

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. XXV No. 2

Yuba City, California

April 1986

CAMP  
FIRE  
GIRLS

BOY  
SCOUTS



SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Vol. XXV No. 2

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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 1985 dues are payable now. Your remittance should be sent to Sutter County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1004, Yuba City, CA 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. Extra copies of the NEWS BULLETIN may be purchased at the Museum for \$2.00.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - APRIL 15th, 6:30pm  
Sutter Youth Organization Building,  
Corner of Acacia and Buttehouse Rd.  
Corned Beef and Cabbage  
Tickets; \$10 per person  
Prepaid Reservations to be made at  
Museum before April 11th.  
Speaker from Chico - JOHN NOPEL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The nature tours to the Buttes was well attended in spite of unsettled weather. It was appreciated by all. Over \$700. was earned for the Ag. Bldg. Fund.

The next event for our Society is the Annual Dinner- corned beef and cabbage by reknowned chefs-at the Sutter Youth Organization Bldg. at the corner of Acacia and Buttehouse Road in Sutter. April 15, 1986 is the date to remember. Our Speaker, John Nopel of Chico and the Butte County Historical Society will entertain and enlighten about events from the past. Sign up and pay your \$10. at the Community Memorial Museum on or before the 11th of April.

On Saturday, April 19th, we are sponsoring a Historical trip around the Sutter Buttes. A bus will be provided. The trip will start at 9: A.M. from the Museum and should return in about three plus hours. This is another fund raiser for our AG. Bldg. Sign up and pay your \$5. at the Museum on or before April 14th.

Your Board of Directors is trying to find ways to enliven our Society. We need your suggestions and participation in our activities and meetings.

The 17th of May is Membership Day at the Museum. A gala event is being planned. Watch for details.

The train trip to Eureka is having problems. We do not know whether the railroad will be operating at this writing. Watch for further information. The trip sounds like fun and I hope we can arrange it.

*Randolph A. Schmalzer*

April 19th bus tour of points of  
interest in and around the Buttes.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Lorrie Ramsdell, Interim Director

The first quarter of 1986 has been very eventful and productive, with many positive changes taking place in the museum. Exhibit improvements began soon after the Christmas decorations were cleared away, and we are continuing to make adjustments. Several interesting items have been added to the Transportation Exhibit which is now mounted on portable screens with plans underway to build in stationary partitions.

The levee break in Yuba County prompted the creation of a temporary exhibit which features our collection of 1955 Flood memorabilia, including the dolls sent from Germany. We managed to complete it just in time to be filmed by the Channel 10 crew for their evening news program. The temporary Bok Kai exhibit, featuring photos and some personal artifacts of '49er Chinese immigrants has also received some attention from the press.

The Museum Commission's decision to launch an active fund raising effort to build the Agricultural Exhibit Building received an added impetus when the museum was offered a collection of numerous farm related items from the Galbreath family of Live Oak. To date, over 200 separate articles have been recorded. Cooking utensils already have been used to augment the Kitchen Exhibit, milking articles have been added to the Barn Display, and furnishings moved into Grandma's Parlor inspired a complete revision which is currently in progress. Many large items, typical of early farms in this area, are being stored until they can adequately be displayed in the new Ag Building. There is a display at the entrance of the museum of drawings illustrating a variety of proposed plans for this building. It will be interesting to see the final version when it is completed in the (hopefully) near future.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to Dick and Bee Brandt, Bob Bryant, Randy Schnabel, and Neil Wampler for their cheerful and willing assistance in providing, on very short notice, three pickups and a large truck, plus the labor to load and transport these historically valuable artifacts to the museum.

A new permanent exhibit, The Music Room, was created in observance of the month of February being declared American Music Month. Our new volunteer, Neil Wampler, a Yuba College student and experienced wood worker, installed this exhibit in addition to the redwood panel behind John Sutter's desk, the curved wall backing for the new mural being painted in the Pioneer Corner, and the partition at the end of the Barn Wall which holds a nicely arranged display of wood working tools.

In addition to Neil, Eleanor Boyd, whom many of you will recognize for her many hours as a volunteer cataloging the museum's collection of over 14,000 items, has been working 20 hours a week helping with the myriad of tasks that have to be dealt with on a daily basis in the museum. We are proceeding with an updated inventory and organizing the storage room for more efficient and protective storage of our artifacts. The capable assistance of these two conscientious workers has made it possible for me to stay current with the reams of paperwork to meet report deadlines, prepare all the materials for the Museum Commission, attend meetings, and still manage the museum's business of providing information for our visitors and researchers, give guided tours for school classes, and plan the exhibits.

Our annual "Wine and Posies" gala will be held on Friday, May 2, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Several fine wines will be provided by The Christian Brothers this year, and the May Basket exhibit and raffle always makes this a popular event.....all together, a real bargain at only \$5.00 per person. Tickets should be available by April 1.

This year's Membership Party is scheduled for Saturday, May 17. Museum members will be informed of details as plans progress.....Mark your calendar and save these dates!

LIST OF DONORS TO THE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
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Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Frye	In memory of Gladys Estep
Norma & Loadel Piner	In Honor of Ulysses Frye on the occasion of his 90th Birthday
Norman & Loadel Piner	In memory of Gladys Estep
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Dick & Darlene Epperson	In memory of Matt E. Phillips
Jessamine Powell	In memory of Verna Sexton
Mary & Ray Crane	In memory of Elinor Pierce
Jack & Helen Heenan and family	In memory of Elinor Pierce
Mr & Mrs R. A. Schnabel	In memory of Cleo Chesney
Edgar & Virginia Stanton	In memory of Jerry D. Ray
Pete & Margit Sands	Outright gift
Gene & Joan Erfle	In memory of Mary Bremmer
Jack & Helen Heenan and family	In memory of Aileen Hudson

## Scouts Enjoy Big Day As Dinner Guests Of Legion And Elks Who Join In Activities At La Porte

More than 60 Boy Scouts who are encamped at La Porte had a red-letter day Thursday when the Elks and American Legion took over the camp, served the boys a dinner that they will remember and joined in the camp activities, both as spectators and participants.

With Elmer Arnoldy, commander, and Clarence Galligan, chairman, in charge for the Legion, and with Chief of Police La Fortune and Dewey Allread officially representing the Elks, nothing had been overlooked to provide the boys a perfect day. La Fortune, Allread and the regular camp cook labored throughout the morning preparing the dinner. In fact hams and beans had been baked the previous day at the Elks club in Marysville. To these were added other delicious dishes, including an abundance of ice cream and cake. Some of the food was donated and the rest of the expense was met by the Elks and Legion.

There was no formal program for the day, except brief remarks at the dinner by representatives of the two organizations and a word of appreciation from Mat Arnoldy, camping chairman of the Scouts. The visitors, however, were given opportunity for a thorough inspection of the camp which has been pronounced the finest Boy Scout camp in the country, although one of the less expensive. All of the labor and many of the materials for the camp buildings and other improvements have been donated

afternoon of competition between the two troops into which the boys are divided, Troop 1 winning from Troop 2 by the close score of 52 to 50. The points were chalked up as the result of a series of contests, including water boiling relay races string burning, knot-tying, flapjack frying, swimming and diving events. There also was a baseball game, which Troop 2 won, 30 to 3. The Scouts challenged the visitors to a ball game, but some of the adults found it convenient at that time to be on their way home.

Leather-craft work and other activities were also carried on during the day. The camp has several new improvements this year. Its water system, pumping the finest of mountain water for use throughout the grounds, is working perfectly. The boys are all well sheltered, well cared for and kept busy and happy throughout their vacation, which ends this week, to be followed by a cubs' camp and later by the Camp Fire girls.

Those visiting the camp Thursday included: Martin Sullivan, R. W. Skinner, C. J. Becker, P. J. Divver, Chief La Fortune, Dewey Allread, E. S. Wadsworth, Mat Arnoldy, Elmer Arnoldy, Peter J. Delay, Henry Sackrider, E. E. Wernex, J. E. Maston, H. E. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Abe Schneider and daughter, Ann, Mrs. M. E. Lawton, Florence McCrank, Margaret McCrank, Betty Steel and Myrtle Powell.

July 7, 1933



## LIST OF COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

1924-1927	Matt Arnoldy	1956-1958	V. G. Vanderford
1927-1928	Richard Belcher	1958-1959	James N. Whitmore
1928-1936	R. W. Skinner	1959-1961	J. Ralph Robinson
1936-1937	Charles Becker *	1961-1963	Virgil Swift
1937-1940	Arthur Scarlett	1963-1964	E. W. Berger
1940-1942	John H. Fuller	1964-1968	Samuel G. Shannon
1942-1944	Donald Jefferis *	1969	Judge John G. Hauck
1944-1946	Leonard Harter *	1970	Burnard Taylor
1946-1949	Dan W. Beatie *	1971	Charles Hazleton
1949-1950	George Arens	1972-1973	Thomas Frye
1950-1952	Edwin A. Hendrix	1974-1975	John Lamon
1952-1953	Carl Stillwell *	1976-1977	Richard W. Stage *
1953-1954	W. H. Rutherford	1978-1979	Lloyd Decker
1954-1955	Hartley Weichert	1980-1981	Jim Leonard
1955-1956	Eric Sankey *	1982-1983	Bob Ryan
		1984-1985	Don Lehman

## LIST OF COUNCIL SCOUT EXECUTIVES

1924-1925	James Nelson	1960-1963	William H. Hofmann
1925-1926	George Miller	1963-1965	Vernon P. Guess
1926-1937	Chester D. Bartlett *	1965-1969	John W. MacConnell *
1937-1945	Ted Pfalsgraf	1969-1974	Kenneth M. Harlan
1946-1949	Herbert L. Smith	1974-1985	Robert G. Nicholson
1949-1956	Alden G. Barber	1985-	David C. Graska
1956-1960	Folkman D. Brown		

Deseased \*

FOREWARD

Since the dawn of Scouting, millions of boys have grown to manhood within the framework of the Scout Oath and Law. Many of these Scouts matured to become leaders in agriculture, business, industry, science, the professions, and affairs of State. Hope for this nation's future lies in the guidance and development of our Scouts into responsible citizens, guided still by the tenets of doing their Duty to God and Country.

The need for leadership is broad, and not confined to the largest corporations, parliamentary bodies or scientific associations. The real strength of Scouting comes from the early development of men who later lead their local service clubs or chambers of commerce and become the heads of families whose strength and growth is nurtured by the constant practice of those principles found in the Scout Oath and Law.

As the laboratory of Scouting, the Scout Camp is of paramount importance in fostering and guiding this development and growth to manhood.

HISTORY-BSA

July 29, 1907, 21 boys and 2 men arrived on Brownsea Island in a sheltered bay off England's southern coast. There, along the shore, they set up makeshift camping gear and established a campsite in an area that would be their home for the next 2 history-making weeks.

One of the men was Lord Baden-Powell, a British hero of the Boer War, who was gripped by the vision of a new and different organization for youth. The boys were from the streets of England's cities - and from her most exclusive schools. They were the first Boy Scouts, all unaware, for Baden-Powell did not tell them that the encampment was a test of his vision.

Two years later Boy Scouting came to the United States in the mind and baggage

of William D. Boyce, a Chicago newspaper and magazine publisher. Boyce had been on a business trip to England in the fall of 1909, and one day he had lost his way in a London fog. As he groped to find his bearings, a boy materialized out of the murk and asked if he might help. Boyce explained his predicament, and the boy offered to take him to his destination. The lad refused a shilling tip, explaining that he was a Scout and that he could not accept a fee for doing a Good Turn. Intrigued, the publisher questioned the boy and learned where Baden-Powell could be found. The next day he interviewed Scouting's founder and was captured by his dream.

When he boarded the steamer for home, Boyce was afire with zeal to establish Boy Scouting here. In his hand was a suitcase crammed with material about Baden-Powell's Scouts. And so, on February 8, 1910, Boyce incorporated the Boy Scouts of America in Washington, D.C. A Federal Charter from Congress was granted on June 15, 1916.

#### HISTORY-BAC

The Buttes Area Council traces its origin from May 1 1924...some sixty-one years ago...when its first charter was received from The National Council, Boy Scouts of America to provide a program for 352 Boys Scouts in 13 Scout Troops. Since that time, the Council has enjoyed a steady growth. In 1984 over 3200 boys were served in 92 Cub Packs, Scout Troops, Explorer Posts and Varsity Teams in Yuba, Sutter, Colusa and Southern Butte Counties in North-Central California.

Mr. Matt Arnoldy of Yuba City was our first Council President in 1924 through 1927. 31 great community leaders have served as Council Presidents since 1924 to 1985. James Nelson was our first Scout Executive and 12 fine men have served as Scout Executives.

## THE STAFF

The staff of the Buttes Area Council consists of a highly qualified and experienced Scout Executive, assisted by two trained and experienced District Scout Executives. An Office Manager and Registrar provide skilled clerical support to the staff and adult volunteers.

## SCOUTING: A VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT

In their effort to prepare thousands of young men for the future, the more than 1100 adult volunteers involved in Buttes Area Council recognize that many institutions have lost integrity as unique organizations with identity and special purpose. It is their common commitment to lead and train Scouts in a way of life... and to encourage, through the Scouting Program, the fullest possible development of the abilities of each boy.

## PROGRESSIVE PORGRAM

Scouting has changed. Changes have been made to relate to an ever-changing society, and the needs of youth. Merit badges, awards and skills have been up-dated.

The co-educational Explorer Posts is another "face" of Scouting; designed to interest and introduce high school age boys and girls to new experiences and insights into career fields of their interest.

The new Varsity Team program is for our 14-15 year old boys who want High adventure and want to stay on the Eagle Scout trail through our exciting program.

## PRESENT FACILITIES

Throughout the past 28 years, Glacial Trails Scout Ranch has served thousands of young men growing into manhood. In 1984 over 1000 boys attended summer camp representing 36 Troops from Buttes Area Council and 40 out of council troops. Every facility was used to the fullest during long-term camping trips of a week or more. Since 1957, this 99 acre camp in the Sierras has provided teaching,

learning, growth and fun for thousands of California's and the nation's leaders. The Council Service Center, located at 9th and B Streets on city property, Marysville, was built in 1976 and has been a welcome addition to our Scouting Program. This Service Center was built from contributions from Scouters and the general public for \$150,000. It is the nerve center to serve boys and girls throughout our area.

#### THE CHALLENGE

Through its leadership...and the active involvement of Cubs, Scouts and Explorers...the Buttes Area Council is continually striving to serve a greater share of Cub, Scout and Explorer age boys, and Explorer age girls. This objective of influencing young lives is more meaningful today than ever before. Camping and Service Center facilities must keep pace. Camping because it is the very heart of Scouting; the Service Center...the nerve center of Scouting in Buttes Area Council...to help guarantee the kind of Scouting Program these young people need and deserve.

The demands and opportunities our young people face are awesome. THE CHALLENGE of helping them prepare to accept those opportunities and meet the demands...as mature and responsible citizens..IS OURS TODAY.

1976  
CUB DAY CAMP - LOTS OF FUN FOR  
125 BOYS - WERE YOURS THERE?

"O. K. Dave, What's next?" Cub Day Camp Campers looked to key Staff members like David Neil for a good time — with a purpose.

Den Mothers Riva Vandebogart assists on a craft project. More than 12 Den Mothers assisted Camp Directors Marilyn Hoops and Mrs. Howard Hall.

Day Campers swam every day. Camp fire on Friday Night brought out the whole family to a picnic and awards ceremonies.

## A HISTORY OF THE BUTTES AREA COUNCIL

by Robert Nicholson

The Buttes Area Council was granted its first charter on May 1, 1924. The Council was chartered to provide a program for 13 Scout Troops and 352 Boy Scouts and to extend the movement to those boys not yet enrolled. Mr. Matt Arnoldy, President and James Nelson, Scout Executive, were the first registered officials of the Council.

In 1929 under the leadership of R.W. Skinner, President, and Scout Executive Chet Bartlett, the Council grew to 24 units and 512 boys. By 1935 the Council had grown to 28 units, 617 boys. Chet Bartlett still served as Scout Executive and Arthur Scarlett served as President.

In 1940 Ted Pfsalsgraf became Scout Executive and the Council grew to 47 units and 849 boys. The Council budget was still under \$5000.00.

Formal Incorporation in the State of California was accomplished on April 14, 1942 under the name of Buttes Area Council Inc., Boy Scouts of America. Growth in the Council leveled off during the war years. Membership reached 898 boys in 32 units.

Alden Barber became Scout Executive in 1949. Scouts of the Council performed well during the disastrous floods of 1950 and 1955. Over 6,000 hours of service were given by Scouters during the floods. Camp La Porte was abandoned in 1953 after a heavy winter collapsed the buildings. The site was soon covered by Little Grass Valley Lake. Glacial Trails Scout Ranch was built on five acres of U.S. Forest Service Land and 100 acres of P. G. & E. Land.

In 1956 the Donner-Mine property was purchased by members of the Beatie Family. Sam and Grover Shannon raised \$31,000.00 to improve the property.

In 1957 the budget increased to \$37,250.00 to serve 88 units and 3,334 boys. Vinson Vanderford, James Whitmore and J. Ralph Robinson, served as President, with Folkman Brown as Scout Executive.

Under Ernest Berger and Sam Shannon as Presidents, and William Hoffman and Vernon Guess as Scout Executives, 1965 budget increased to \$49,377.00, supporting 86 units and 2,000 boys.

John MacConnell assumed Executiveship in 1965 with Sam Shannon still serving as Council President. Budget for 1969 was \$68,824.00 to support 117 units and 3,886 boys.

Judge John Hauck, Superior Judge County of Sutter, followed Sam Shannon as President. John MacConnell continued to serve as Scout Executive until 1969.

In September of 1969, Ken Harlan assumed the role of Scout Executive and under the leadership of Council President Burnard Taylor, Thomas E. Frye and John Lamon, the Council diversified its program to include Exploring Division, the Community Services and continued emphasis on debt reduction and resolution of Council property problems. By the end of 1974 the Council was serving 100 units and 3,800 plus boys. Also at this time, about 1970, the first Cub Scout Day Camp program was organized under the direction of Mr. Harlan and carried out by Marilyn Hoopes and Raona Hall. It was the first one of its kind to be held in a Council this side of the Mississippi. A program of games and crafts was held in three different areas, Gridley, Colusa and at the Sam Brannan Park in Yuba City. Many Cubs participated and enjoyed these summer time activities that year and in the following years.

The Scout Service Center at 14th and H Streets, in Marysville, was built in 1943, dedicated in October 1944. Frank Mooney donated \$2,000.00 toward construction and the Beatie Family under Dan Beatie's leadership and alot of push from Ken Beatie and the Tenco Tractor Family, completed the building in time for the dedication. This contribution by Frank Mooney has been lost in many of the other outstanding works by Scouters in the community, but should not be forgotten in the construction of the new facility. Donald Jefferis also contributed to the construction costs and has over the years been deleted from his participation.

The building was not built with a solidly prepared foundation, however, nor was it built with steel in the cinder block and the obvious deterioration noticed in 1974 was the result.

In May of 1972 the Council was the recipient of the proceeds of the Estate of the late Lyndell J. Browning of Colusa. By using mainly funds from this trust, the Council had eliminated its largely unpaid debt to the Bank of America by July of 1974. Monies from the trust also provided dollars for the renovation programs at Glacial Trails Scout Ranch. In 1974 there were 132 units serving approximately 3800 boys and high school young women. The Council budget for 1974 was \$85,500.00 plus Community Services.

On October 1, 1974 Robert G. Nicholson became Scout Executive and served until September 1, 1985, eleven years. In those years six great scouters became President, John Lamon, 1974-1975; Richard Stage, 1976-1977; Lloyd Decker, 1978-1979; Jim Leonard, 1980-1981; Robert Ryan, 1982-1983; and Don Lehman, 1984-1985.

On January 25, 1977 our new Scout Service Center on Ellis Lake in Marysville was officially dedicated. Alden G. Barber, Immediate Past Chief Scout Executive was our main speaker. The building was the old Marysville swimming pool which dated back to 1920. Marysville City owns the property and the building and we pay \$1.00 per year for lease.

COST of CONSTRUCTION	
BUILDING	\$110,000
GROUNDS & PARKING	40,000
TOTAL	<u>\$150,000</u>

In 1975 a \$250,000 Development Campaign was launched to pay for the Service Center and Commissary at Glacial Trails Scout Ranch. This was accomplished with success.

The Memorial Wall was established by Judge Jim Manwell, (died 1985) for all \$150.00 and above participants to our endowment program. Don Jefferis estate added \$175,000 to our trust fund and paid off all of our debts so that the Council had no outstanding debts.

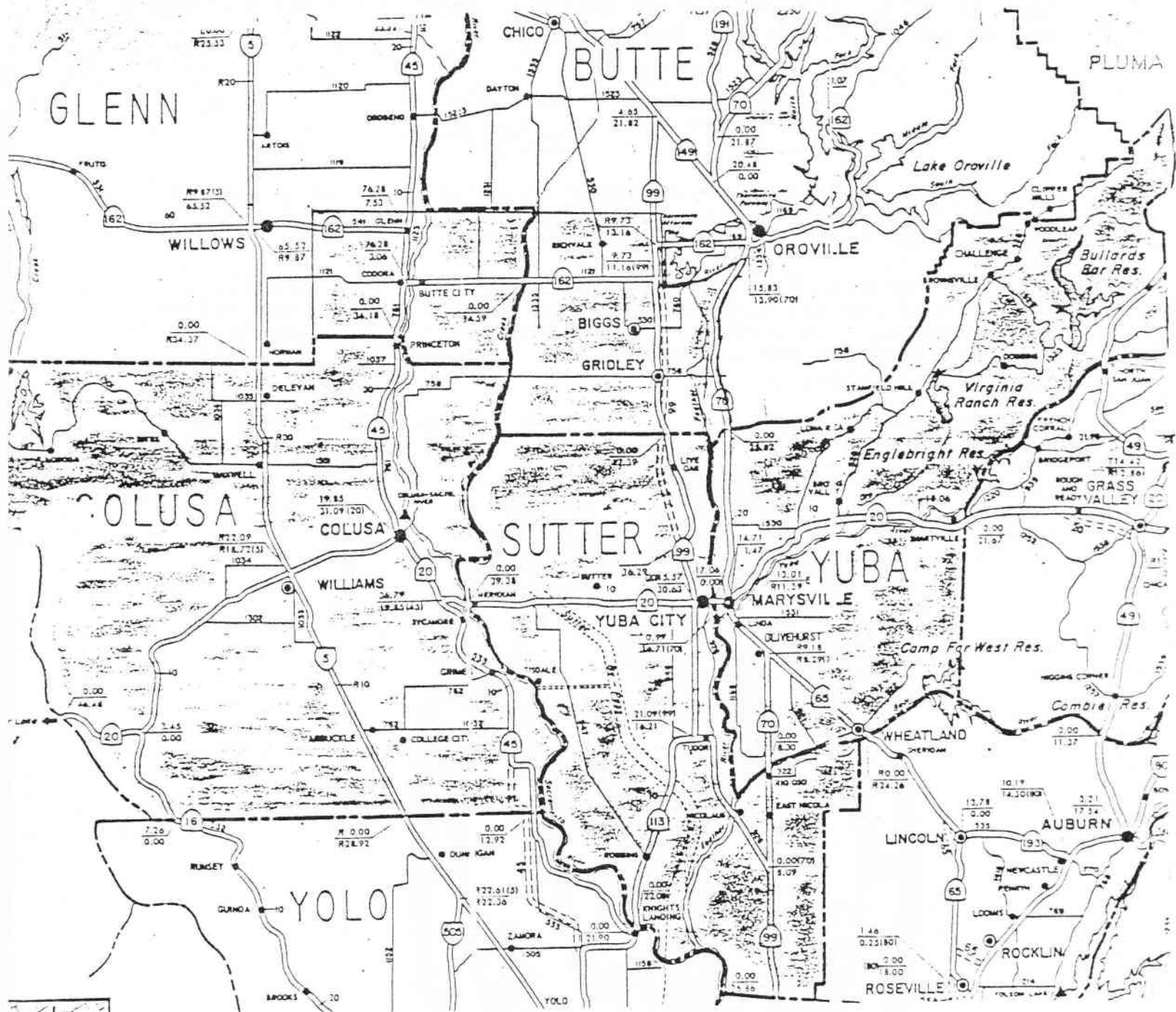
The Council has continued to grow and the 1985 budget is \$135,000.





BUTTES AREA COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

AREA MAP 1985



## CAMP FIRE PIONEERS OF YUBA-SUTTER AREA

By

Caroline Schnabel Powers Ringler

May there always be "volunteer pioneers" to carry on projects for the cultural good of a community. Young people need organized activities for their ages, where they can achieve, be creative, use their imagination and make lasting friendships.

A Sutter County pioneer leader was Eola Galbraith (Dinsdale) who had a group from Tierra Buena and Sutter City in 1913. Ada Leuth (Weber) was one of them.

Another pioneer was Gertrude Cornell (Coats). She was a Camp Fire girl while at Marysville High School in 1915 to 1919. She was a leader while teaching in Yuba City in 1925.

Ruth Harter (Hudson) was a leader. Barbara Barr, one of the group in 1917, help sell War Bonds for Camp Fire. The Barr home and piano was used for Wohelo Song as the girls wore their ceremonial gowns.

At this time all information, supplies and encouragement came from New York, the main headquarters of Camp Fire.

In 1921 I was a Camp Fire girl with a group that met after school at the home of Mrs. Dea (James) Nason on Cooper Ave. We marched in an Armistice Day Parade on November 11, 1922 in Marysville. Our uniforms were navy skirts (if possible) and

white middy blouses with a red scarf. Quote from the "The Marysville Appeal", "The Camp Fire Girls will be on duty in various sections of the City immediately after the parade, to assist Red Cross in first aid work and to do anything that is useful in their particular line." Francis Hall was grand marshal of the parade. #1

In June, 1923 the group graduated from Yuba City Elementary (the old two-story white wood building), Chester Winship was principal. In September the new Yuba City Unified High School opened with Cree T. Work as principal. Camp Fire Girls joined other high school activities.

Time passed and the Yuba City Women's Club had a new clubhouse in 1931. I asked them to sponsor a group of girls and to use the building once a week for meetings. They approved. Leila Winship (Desmond), Mildred Hall (Gordon), Louise Nichols, Jerry Harter (Gordon) and I met each week with 24 girls and worked on Camp Fire projects as outlined in the Handbook. Even learned to cook an egg on a hot rock, made our own hand work wooden looms. Our Indian name was Netoppew. #2

The Buttes Council of Boy Scouts had a good summer camp in Strawberry Valley at La Porte. I asked my grandfather, R.W. Skinner, President of Butte Council, if the Camp Fire Girls could use the camp after the boys finished. Arrangements were made through Scout Executive, Chester Bartlett. #3

Another Yuba City group was Otoykwo, whose guardian was Mrs. Cline B. Kelly. #4

Scouting had good community backing, but the girls activities had none.

I went to the Women's Clubs in the three counties to send their Camp Fire Girls and Girl Scouts to camp for the first time. Remember these were all individual groups of girls and no organization to keep us in touch with each other. Word of mouth got us to camp.

The day arrived for us to go to camp, the girls were from Colusa, Sutter and Yuba counties, the same area as the scouts were from. We had a daily routine which included bugle call, assembly with Flag raising, and roll call then to breakfast. We had nature classes, crafts and leather work, hikes, swimming and games, quiet time for letter writing or reading. At night a large bonfire with skits put on by the various tents, much singing, a costume night, a Snipe Hunt on overnight hike. The leaders also had fun as we were all young housewives and some had never been camping before or to a girls camp. My eighteen months old son Clarke was there the first week with my mother, Mrs. Carl K. Schnabel. THE second week flew by and it was time to pack up and go back to the valley.

Plans are under way for the next years camp. Wohelo to all Camp Fire Girls.

## THE YUBA-SUTTER CAMP FIRE TRAIL

### CHAPTER II, THE COUNCIL

BY JANE KENYON ELLIS

In the fall of 1935, Grace Chandler (Mrs. Ray Chandler) visited the girls in Winifred Maynard's fourth grade at Yuba City Grammar School. They were acquainted with Mrs. Chandler as the mother of one of their classmates, Roger Chandler, and they knew she had other children, including Jean, who was in third grade.

Mrs. Chandler told them about an organization, like the Boy Scouts for boys but designed especially for girls, called Camp Fire Girls. She described an organization in which they would go hiking and camping, cook out of doors, wear Indian headbands and earn beads, and she asked if they were interested in joining.

These girls were accustomed to forming clubs at the drop of a hat. They had had sewing clubs and nature clubs and clubs for any other purpose that seemed appealing at the time. Of course they were interested.

Mrs. Chandler promised to find them a leader, called a guardian, and she did, Louise Nichols. Mrs. Nichols met with the girls, introduced them to the Camp Fire Manual, and they began.

As nearly as this writer can recall, the girls were Sarah Louise Murray, Mary Brownlee, Marthaleah Lance, Marilyn Seagren, Helen Klamt, Barbara Johnson, Dorothy Hook, Joyce Kunde, Jean Schlosser, Doris Hartman, Barbara Ullrey, Jean Wales, Barbara Smith and the writer, Jane Kenyon.

The group chose as its name Unaliyi, an Indian name which simply

# Camp Fire Girls Cheer Capt. Savage

#1

Miss Kate M. Capt. Savage (60 years old) was greeted last night at Gells Hall when the members of Potawatomi Camp of the Camp Fire Girls organization greeted their drill master in an informal reception of thanks for his efforts in making them prepared for today's parade.

The girls under the leadership of Mrs. P. M. Bysra proved themselves worthy hostesses and the evening's luncheon was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Those responsible for the testimonial to Captain Savage are: Alva White, Loraine Gray, Loraine Lewis, Joyce Farrant, Jessie Fernald, Alice Roberts, Clara Hastings, Verna Brewer, Emma Noyes, Helen Sanford, Nevella Sugg, Ivadel Eich, Nancy Farrant, Nina Stuart, and Elizabeth Chapman.

Other guests of the evening were Hall Frank, staff correspondent of the Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls, and P. M. Bysra, guardian of the girls' organization.

## NETOPPEW CAMP FIRE

#2

Netoppew camp fire girls, with Mrs. Shirley Powers guardian, will hold the season's final meeting from 5 to 7 p. m. Thursday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl K. Schnabel on the Live Oak highway. Each girl will bring her lunch and for entertainment there will be games, music and pictures.

Plans will be discussed for the girls' camp at La Porte. Application blanks may be obtained and camp fire annual dues are to be paid at this meeting.

Girls in the group are Helen Wernex, Joann Dunegan, Gayle ~~Gamsby~~, Eleanor ~~Laurabee~~, Barbara Cope, ~~Isabelle~~, ~~Marie~~, ~~Frank~~, Carolyn Stoker, Nadine Mandel, Lorraine Ruff, Jane Rodolf, Betty Troncatty, Vera Mognis, Margaret Peters, Frieda Hurlburt, Marjorie Yonce, Helen Andross, Margaret Morrison, Maxine Morrison, June Morrison, Ruth Hutchinson, Lucille O'Sullivan, Marie O'Sullivan, Dorothy Berry, Georgia King, Fredeen Brittan, Charity Prine and Margie Coleman.

Gale Gamsby  
→ Ila Corbly  
June Cook

## ENJOY SWIM

#4

Otoykwo camp fire girls enjoyed swimming one afternoon recently at the home of their guardian, Mrs. Clive B. Kelly. A basket luncheon was served after which ~~the girls worked on their bead~~ rooms. Mrs. Kelly was assisted by Mrs. Allen E. Gray and Mrs. Roger Wilbur.

→ The girls worked on their bead

Present were: Jeanne Morrison, Meredith Winship, Zelma Bagley, Joy McMillan, Jean McMillan, Jane Hodges and Catherine Ann Kinch.

# Thirty-six Girls Keep Active In Closing Week Of La Porte Camp; Over-night Hike Feature

Thirty-six girls are at Camp LaPorte for the second week of the community girls camp being conducted with the co-operation of the Buttes council Boy Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls.

The camp closes Sunday, having reached a total of 49 different girls over the two-week period. Seven girls who signed for the one week period are remaining for the second week of camp.

Mrs. Louise Nichols of Yuba City arrived in camp Sunday to become director of nature study and music, taking the place of Miss Marild Powell who remained in camp for the first week.

A special feature of this week's camp is an overnight hike for the older girls. The hikers left Wednesday morning and hiked to a cabin on black rock creek, remaining there overnight, cooking their evening and morning meal over the open fire. The patrol contest is well under way with the five patrols trying for the cooks special feed Saturday evening.

The following girls are organized by patrols: Patrol 1—Helen

Coronado, leader, Helen Wernex, Barbara Cope, Vera Mognis, Joan Dunagan, Leora Brady, Louis Anderson, Freda Hurlbert.

Patrol 2.—Katherine Troncatty leader, Jane Anne Smith, Louise Kimball, Thelma Boardman, Marian Chandler, Mary M. Stanton, Janice Rudisill.

Patrol 3. — Marie O'Sullivan leader, Maxine Morrison, Ruth Hutchinson, Margaret Morrison, Jane Rodolf, Betty Troncatty, Marjorie Yonce.

Patrol 4. — Carolyn Putman leader, Lucille O'Sullivan, June Morrison, Meredith Winship, Margaret Beatty, Frances Beatty, Patricia Beauchamp.

Patrol 5. — Margery Hoffman, Ann Schneider, Dorothy Arnold, Eleanor Larrabee, Helen Hedger, Ellen Staple, Marian Hoffman, Sidney Price.

The adult staff for the second week includes Mrs. Shirley Powers, camp director; Mrs. Gordon Hall, camp clerk; Mrs. Gordon Harter, athletic director; Mrs. Desmond Winship, handicraft work; Mrs. H. J. Nichols, nature study and music; Mrs. Pearl Connarn, camp nurse.

# 46 GIRLS IN SCOUTS' CAMP AT LA PORTE

Forty-six girls have reported at Camp LaPorte for two weeks' outing, making a record enrollment for the girls' camp conducted through the cooperation of the Buttes council and Camp Fire Girls organization. The girls represent eight different communities of Yuba, Sutter and Colusa counties.

Mrs. Shirley Powers is the camp director, assisted by the following staff: Mrs. Desmond Winship, handicraft and leather work; Mrs. Gordon Harter, swimming instructor and athletic director; Miss Marild Powell, nature study and hiking; Mrs. Pearl Connarn, camp nurse; Mrs. Mildred Hall, camp clerk and storekeeper.

The girls are organized into two groups of three patrols, as follows: Group 1, Patrol 1—Meredith Winship, leader; Evelyn Burtis, Virginia Wadsforth, Helen Powell, Barbara Cope, Joan Dunagan, Vera Mognis, Helen Wernex; Patrol 2—Mary Houchins, leader; Thelma Boardman, Betty Lou Hughes, Mary Elizabeth Taylor, Ellen Staple, Peggy Power, Helen Wernex, ~~Patrol 3—Katherine Troncatty, leader; Jane Anne Smith, Louis Kimball, Alice Carroll, Louis Anderson, Janice Rudisill, Leora Brady.~~

Group 2, Patrol 1—Margaret Morrison, leader; Jane Rodolf, Maxine Morrison, Dorothy Berry, Marie O'Sullivan, Betty Troncatty, Ruth Hutchinson; Patrol 2—Freda Hurlbert, leader; Helen Coronado, Ann Schneider, Marjorie Hoffman, Marian Chandler, Helen Brander, Sidney Price, Miriam Hoffman; Patrol 3 — Frances Beatty, leader, Margaret Beatty, Patricia Beauchamp, Lucille O'Sullivan, June Morrison, Carolyn Putman, Helen Tuttle, Eleanor Larrabee, and Marjorie Yonce.

## LaPorte Camp Open For Girls' Session

All girls between the ages of 10 and 18 will have the opportunity to attend summer camp this year at Camp LaPorte, the campsite of the Boy Scouts, due to a recent decision of the Campfire Girls and camp committee of the Buttes council to include all girls regardless of whether they are members of the Camp Fire girls or not. The camp conducted last year for girls was limited to members of the various campfire groups.

Mrs. Shirley Powers will again act as camp director for the camp. The camp will open Sunday July 16 and continue to July 23 with those signing up given the opportunity to register for a second week to determine if a sufficient number desire to remain for the longer period.

Helen Hedger ←

meant "a group," and held its first meeting at the Yuba City Women's Club. This description of the election of officers comes not so much from the writer's memory as from accounts from her mother, who thought it was funny.

According to Mrs. Kenyon, there were two nominations for president, Sarah Louise Murry and Jane Kenyon. A vote was taken, which was a tie. Then Mrs. Nichols suggested that the nominators of the two candidates give nomination speeches before the next vote. Jane's nominator (probably Helen Klamt) said "I think Jane should be president because she's the smartest," while Sarah's champion (probably Marilyn Seagren) said "We should choose Sarah because she's the most popular." A second vote was taken and Sarah was elected.

Because the holidays were near, the group's first service project was to repair toys for poor children at Christmas. It was difficult to do this at the Women's Club, so some meetings were held at Mrs. Nichols' home atop the old Bow Levee on Garden Highway. This house was a bit small for such a large group, but the toys were apparently all repaired. Since no honor beads had arrived as yet, Mrs. Nichols gave each girl a little leather Christmas tree with a red spot at the top to mark completion of the project.

But Mrs. Nichols was not to remain their guardian for long. As soon as Christmas vacation was over, she broke the news to them that she was expecting a baby. They were delighted about the baby, but sorry to lose Mrs. Nichols. However, Mrs. Chandler promised to find them a new leader and she did, Nanne Yost Brown, soon to be known by them affectionately as "Nanny Goat," a young woman whose



boundless energy was more than a match for that of the girls. Nanne, a newlywed, called her husband Wilbur "Wibbie", so naturally the girls called him "Wibbie Goat". Their first activity under "Nanny Goat's" leadership was a baby shower for Mrs. Nichols.

Meanwhile, other girls in other grades at Yuba City Grammar School were envious of the fun the Unaliyi Camp Fire Girls were having, and they wanted to have groups, too. Jean Chandler, of course, was one of them, and as soon as she reached fourth grade Marie Joaquin was recruited to lead the Ahotan group. Jean's older sister Marian and her friends were organized by Anne Glidden into a group for seventh and eighth graders. In the fall of 1936, when Janie Galbraith moved from Piedmont to Yuba City, her mother, Louise (no relation to Eolie), who had been active in Camp Fire in that community, finding that the girls Janie's age were already in a group, organized one for sixth graders. So there were now four groups at Yuba City Grammar School. The guardians formed a "Guardians Association" and Mrs. Chandler and other interested Yuba City women met as a "Court of Awards" in the school cafeteria to approve the honors the girls had earned. The beads were awarded at council fires held at the Women's Club.

Camp Fire Girls did not sell candy at their yearly fund-raising sale in those days. Instead they sold doughnuts, and received doughnut-shaped awards to hang on their ceremonial gowns.

So far as any of these girls knew, there had never been any other Camp Fire groups in Yuba-Sutter. They were completely unaware of the early history of Camp Fire in this area, despite the fact that their favorite music teacher, Miss Foster, later Judy Barr,

had been a Camp Fire Girl. But they were aware that Camp Fire was growing.

The Unaliyi group participated in the chartering of a group at Tierra Buena School and another at Ella School. Apparently there were other groups forming in Marysville. Before 1936 drew to a close, there were so many groups that something more than a Guardians Association was needed and the Yuba-Sutter Council was organized, with Mrs. Chandler as first president.

The Le Wa group, with Grace Kunde as guardian, was organized the following year. One of its members was Loadel Harter, known to Camp Fire later as Loadel Piner, whose parents, Howard and Norma Harter, became active in the council. The year after that Helen Seagren organized a group made up of many of the little sisters of the Unaliyi group. There were no Blue Bird groups here at the time, although the girls were aware that there was such an organization for little sisters. Mary Brownlee had been a Blue Bird in Oregon before moving to Yuba City.

The change from a Guardians Association to a council made little impression on the girls themselves. They were too busy with their own activities. A new Camp Fire Manual was issued in 1936, with a new rank, Trail Seeker, which all the girls had to earn. They learned about Indian symbols and made headbands, at first out of leather than the out of beads. The first beads were hard to work with, since they were not made for the purpose, but finally a good source was found at Weinstocks in Sacramento, which also had Camp Fire uniforms and other items. Until then the girls had worn pleated skirts and middie blouses and looked very much like

students at Notre Dame School, except that some of them were able to locate red ties.

Nanne Brown was very interested in conservation, and arranged for her group to give a conservation program every year on Arbor Day. The program was held at the Yuba City Women's Club and the public was invited.

They also learned to cook an egg on a hot stone and tried (unsuccessfully) to cook bread on a stick at a cookout in the Hallwood riverbottoms. Finding Tierra Buena School an attractive place when they assisted in chartering a group there, they had a picnic at the school, riding their bicycles out Butte House Road.

When they became seventh graders, Mrs. Brown, not content with their holding an ordinary Fire Maker's Dinner for their families, planned a major ham dinner event at the Women's Club. None of the girls who participated will ever peel a sweet potato without remembering the endless number they peeled for that dinner.

But although the groups were growing in number, the council had no summer camp. The first year the girls attended the YMCA camp, held at that time near Gold Lake. Next they tried a camp called Everygirls Camp, which was supposed to be for both Camp Fire Girls and Girl Scouts at Butte Meadows. But they were anxious to attend a real Camp Fire camp where they could earn beads, work on their ranks and hold council fires with real fires. They learned that both the Alameda and Sacramento councils had camps at Lake Vera and soon the girls began attending either Camp Minneluta or Camp Celio, all except Janie Galbraith, who attended Camp Augusta, the Peidmont camp, also at Lake Vera.

The Unaliyi group continued through their eighth grade, losing two members when Jean Schlosser and Barbara Smith moved away but gaining a new one when Joyce Sexton moved to Yuba City from Sutter. The other girls helped Joyce earn her ranks and hold a Fire Maker's Dinner at her home on Alemar Way (a much smaller affair than the one at the Women's Club.) But when they graduated from grammar school most of the girls lost interest in Camp Fire, although they had been told that a new organization called Horizon Club had just been formed especially for their age group.

Jane Kenyon was half through her Torch Bearer rank in literature, so she elected to remain in Camp Fire when she entered high school. She received the rank the following June, at a Grand Ceremonial at Bryant Field (the council had long since outgrown the Women's Club.) She was hailed as the first Torch Bearer in the council and, technically, since the council wasn't organized until 1936, that was correct. However, unbeknownst to her and apparently to all involved at the time, there had been many other Torch Bearers in the early groups in the area.

Yuba-Sutter Camp Fire Girls, like the rest of the community, were active in the war effort, collecting cans and aluminum and baking cookies for servicemen. The older girls, not as Camp Fire Girls but simply as citizens, also helped out by working in the harvest since the men were away. It was because she had to stay home from Camp Celio to work in the harvest that Jane Kenyon was unable to earn her planned second Torchbearer rank, in Outdoor Living. The second Torchbearer in the council was Joyce Coats, a member of Mrs. Seagren's group, who earned her rank in Cooking.

There were no Torch Bearers in Social Leadership (the equivalent in those days of the WoHeLo Medallion) in Yuba-Sutter at that time. So far as is known, the first to receive that rank was Danae McDougal in 1958.

Instead of earning another rank, Jane Kenyon assisted Dorothea Graser with her Camp Fire group and, when Mrs. Graser had to give up the group, kept it together until the girls, seventh and eighth graders in 1943, had earned their Fire Maker's rank. The most prominent member of that group was Colleen Owens, destined as Colleen Iden to become a Camp Fire executive in another council.

When whole groups of girls would continue in Horizon Club, when the local council would get its own executive, and when it would get its own camp are stories that will have to be told by someone else. This writer was in college at Berkeley when these things began to happen. But she didn't leave Camp Fire behind her, for she had a delightful reunion at college with some of her closest friends at Camp Celio, whom she hadn't seen since she had to forego camp to work in the harvest.

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A History of Yuba-Sutter Camp Fire Girls

by

JUDITH BARR FAIRBANKS

Camp Fire recently celebrated it's 75th Birthday nationwide and, in 1986, it's honoring Yuba-Sutter's Camp Fire Council's 50th Anniversary and the 35th Birthday of our own Camp Mi Wa Hi.

The very name "Camp Fire" brings to mind an outdoor life of hiking, cooking and nature study in a piney forest beside a bubbling brook with evening songs around a bonfire. This kind of group camping experience was an integral part of the Camp Fire Girls' association founded nationally by Dr. & Mrs. Luther Halsey Gulick in 1910. Yuba-Sutter's first Camp Fire was chartered in 1916. It was called Copa de Oro and had eleven members under the guardianship of Miss Elizabeth G. Sanborn. In 1918 several groups began. One had Ruth Harter as guardian. Another group, called Ta Ta Ponchon, was chartered with Eolie Galbraith (Dinsdale) as guardian. It's charter members were Reta Galbraith, Myrl Gage, Vera and Florence Looze, and Rita Masten. Other members included Gertrude Krull (Simmons), Lorina Nunes, Ada Lueth (Weber), Florence Lueth (Hill), Jeanette Galbraith (Tarke), Mada Harris, Bernice Snow, Katherine Bryan,

Lorraine Erickson (Clark), Gertrude Crowe, Dorothy Emery, Mary Stacia Peppard, Minnie Gilmore Smith, Frances E. Morse, Imra Tipton, Helen Tipton, Margaret Morse, Olive Reamy (Hickman), Elizabeth Klier, Mabel Henson (Bailey), Gertrude Stone, Thelma Clare (Boysen), Inez Gage (Warner), Lillian Stone, Nevella Sugg, Mary Elsa Harris (McNabb), Liane Edna Vivion (Weber), Nellie Wisner, Alice McFarland (Perry), and Margaret Harris (Welter).

Ta Ta Ponchon lasted seven years and helped start the tradition of summer camping for local Camp Fire groups that has continued to this day. One of the early members of Ta TA Ponchon, Ada Lueth Weber, is still residing in Sutter County. She recalls her summer camping experiences with this group. This members and their gear traveled by hay wagon from Yuba City to Chester, where they camped on property owned by a relative of one of the girls. They stayed in a meadow where all slept and prepared meals out-of-doors. Camp attire was similar to the outfits worn by the girls for gym classes - a white middy blouse, dark blue bloomers pleated at the waist and gathered below the knee to look like a skirt, and a red tie. Mrs. Weber says that they did lots of hiking and outdoor cooking. They had evening camp fires and wore their ceremonial gowns. She remembers the camping as lasting two weeks.

During the 1930's Caroline Schnabel Powers Ringler organized summer camping for local Camp Fire girls that went beyond each individual group's outings. Through the efforts of Randolph H. Skinner, a members of the local Buttes Area Boy

Scout Council, Camp Fire girls were allowed to use the Boy Scout Camp at La Porte. There the local girls were able to experience all the wonderful activities of traditional camp life.

Over the next dozen years, Yuba-Sutter Camp Fire Girls attended summer camp at various locations including Everygirls Camp in Butte Meadows. This camp was shared with Butte County's Recreation Department, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire groups.

In 1944 the local Camp Fire Council and the Guardian's Association under Julia Reynolds, president, formed a camp committee to look into the possibility of Yuba-Sutter Camp Fire girls having their own summer camp again. This committee consisted of Cecil Jane Roche, Poppy Stewart and Betty Tarke. They made arrangements to return to the La Porte Boy Scout Camp for a summer session in 1945.

Elizabeth Tice (on leave from the Portland, Oregon Camp Fire Council to be with her husband, stationed at Camp Beale) was the Camp Director. She was assisted by Mrs. Roche, who had directed Tulare's Girl Scout camping for thirteen years. Julia Reynolds served as camp nurse. Johnny and Marie Savage, the Boy Scout camp cooks, also cooked for the girls. A camp brochure from that year lists a ten dollar camp fee with a two dollar transportation charge, plus one red and one blue ration stamps. The theme for the one week session in July was "Westward Ho." A banquet and council fire climaxed the session. Toasts were given to all who helped and five girls kindled the ceremonial fire -



Mildred Dahlen, Kathleen Eich, Kathryn Harter, Loadel Harter and Barbara Jean Stewart. John Palmer, Marysville Grammar school principal, was special guest for the banquet.

In the fall of 1945, the Council hired Mrs. Marguerite Awes from San Diego Council as it's first Executive Director. The following summer, 1946, Mrs. Awes directed the Camp Fire Camp, again using the La Porte site. Mrs. Roche continued as the assistant. Local girls serving as counselors included Loadel Harter (Piner), Janet Frye (Lonon), Kathryn Harter, Jeanne Chandler, Dorette Sparks and Jackie Parker.

Mrs. Awes also gave the Yuba-Sutter Camp Fire Girls Camp a name, Me Wa Hi, to be used wherever the Council camped. Me Wa Hi is an Indian name meaning "in the water by the hills", it is still our Council's camp name forty years later.

The 1947 camping season was divided into two sessions: 2 weeks at the 4-H Camp at Dobbins and 2 weeks at Camp Celio (Alameda Council's camp) at Lake Vera near Nevada City.

The 1947 brochure lists a \$16.25 weekly camp fee, plus round trip bus fare of \$1.50. The first session was entitled "Gold Rush Days". The second session was "Ghost Town Memories". The brochure also states that "each session ends with a traditional Ceremonial and all ranks and honors will be awarded campers." A non-denominational Sunday service (in "whites" at Celio), a birthday candle lighting, and a theme costume banquet were also held each session. The camp committee consisted of

Howard Harter, Glenn Johnson, Wesley Chipman and Harold Sperbeck, with Imre Jelinfy, chairman. Richard Fuidge was Council president.

After another season at Dobbins and Celio in 1948, in 1949 Sacramento's Camp Fire Council invited Yuba-Sutter girls to join them for a two week session at their Camp Minaluta, also located on Lake Vera. A look at the 1949 Minaluta staff roster listed the following local residents: Mrs. Margie Awes, Assistant Camp Director; Mrs. Cecil Roche, Nature Leader; Mrs. Wilma Gallagher, Joy Carlile and Loadel Harter, counselors; Jean Reynolds and Ethel Shelby, apprentices.

For several years the Yuba-Sutter Council had been pursuing the concept of a permanent, locally owned Camp Fire Camp. This idea had become a motivating factor behind the annual Camp Fire doughnut sales in the late 1940's.

In 1949, the Council appointed a committee to review and choose a permanent camp site from among three being considered. Two sites on or near Lake Vera (Gold Hollow and Alpha Site) were rejected in favor of 16 acres in Sierra County above Sierra City. Mr. Delaney of the Forest Service recommended the final north slope site in Tahoe National Forest between Lincoln and Oregon Creeks because it was "free of poison oak and snakes." The initial lease was for 75 dollars a year.

The Council had six thousand dollars in their treasury, but did not want to withdraw it all at one time from the

community. So non-interest-bearing notes were issued and paid off each year; some note holders just marked them "paid" as a donation. The local Soroptimist Club started the camp building fund with a gift of 500 dollars. Work began with Jack Liles and two helpers were hired to bring expert knowledge to volunteer crews that would get the building done. The volunteers were recruited from the Camp Fire girls' families, plus local people with special skills.

The 1949-50 camp committee that undertook building a permanent Camp Me Wa Hi included the perviously named site committee and these members: Leroy Parker, Ray hunter, Ed Von Geldern, Ray Chandler, Dr. William Taylor, George Herr, Roy Stilwell, Marion Bew, Joe Worsham, Bill Dawson, Don Atterbury, Mrs. Irving (Carol) Everett, Merle House, Allan Ryan, Gerald Taylor, Leroy Eastman, Dewey Dotson, Maurice Fox, Jim Watson, Tom Sperbeck, Don Jones, James B. Kelley and Frank Van Cleve.

In late 1949 Yuba-Sutter Council lost Mrs. Awes when she left to head Denver's Camp Fire Office. She was replaced by Miss Priscilla (Skipper) D'Onofrio from Humboldt County's Eureka Council.

At the campsite "Work Weekends" were held regularly, weather permitting. Footing for the main lodge were hand dug with shovels, and water for the first batches of cement was carried uphill from the creek. Men and women worked together. All of these volunteers provided their own food, and women

cooked it over campfires at the end of a hard day's work - true pioneer spirit!

Despite all of these efforts, the camp was not ready for the summer of 1950. So Skipper directed camp at another rented site, the Y.M.C.A. Camp at Emigrant Gap. Mrs. Roche again assisted.

In 1951 a crew from Camp Beale under the command of Major Snyder dynamited and built a road into camp from Highway 49. The water system became a reality thanks to the local Lion's Club's hard work. The only payment these groups requested were their meals!

George Herr wa the master plumber who oversaw Me Wa Hi's extensive plumbing system. His efforts were aided by the fully equipped Booth Plumbing Truck, courtesy of Frank Booth.

Electrician Frank Van Cleve was Me Wa Hi's "lineman". A cup of coffee and a meal kept him going, and the wiring always passed inspection. He was also the official camp "baggage man" for years; each Friday night or Saturday he drove his truck up from the Marysville Camp Fire office to Me Wa Hi with incoming campers' luggage and supplies. The he returned to the Valley Sunday night with the departing camper's gear.

Four women, Dolly Liles, Lillian Beymer, Doris and Dorette Sparks, cut and put up all the siding on the utility house!

In the summer of 1951, a permanent Camp Me Wa Hi opened

with a lodge to serve as office, kitchen and dining area; a walled-in utility house; and five areas set aside for units of campers. "Skipper" D'Onofrio directed that first season with "Miss Cecil" Roche as Assistant Director and Nature Leader. Marge Fulton and Ada Nelson were the cooks; they worked without pay using a hand-me-down stove!

The girls lived in their units according to age group. These first campers and counselors had the honor of naming each of their units. "Sunny Slope", "Hidden Valley", "Creepy Hollow", "Valley of the Giants", and "Green Cathedral" were the names chosen and reflected a camp landmark within each area.

That summer the infirmary was a tent, the utility house had no roof, everyone slept outdoors, and Sunday chapel was near the top of the council hill in the hot sun. The campers had to be driven over to Sand Lake for swimming once a week. "Miss Cecil" and "Miss Lil" Beymer were the Garbage Girls and Boiler Tenders. Each camper returning from a hike brought a chunk of wood to keep the old boiler stoked and camp's water hot. Bears carried off a great amount of garbage, but left the Garbage Girls!

Theme Weeks, Birthday Nights, Weekly Cook-Outs, Daily Songfests, Skit Night and a closing Grand Ceremonial (with toasts for departing staff, honors for campers, and the "Call of the Camp Fire") may have been used at other sites, but they were ritualized at Me Wa Hi that year!

Following the three week-long sessions, the Woodland Boy Scouts used Me Wa Hi and helped clear more areas including the Council Fire area. In the fall volunteers stored supplies, closed the lodge, and left Me Wa Hi feeling that camp was set to move forward. It was a good beginning!

However, "Mother Nature" had a very unpleasant surprise awaiting. The snows of the next winter, 1951-1952, were record breaking! As the accompanying article shows, the newly built Me Wa Hi lodge collapsed.

But, once again, the committee rallied. Many volunteers worked to clear the building of items stored, salvage enough lumber to build a kitchen pavillion, and began general repairs. Associated Trucking hauled supplies and Howard Harter of Harter Cannery provided canvas tarps to cover the roofless lodge's kitchen and dining areas.

"Miss Cecil" Roche directed the 1952 camping season and was appointed the Yuba-Sutter Council's Executive Director in September. (Miss D'Onofrio resigned to marry Bill Wood, son of Mr. & Mrs. Wilson Wood of District 10). Mrs. Roche remained in the dual role of Executive Director/Camp Director for the next thirteen years.

In 1953 Me Wa Hi campers began Memory Lane, a rock-edged trail leading from the Dining Hall to the top of Council Hill. Each rock bore the camper or counselor's name and year(s) of attendance.

Also, in 1953, San Zall (with help of friends such as the late Jack Sullivan & Charles Mathews, Sr.) began a drive to build a large camp pool so the girls could remain at Me Wa Hi for swimming. After a successful fundraising effort, the pool was built and named for the late Julius Wheeler, a local businessman instrumental in obtaining it.

In 1954, local volunteers such as George Herr & Fred Miles added a pool heater. Volunteer crews also finished the larger, stronger lodge that replaced the one lost in the 1951-52 heavy snow. It housed the kitchen, dining area, dish room, pantry, office, & counselor's retreat.

Over the years, dedicated volunteers (often using donated supplies or ones purchased with money raised by local Camp Fire candy sales) built a utility house roof, tent platforms in each unit, a stone fireplace in the lodge, a refrigerated walk-in-box, additional bathrooms, a separate office/infirmery building, "Cookies Castle", a Recreation Hall, a Handyman's House, a water dam, a Council Hill stage, a Nature Nook, and fireplaces in each unit. These volunteers also sealed in rooms, rebuilt the sewer system as it was needed, and annually opened and closed camp.

Among the hard-working volunteers who added to Me Wa Hi between the years of 1951 and 1965 were Fred & Janet Miles, Corky and Doris Triplett, George & Sally Herr, Benny Keech, Gordon and Dorothy Martin, Jim Fultz, Darrel McWhirk, Bert

Miles, Howard Harter, Sam Smith, Don Miles, Al & Rita Hawkins, Leroy Bennett, John Peterson, Art Rudd, Bill Dawson, Vi Keech Brown, David Imler, Wilbur Brown, Merle Collins, Anita McWhirk, and Maurice and Margaret Fox. Also invaluable were the Marysville Camp Fire Office secretaries who helped co-ordinate camp for years and often volunteered themselves) Irene Bremmer and Evelyn Briggs.

The Harter Cannery provided yearly camp desserts in the form of canned cling peaches. Mr. & Mrs. Ray Chandler always sent fresh Santa Rosa plums for each session's campers and a staff. Other Yuba-Sutter families provided fresh produce such as pears, tomatoes and melons.

In the late 1950's the Army at Camp Beale gave away surplus supplies. The late Lillian Beymer and Corky Triplett helped Camp Fire obtain thousands of dollars worth of these surplus items including cots, blankets, shovels, canteens, mattresses, tables, kitchen equipment and tents.

The nurses at Camp Me Wa Hi have always been a dedicated group. Without pay and always on duty, they've guarded the camp's health and safety. Several who returned for many sessions included Marie Kaiser, the late Poppy Stewart, Dorothy Martin, June Wallace and ten-year veteran Monteze Hamilton.

Me Wa Hi handymen have also been extra-special. Two who remain very memorable were "Uncle Willie" and Rufus Bond. Uncle Willie came to us in 1952, the year of the big snow. He was the



uncle of the late Frances McDougal, long active in Camp Fire. His able hands, cheerful disposition, and willingness to work made him a beloved part of Me Wa Hi in the three short years that camp was blessed with him. His memory lives on at Me Wa Hi in the large stone fountain dedicated to him.

Rufus Bond and his wife, Jean, of Brownsville served as a handyman-cook duo at camp for several years in the 1950's and 60's. They were surrogate parents for many teenage counselors who they "raised" summers at Me Wa Hi along with their daughter and son, Liz and Chuck. Rufus would calmly do any job, and special treat was riding (or driving) with him in the camp jeep-especially to the dump! Rufus was also renown for his fishing and his fiddling!

In 1957 a permanent outdoor chapel with seating for all was finished. This chapel was a community memorial dedicated to Gerald Roche, "Miss Cecil's" husband, who had passed away in 1956. The altar was built from native stone, and the cross was formed from the heart of a Me Wa Hi cedar tree. At the entrance is a statue of St. FRancis of Assisi, the patron saint of birds, animals and children. Central to the chapel is the set of cement plaques (designed and moulded by Margaret Fox) depicting the Jewish, Buddist, Confusian, Hindu and Native American religions. The chapel is a place for all campers and their beliefs.

Upon Miss Cecil's retirement as camp director at the

close of the 1965 season, the main lodge/dining room at Me Wa Hi was officially named Cecil Roche Hall. Many former campers and staff returned to camp for that final 1965 Grand Ceremonial (when she received her 21 year Camp Me Wa Hi patch) and to witness the dedication ceremony the next day.

Miss Cecil showed how a good camp could be run as a true community endeavor, staffed with Yuba-Sutter residents, and built and maintained by dedicated local Council volunteers. Under her leadership Camp Me Wa Hi went from three to six weekly sessions, always filled. In 1960, at Camp Fire's 50th Birthday Meeting in New York, the national Camp Fire Camping Director (who had visited Camp Me Wa Hi the previous summer) stated that delegates who wanted to know how to run a good camp should see Mrs. Roche of California's Yuba-Sutter Council. Camp Me Wa Hi was the kind of camping experience the Gulicks envisioned when they began Camp Fire.

Today Camp Me Wa Hi continues at the same site. 1986 marks it's 35th years of outdoor living services to youth. It is still locally controlled with community volunteers who staff and maintain it. The biggest change has been the addition of boys to all of Camp Fire's programs, including camp. In 1985 a protege of Miss Cecil's, Jane Ramsaur, returned as it's director-and the wonderful experiences of hiking, swimming,

songfests and nature study go on for another generation. Each year new rocks are added to Memory Lane, thanks to all those who went before!

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(This history was compiled with the help of Cecil Roche, Ada Weber, Julia Reynolds, Loadel Piner, Caroline Ringler and Evelyn Briggs.)

April 6, 1967

Dear Mrs. Roche;

Ever since our conversation at the Powell's on March 25th. I have been reminiscing about the years I was guardian of the "Lewa" group of Camp Fire Girls, which grew to such proportions (24 girls) that Mrs. Verne Fogarty volunteered to help as an assistant guardian. We did so many interesting things and with so little dissension, that it was a joy to guide them and see them develop into personable young ladies.

Among the many projects we had, the "Marionettes" was the most interesting.

It was started shortly after the group's inception, five girls were chosen, (the only five who joined in a parade when all Camp Fire Girls were asked to march).

I took them to the Golden Gate International Exhibition on Treasure Island in 1939, we attended every Marionette show on the Island, all the performers were especially nice to the girls, they took them behind the scenes and explained to them the intricate manipulation of the strings.

From the proceeds of a candy sale, we had a miniature stage made, complete with curtain and foot-lights.

I bought the marionette kits and the girls put them together, dressed them and became very proficient in manipulating them.

We put on several shows for the school children, which were all enthusiastically received, but our crowning glory came when the P.G. & E. asked that we put on the show at their annual Christmas party, for which they paid us \$25.00.

Of course I could go on ad infinitum, but you only asked for one particular project, and this, to me, was the most memorable one.

Sincerely Yours,

*Grove Kunde*

## CAMP VIGNETTES

By

LOADEL HARTER PINER AND JUDY BARR FAIRBANKS

- Singing camp songs such as "Sarasponda", "Witchcraft" and "Call of the Fire" and teaching them to newcomers.
- The Jr. Counselors playing "Hearts" at La Porte and "Canasta" at Me Wa Hi (Miss Cecil played a "wicked" hand - she always caught opponents except when she sat before the mirror) - What card games do they play now?
- Ironing staff "whites" on Saturday night for Sunday chapel. A flat-iron heated on a wood stove was used at La Porte-a temperamental electric iron scorched them at Me Wa Hi.
- Bill Wood (who later became Executive Director Priscilla D'Onofrio's husband) was the only Boy Scout left at La Porte in 1946 for Camp Fire's camp. He was the 16 year old kitchen assistant and mail boy.
- Me Wa Hi's wringer-type washing machine for staff use that ate Kay Wilbur Bigelow's arm.
- Junior counselor/Senior Staff volleyball games at Me Wa Hi.
- Barbara Bremer's inside-out sweatshirts.
- The Me Wa Hi buglers such as Casey Bosko, Karol Rhodes, Kay Wilbur, Jane Ramsauer, Arlene Kaiser and Janet Newman. A new generation does it now!
- Miss Cecil's wonderful assistant directors such as Bee Brandt, Doris Triplett, Betty Coats, Lois Aaberg, Bess Harmon, Jane Ramsaur and Janet Newman.
- The hard-working Dining Room Hostesses who returned yearly to Me Wa Hi such as Maureen Kelley, Katie Dusenberry, Thelma Taylor and Kathryn Newman.
- The tears after "Taps" when it is the last Ceremonial Fire of the season and you will have to wait another year for camp!
- Campers in middies and bloomers at Chester to T-shirts and jeans at Me Wa Hi, all enjoying the joys of Camp Fire.

- Press Ann Williams leading a songfest.
- Claire "Miss Clarabelle" Bremer and her unit hiking back to Me Wa Hi when caught in a summer snowstorm on an overnight at Lake Coburn.
- Saturday Night Serenades that ended by the office with "Peace I Ask Of Thee O' River- and their echoes.
- The Live Oak counselors like Sally Madsen & Helen Heenan.
- Melba Pappageorge and Cleo Gust in their Greek costumes.
- The "toasts", funny or serious, at Ceremonial Fire.
- The good food at Me Wa Hi thanks to all the great cooks and the typically bad institutional food at Everygirls Camp.
- The camp duo's (often sisters) such as Dale & Casey Bosko, Judy & Pat Brandt, Joan & Jan Carnahan, Claire & Barbara Bremer, Janice & Jeanie Triplett, Saundra & Cynthia Wider, The Herr sisters, The Belz sister, The Barr sisters, Dru & Virginia Boyd, Loadel & Kathryn Harter, Betty Starr & Robin Coats, Barbara & Beverly Igo, Joanne & Elinor Hoon, etc., etc., etc.
- "Skunk Hollow".
- Blisters from hiking boots, cold sleeping bags (was La Porte or Me Wa Hi colder?), burned marshmallows, hot chocolate, apple sauce and gingerbread, mail call, camp patches, ground squirrels.
- The Lollipop Tree for Sunny Slopers.
- "Gypsy Camp" training for counselors with Carol Everett - we never worked so hard!
- The smell of the evergreens, the sound of rippling water.
- Charlotte Stewart "Miss Beadle" of "Little House on the Prairie" t.v. fame staying in Valley of the Giants in 1953.
- Former camper, Virginia Belz sending her daughter from France to Me Wa Hi in 1984.
- The generations of campers and counselors whose daughters and granddaughters keep coming.

# Winter Snows Damage Camp Fire Girls Camp

The heavy winter snow storms in Sierra county have battered the year-old building of the Yuba-Sutter Camp Fire Girls summer camp to the ground, council officials have discovered after traversing snow-clogged roads into the camp site.

But the collapse of the camp's central building will not stop the staging of camp this year, Mrs. Cecil Roche, camp director, averred today.

The heavy snows caused the building used as a kitchen and central headquarters to collapse during the winter.

The camp site, leased from the federal government, is in Tahoe National forest on Lincoln creek above Sierra City in Sierra county.

The Camp Fire Girls camp was started two years ago, but the central building was not ready for use until last year when 250 girls attended camp.

At a meeting this week council officials decided to go ahead with camp plans for this year although the camp will probably not start until a week later than scheduled.

Meanwhile, volunteers are being sought to put the camp back in shape. Mrs. Roche and her assistant, Mrs. Roger McGinnis, are planning to lead the volunteers in the Sierra snows on week ends starting June 14 to rebuild the central headquarters.

### NEW KITCHEN

It is believed that enough material can be salvaged to erect an open pavilion type structure that can be used as a kitchen. Tents will be used as in the past for sleeping quarters and a dining tent will be erected where the girls can eat.

By working weekends until mid-July, the council expects to have the camp ready for opening on July 27. There will be a counsellor session at the camp site from July 23 to July 27. The first camping period will be from July 27 to Aug. 3; the second from Aug. 3 to 10, and the third from Aug. 10 to 17.

Although sponsored by the Camp Fire Girls attendance at the camp is not restricted to Camp Fire Girls.

Meanwhile volunteers to assist the council in rebuilding the camp-site pavilion can join the building group by contacting the Camp Fire headquarters at 11th and I Sts.

### NEED HELPERS

"We need men who are skilled in building or can lend their muscles to this project," Mrs. Roche said today. "This is a community project, and if the men want to help the young girls they'll have to pitch in. We won't be able to have

a camp this year without their assistance."

The original camp building was built mostly with volunteer help.

It was one of score of buildings in the Sierra that collapsed under the record snowfall of last winter.

Friday, June 19, 1936

## CAMP FIRE UNIT TO SPONSOR USE OF MAY BEQUEST

An association of sponsors for the Camp Fire Girls organization was formed Thursday evening in order to revive on a large scale the activities on behalf of young girls of Yuba City and Marysville. Mrs. Harold Moore of Yuba City is president of the sponsors' association, and Miss Louise Freeland of Marysville is vice-president. Horace E. Thomas of Marysville is secretary and Hilliard Welch of Marysville treasurer.

These officers and Mrs. Ray Chandler, Pedro Osuna and Mrs. Frances Wisner form the executive committee.

Under the terms of the will of the late B. F. May, now in course of probate, the Camp Fire Girls of the two cities were left a bequest of \$1000 to finance activities in their behalf. There was no official organization to which the money could be paid, so the association of sponsors has been formed. The court can now order the money paid to this organization and the estate can be closed.

Mrs. B. M. Ayerigg of Marysville is leader of the Camp Fire Girls in Marysville and Mrs. John Nichols holds a similar position in Yuba City. The Yuba City group will resume activities in July, while the Marysville group will get under headway in September, with meetings in Guild hall each Tuesday.

The sponsoring association will supervise and administer.

In addition to the officers and executive committee, the following complete the sponsor list: C. F. Aaron, F. H. Bartlett, A. A. McMullen, Mrs. Florenz Forderhase, Mrs. Arthur Coats, Mrs. Carey Taylor, Dr. F. P. Wisner, John H. Fuller, Mrs. A. A. McMullen, Desmond Winship, Chester Winship, Henry Zwanck, Dewey Culp, Alvin Wels, Martin Sullivan, Dr. T. L. Nelson, C. V. Biggs and A. W. Gluckman.

## 1958 CFG Founded 48 Years Ago, Is Strong Here

Camp Fire Girls are celebrating their 48th birthday today. Founded in 1910 by Dr. and Mrs. Luther Halsey Gulick and others, Camp Fire today includes 480,000 members in 3,000 communities throughout the country.

"During the past 48 years, more than 4,000,000 girls have shared in its program emphasizing home and family life, according to Harold Edwards of District 10, president of the Yuba-Sutter Council of CFG.

The Yuba-Sutter council has a membership of 1914. It was first chartered here in 1936, and provides a program for girls 7 to 18 years of age.

This year, in keeping with the national theme, "Meet the People," members have made a photographic study of Yuba and Sutter Counties designed to introduce the areas to a contemporary group of young people overseas, Edwards said. Pictorial results of the study are being prepared now for exhibit locally before being sent abroad.

Girls here "have made many wonderful new friends through their efforts to know their community, and also to share with others the pleasure and sense of purpose they derive from the Camp Fire program," Edwards said.

Such a program requires many hours of volunteer preparation, guidance and help from adults, Edwards pointed out. Women who serve as leaders and both men and women who are sponsors and council and committee members "are giving immeasurable service to the Yuba-Sutter Council—and they are 'meeting the people' who will be tomorrow's citizens." More volunteers are needed each day to help Camp Fire provide its program for the growing numbers of girls who wish to belong, he explained.

Camp Fire serves three age groups: Blue Birds, 7 to 10-year-old members, enjoy games, group activities and responsibilities that are especially suited to their taste and age; Camp Fire Girls 10 to 15-year-olds, give expression to their individual interests and talents through a program based on the seven crafts—home-making, creative arts, outdoors, frontiers (of science), business, sports and games and citizenship; Horizon Club Girls, who are 15 to 18 years old or in senior high school, take a further step in preparing for their future roles as homemakers, career women and responsible citizens through a program of service projects, vocational explorations and social events.

Of the 1914 individuals enrolled in Camp Fire in the local council, 819 are Blue Birds in 72 groups; 507 are Camp Fire Girls in 55 groups; 78 are Horizon Girls in two groups; 212 are leaders and 298 are executive board and committee members. Mrs. Cecil Jane Roche is executive director and Mrs. Roger Edgar is office secretary at council headquarters, Eleventh and J Sts., Marysville.