Western X" and "Yellow Leaf Roll" strains, the latter being a more virulent strain which killed the tree affected within two seasons. By the early 1970's the disease was reduced to the extent that growers no longer felt it was a competitive concern and the quarantine was ignored since funding to survey and remove the trees was discontinued by the California Department of Agriculture.

Growers by this time were faced with a different problem. That of over-production and lack of sales for cling peaches.

It is evident that the disease had an impact on peach growing in this area playing a role in moving it south to the Modesto area where no disease was known to occur at the time.

It is clear that Sutter County peach growers were kept in business by the survey and removal of infected trees during the virulent spread of the disease.

Al Perrin

Yuba City, California

May 3, 1926.

M O S Q U I T O E S ! ! !

Formulas for Temporary Relief from this Pest!

Professor Stanly Freeborn, Entomologist of the State University at Berkeley, explained to a meeting of fruit growers at the Court House, Yuba City, on Saturday evening, the details of permanent control of the mosquito pest by organizing a mosquito Abatement District in Sutter County, which can be made effective against an invasion of the pest next season.

For temporary relief Prof. Freeborn recommends the following formulas which can be rubbed over the face and hands without discomfort and will be found effective for a short time.

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|-------|
| Citronella | $1\frac{1}{2}$ | parts |
| Kerosene | 1 | part |
| Cocoonut oil | 2 | parts |
| Carbolic acid | 1% | |

Second Formula : ! !

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|--------|
| Oil of citronella | 3 | ounces |
| Spirits of camphor | 1 | ounce |
| Oil of tar | 1 | ounce |
| Oil of pennyroyal | $1/4$ | ounce |
| Castor oil | 4 | ounces |

Third Formula : ! !

| | | |
|----------|----|-------|
| Vaseline | 94 | parts |
| Buhac | 14 | parts |

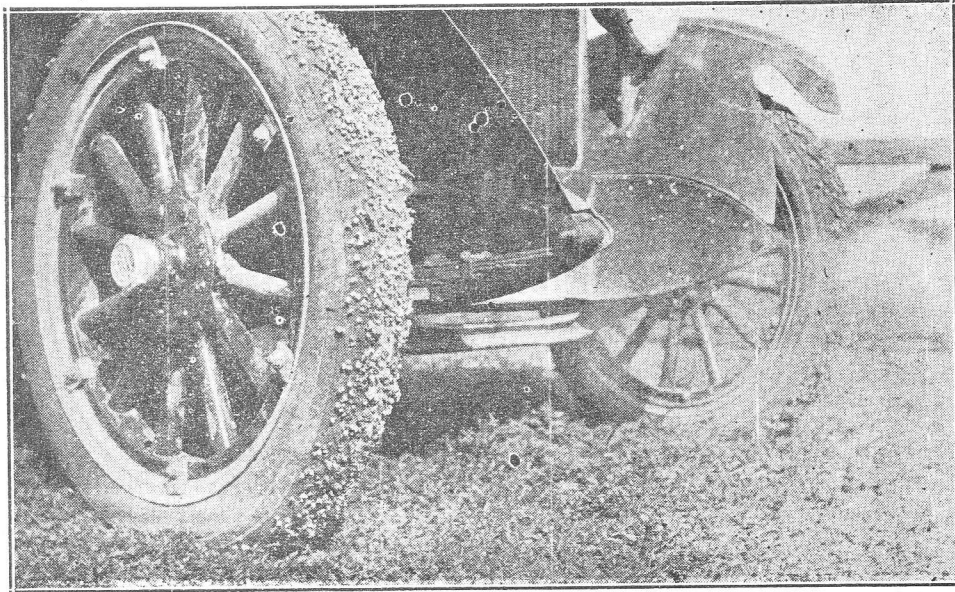
(The Buhac is a powder which should be rubbed into the vaseline)

There are several proprietary remedies which are used by growers. Some of them have been found effective for affording temporary relief.

H. P. Stabler,

Horticultural Commissioner of Sutter Co.

Destroy the Puncture Vine



Land owners in California are alarmed over the rapid spread of the Puncture Vine in many sections of the State. As it grows close to the ground at first, it is frequently overlooked until its control becomes expensive. After fields are severely infested the weed grows upright and is readily seen.

Land values are decreased and harvesting of crops is impossible when this weed pest gains a foothold.

Do not wait until it is too late to eradicate this menace to agriculture, but kill the weed on sight. Watch for it on railroad rights of way where the seed pods drop out of stock cars. Look closely on the highway near your property where the seed pods are spread by automobile tires. Examine camping places, where travelers may have unknowingly spread the seed pods, and finally inspect your own property for any infestation that may have started.

CONTROL MEASURES:—Wherever an infestation is discovered do not hoe up the vines and take them to some place for burning, as seed pods will be scattered and new infestations will follow.

The most effective way to destroy the Puncture Vine is to spray the vine *where found* with Diesel oil or smudge oil, and after the plants are dead, repeat the spraying to kill the seed.

Report all infestations to the County Horticultural Commissioner.

Yuba City.

Horticultural Commissioner Sutter County.

When Bill Greene retired in 1970, A. C. Perrin became Agricultural Commissioner and is still serving in this capacity. The years of 1980 - 1981 was a time of testing of Mr. Perrin's patience and abilities as he worked with the Health Department to clean up and correct a contamination problem at the airport. This contamination was a result of improper cleanup by those using airplanes to spray pesticides.

Mr. Perrin handled this challenge calmly and efficiently, just as he does the day to day demands of the Agricultural Commissioner's Department. The following excerpts from a 1978 report gives us some idea of the overall concerns and actions of the Department.

"When the California Legislature first developed the "Horticultural Code" around the turn of the century, "Agriculture" was about the only industry there was in California. Because of its location and climate, many new people and industries moved to this state, making it the most populous state in the nation. The Agricultural industry has grown right along with the rest of the State and has continued to be the number one industry, adding almost \$10 billion dollars to the State's economy. Because the early leaders and legislators in this state knew that this valuable industry needed to be protected, they worked with the agricultural community in developing the best agricultural laws and regulations in the United States. Along with these laws and regulations they also developed the office of the County Agricultural Commissioner. It is through the various Agricultural Commissioner offices that these laws and regulations are enforced and this type of enforcement has worked extremely well.

The general public also benefits from the agricultural laws because public protection has always been a substantial influence when new laws and regulations are being considered.

The Agricultural Commissioners, through years of agricultural enforcement and service to the farmers and the general public, have always felt that they could stand on their record. This, however, has not been the case of late, and we have seen many of our primary functions under attack from an unknowing public simply due to a lack of information available to them.

It is my sincere hope that the data and explanations included in the following report will help to answer many of the questions about the functions of the Sutter County Department of Agriculture.

No new serious pests to our agricultural or door-yard plantings were found this past year. We are very fortunate that this is the case. This does not mean that we can let down our guard and eliminate this function of the department. We must continue to be constantly on the alert for new pests that could devastate a segment of our agriculture or door-yard plants. "

As part of this constant alert for pests, Mr. Perrin was ready when the med-fly threat appeared in California in 1980. Al went before the County Supervisors and city councils of Sutter County and obtained permission to begin immediate spraying should any med-flies be found in this area. All during the time of the problem in other areas of the state, the County Agricultural Department had traps out in several places throughout the county, and they were checked regularly. Only one fly was found - on Market Street in Yuba City and it was a sterile male - so there was no threat to Sutter County crops.

"You will note by looking at Table 6, that predatory animals attack a number of different livestock animals and crops. The County Trapper was kept quite busy during the year. It is our belief that livestock and crop losses, without the present protection, would be at least ten times the amount shown as estimated. Since mankind settled down and began to raise livestock and crops, he has had to deal with predatory animals and vertebrate pests. The term natural control is really not applicable when man has already changed the environment. In many instances, man has provided an abundance of food and shelter for the pests, while also making it extremely difficult for the natural enemies to survive. Control measures must be taken to protect our crops and livestock to assure us of a good supply of food. Many of these vertebrate pests, such as rats, ground squirrels, skunks and many others, present an ever present reservoir for diseases that could start epidemics.

The Sutter County Department of Agriculture has trained personnel that are ready to go into action whenever they are needed. The advice and supervision provided by these staff members along with the baits produced and sold or personally used by the staff biologists have saved millions of dollars worth of crops and livestock in Sutter County alone. Couple this with the control of the vertebrate pests in the urban areas where rats and mice could become a severe problem in the sewers and among the ground covers and you have an extremely valuable program that involves all the residents of Sutter County.

We must continue to produce more food for a hungry world. In this vein we would request that the general public get all the facts about pesticide usage before they react to some of the claims about the

misuse of pesticides and that they have some patience without department while we bring all these new laws and regulations into play. There has been a massive number of new laws and regulations passed onto us these past few years and we have worked hard at educating those they affect so they will understand what requirements they must meet. Enforcement has been easier because we took the time to explain to everyone that we were doing and why. Pesticides are an important tool in the production of agricultural crops.

Fruit and vegetable quality control is a function that is extremely beneficial to the consumer. The state laws and regulations that set the minimum standards of quality and standards of packing and labeling for most of the fruits, nuts, honey and vegetables produced and sold in California are enforced by the County Departments of Agriculture. Inspections are made at the time of packing, at wholesale and at retail markets."

October 1978

TABLE NO. 6

PEST MANAGEMENT

PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL

County Trappers Report for 1977-78 on Predatory Animals Trapped

| <u>ANIMALS</u> | <u>NUMBER CONTROLLED*</u> |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Beaver | 2 |
| Coyote | 26 |
| Fox | 2 |
| Raccoon | 2 |
| Skunk | 14 |
| Porcupine | 1 |

Livestock and Crop losses from Predatory Animals that were reported by
Ranchers in Sutter County

| <u>ANIMAL OR CROP</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>APPROXIMATE VALUE</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Almonds. | 5 tons | \$ 4,500 |
| Fruit Trees | 25 trees destroyed | 1,250 |
| Turkey | 5 killed | 50 |
| Chickens | 110 killed | 250 |
| Domestic Rabbits | 20 killed | 100 |
| Sheep & Lambs | 116 killed | 6,845 |
| Bees | 7 hives killed | 350 |
| Goats | 1 killed | 25 |
| TOTAL ESTIMATED LOSSES REPORTED | | \$13,370 |

*Confirmed by the County Trapper

SUTTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STAFF

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Alfred C. Perrin, Jr. | Agricultural Commissioner |
| Lourie G. Gaschke | Assistant Agricultural Commissioner |
| Stanley Anderson | Agricultural Biologist III |
| David K. Bagley | Agricultural Biologist III |
| George Kusick | Agricultural Biologist III |
| Allan Melton | Agricultural Biologist III |
| William E. Vickrey | Agricultural Biologist III |
| David L. Wilson | Agricultural Biologist III |
| Michael Furuta | Agricultural Biologist II |
| Paul Schwall | Agricultural Field Assistant |
| Donald L. Sullivan | Agricultural Field Assistant |
| Doyle Rex Hensley | County Trapper |
| Cirveda M. Lay | Senior Account Clerk |
| Patricia A. Davis | Clerk Stenographer |
| Sue Habel | Clerk Typist I |

(This excerpt was taken from an article by G. Kimball Epperson, printed in the July 1964 Bulletin.)

SUTTER COUNTY'S FIRST CROPS

The first crops raised in the Sutter area were small fields of wheat. The method of cultivation at that time was extremely primitive; no agricultural implements were brought over by the foreign emigrants or by the American settlers and they were obliged to use very crude tools of labor.

The enterprising farmer who wanted to raise a field of wheat first had to manufacture a plow. He went into a forest and examined the trees carefully, and when one was found that had the proper shaped limbs it was cut down, its branches sawed off, the limbs trimmed to the proper length and size, and a triangular peice of iron about eight inches wide at the base was fastened to the lower branch with the apex of triangle downward. The other branch was used as a pole for the animals, and the main stem served as a handle. Two oxen were hitched to the pole and attached to the plow by a rope fastened around their horns. An Indian boy walked ahead of the oxen which were trained to follow him, and a man came behind to guide the plow. A furrow cut was cut 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 by the operation. After the field had been 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, the service of the Indians was employed for the harvest. The Indians were provided with sickles and butcher-knives to cut the yellow stalks. The grain was then bound and carried to the place where the threshing was done. It was laid in a ring, and horses and cattle were driven over it to shell the wheat from the head. The straw was then removed and the grain was thrown up into the air so that the wind

would carry the chaff and leave the grain free. Home made wooden forks and shovels were used for handling the grain and straw.

The methods were gradually superseded by the implements brought by the American pioneers, who came here to settle, and came prepared. The grain, besides the little needed for consumption, was sold to John A. Sutter, who had a contract to supply a Russian colony in Alaska. To convey this supply, the Russians sent a vessel from Sitka to Sacramento, where it received Sutter's large crop.

OTHER CROPS

After the rush and excitement of 1849 and 1850, caused by the gold discovery, agriculture took a new start. Profiting little by the experience of former years, the farmer's progress was at first slow, but advancements were eventually made.

In 1850, a few people had settled in the bottom lands, with the intention of making the area their future home. At that time, a fine growth of oak and sycamore timber skirted the river banks, and in some places extended back upon the plains. The first industry engaged in by the farmers was the cutting of wood for the steam boats on the rivers. Another was the cutting of hay that grew wild and in great luxuriance on the bottom lands. Hay was in great demand in the mines and cities; the immense number of pack and stage animals required to transact business, and transport goods and passengers, made the price of hay reach a high figure. Even as late as 1858, the cutting of wild hay was a leading industry among the ranchers along the rivers.

A few experimental crops of wheat and barley were sown in 1851, chiefly barley, because little faith was put in the ability of the soil to raise wheat. Although large quantities had been previously raised, the farmers in the Sutter Buttes' area were unaware of its

possibilities. Until it was demonstrated that wheat could be raised in sufficient quantities and of good quality, flour was brought from Chili, Australia, and the mills in Virginia. By 1856, enough wheat was produced in Sutter County to supply the demand of the settlers and the mills ceased to import wheat and merchant flour. Having accomplished this, the farmers and grain dealers saw no other prospects, and agricultural progress in 1857 was at a stand still.

The idea of exporting did not enter the merchant's minds for they thought the wheat could not stand the journey east or to Liverpool, twice through the tropics and around Cape Horn. The extremes of heat and cold would cause "sweating" and eventual destruction. No attempt was made until 1861 when a group of millers sent a cargo of wheat to Liverpool, taking the chance of losing the whole crop, but determined to try the experiment.

The cargo arrived safely and in excellent condition; the second was sent, and that arrived in the best of order. This established the fact that wheat could be shipped from California and an immediate impetus was given to grain exportation and necessarily to its production. The astonished farmers needed some reason for the satisfactory results attained in these first exportations; investigation and thought gave it.

In the grain producing valleys of Sutter County, from April to October, there is little rain and the heat is intense. From April to June the kernel stands in the ear, ripening and drying. When cut and threshed, it is placed where the sun or hot dry air has free access, and all extra moisture is removed. Nature thus accomplished what had to be done by artificial means with Eastern grain. Agriculture soon became the object of the desires of the settlers, as mining did in former days; all of the State went into farming as fast as land could be located and titles cleared.

The growing of vegetables was early commenced in the 1850's, and has always been a great industry in the bottom lands of Sutter County, the soil of which was adapted to their growth. Pumpkins, squashes, cabbages and melons grow to a great size, while potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, beets, beans, peas, and all kinds of "truck" vegetables were easily cultivated. The raising of vegetables, except potatoes, was chiefly in the hands of the Chinese, many of whom lived in the Sutter Buttes' area. With their patient industry and economy, they were very successful farmers. The soil was made, by proper care and management, to yield two, and sometimes three, crops per year.

SUTTER BANNER - JANUARY 3, 1874

Butter from animal fat - oleo margarine is the name given to butter made from animal fat. Two companies are engaged in manufacturing it. Bulletin says it is clean and sweet. Good for some cookery and pastry but not for table use. ---- To succeed it must be furnished at a price to defy competition from cheap butter.

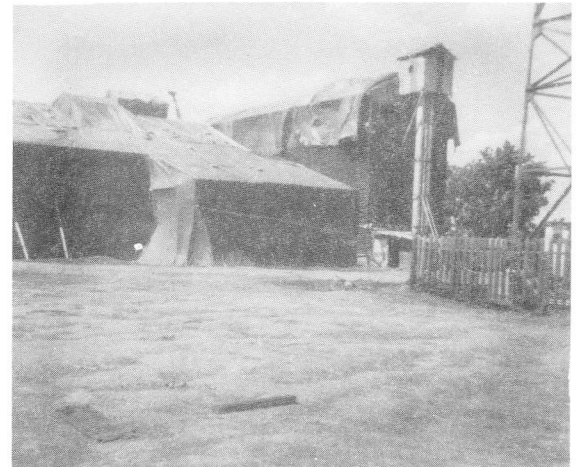
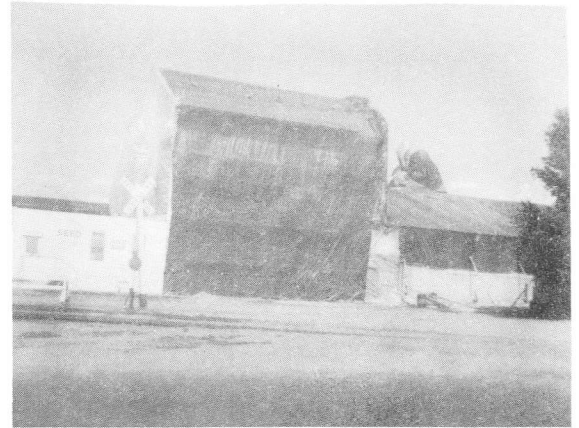
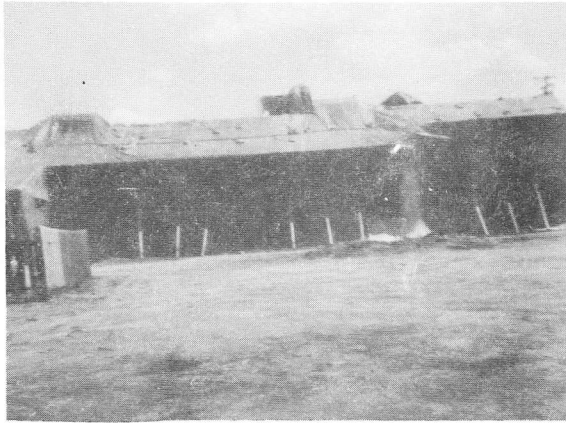
June 10, 1871

The Appeal says that City Fathers of Marysville intend to make whiskey of the corn now growing in Napoleon Square in that City. How thoughtful.

Banner - February 4, 1871

The State Agricultural Society has offered a premium of \$25 for the best quarter acre of sugar beets.

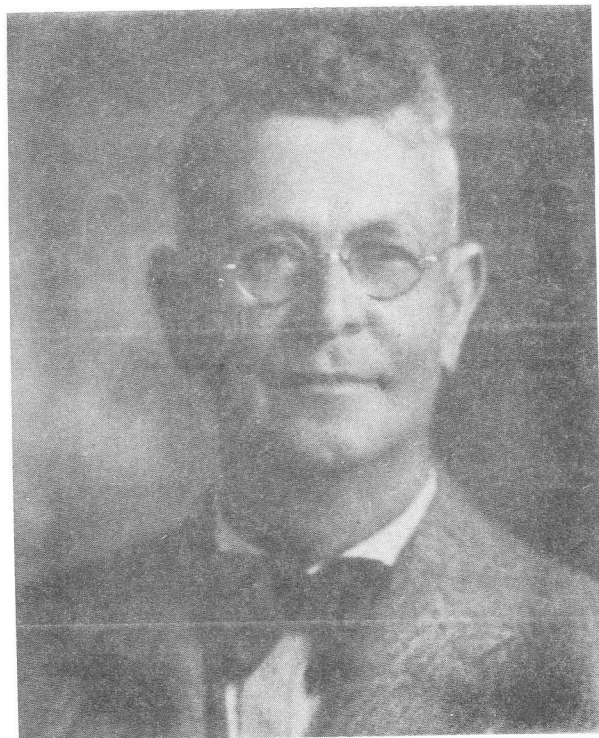
Need a good cookie? Ginger Snaps - Three pounds of flour, two pounds of sugar, one pound of butter, four eggs, two ounces each of ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg, two teaspoons of soda. Roll thin.



FIGHTING THE KHAPRA BEETLE – FUMIGATION OF YUBA CITY FLOUR MILL



INSPECTING TOMATO PLANTS



FRANK BULTER – INSPECTOR FOR 50 YEARS



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J. T. VIEIRA, T. D. URBAHNS, J. V. de OLIVEIRA , GEORGE STUKEY, GILVAN V. de OLIVEIRA.**