

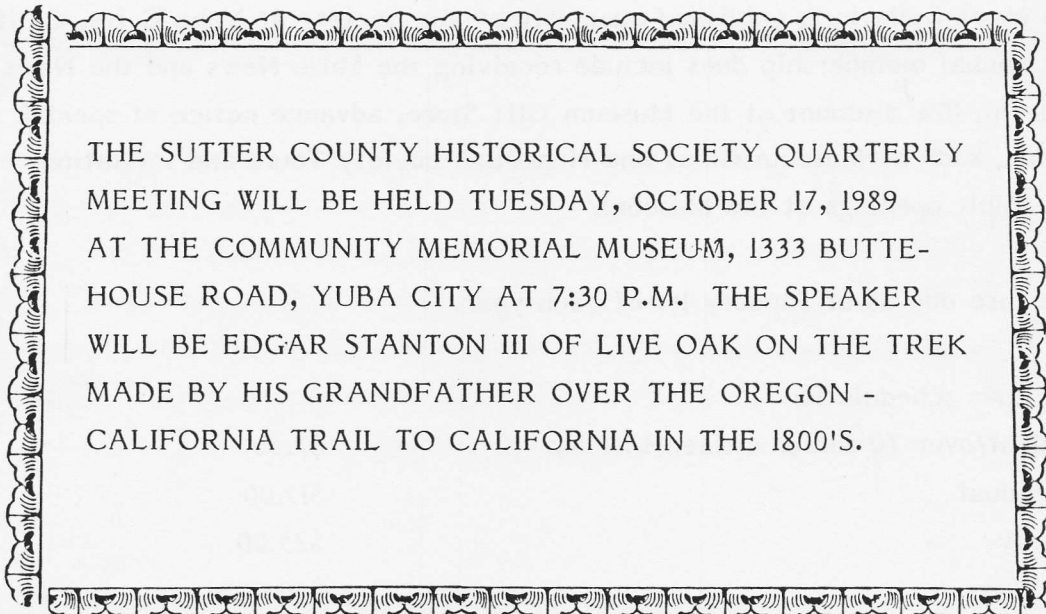
# SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. XXX No. 4

Yuba City, California

Oct. 1989



THE SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY MEETING WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1989 AT THE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM, 1333 BUTTEHOUSE ROAD, YUBA CITY AT 7:30 P.M. THE SPEAKER WILL BE EDGAR STANTON III OF LIVE OAK ON THE TREK MADE BY HIS GRANDFATHER OVER THE OREGON - CALIFORNIA TRAIL TO CALIFORNIA IN THE 1800'S.

# SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWS BULLETIN

### OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Albert King, President

Constance Cary, Secretary

Elaine Tarke, Vice President

Wanda Rankin, Treasurer

### DIRECTORS

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Ronald Ross

Constance Cary

Fred Covell

Brock Bowen

Cassius Epperson

Elaine Tarke

Albert King

Randolph Schnabel

Edgar Stanton

Dewert Gruening

The News Bulletin is published quarterly by the Society at Yuba City, California. The annual membership dues include receiving the Muse News and the News Bulletin, 10% discount at the Museum Gift Store, advance notice of special events, such as Museum Galas and Historical Society Tours and invitations to exhibit openings at the Museum.

Dues are due as of January 1st of each year.

The dues schedule is:

Student/over 70 senior citizen/Library	\$7.50
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00
Business	\$50.00
Sponsor	\$100.00
Corporate/Benefactor	\$1,000.00

An index and file of all the past issues of the Bulletin may be found in the Sutter County Library and at Community Memorial Museum.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I promised in the last Bulletin, here are the results of the questionnaire you were asked to return.

Of the 300 Bulletins mailed 14 were returned, which represents about 5%. Obviously the number of responses was too insignificant to be meaningful. Several ideas were presented and your Board will be pursuing them but our basic problems of by-laws, finance and membership are our first priority.

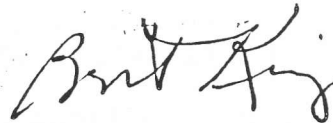
By-laws - Brock Bowen will be recommending some changes to the membership.

Finance - Bert King is negotiating with the Museum Commission for a more equitable split of membership revenues.

Membership - This problem has been delayed until the next Board meeting which will be Tuesday Oct. 3, 1989 too late to get the results printed for this Bulletin.

Preliminary reports will be made at our regular meeting on Tuesday Oct. 17, 1989.

Randy Schnabel has made arrangements for an interesting program for our October general meeting. I hope to see many of you there.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bert King".

## Director's Report

Opening September 30 at the Museum is a very special exhibit: "J.J. Reilly : A Stereoscopic Odyssey". The exhibit is special for several reasons. First, it a wonderful compilation of approximately 100 stereo images of Niagara Falls, Yosemite, San Francisco, the Farrallone Islands, Marysville and places in between. All of the images represent the excellent quality that J. J. Reilly took pride in creating and all were taken between 1860 and 1890. Second, the exhibit is about a man who was truly a pioneer in the art of photography. He opened the first studio in the Yosemite Valley and there he worked to improve on the technique and artistry necessary to take stereo views. We think that 3-D was an invention of the 1950s, but a form of 3-D was being practiced long before in the rugged beauty of the early America landscape. Third, this exhibit marks a local contribution to the international celebration of the 150th anniversary of the invention of photography. And finally, and in some ways most importantly, this exhibit marks the first of what we hope will be a long lasting connection with Longs Drug Stores Marysville/Yuba City. Longs is sponsoring the exhibit and the accompanying exhibit catalog. Without the people at Longs it would not have been possible to create the Reilly exhibit or the high-quality catalog.

"J.J. Reilly : A Stereoscopic Odyssey" will be at the Museum through December 2. The accompanying catalog is a limited edition and features a 22 page portfolio of Reilly's work. The catalog is available at the Museum and at the photo counter at Longs in Marysville. All proceeds benefit the Museum.

In the holiday rush, please don't forget all of the festivities at the Museum. The Trees and Traditions Christmas Gala will be Saturday, December 9 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets will be available at the Museum or from a Commission member starting in mid-October. This event always sells out quickly so be sure and get your tickets early.

After Trees and Traditions a special exhibit from Grey Lodge will be at the Museum for the remainder of the month. This is an opportunity to learn about California's Wetlands and to find out more about the programs that Grey Lodge offers. The "natural history" aspect of the Grey Lodge exhibit will go nicely with the theme of this year's Museum Christmas tree which is "California Christmas" featuring decorations celebrating the natural bounty of California.

On Monday, December 18 the Museum will hold its annual Christmas Open House. Open House is a special invitation to the community to visit the Museum and enjoy the festive holiday decor. As in the past, refreshments will be served and the gift store will be open for holiday shopping. This year the special children's program will be presented by the rangers from Grey Lodge.

*Jackie Lowe*



# DONATIONS TO THE TRUST AND AG. BUILDING FUND

M/M Randolph E. Schnabel	In memory of Clarke Powers
Mrs. Myrtle Newcomb	In memory of Elizabeth Cothrin
Walt & Celia Ettl	In memory of Mrs. Marion Fruchtenicht
Luella & Kathleen Briick	In memory of Elizabeth Ford Cothrin
Bert & Shirley King	In memory of Hanlon Brown
Dale & Alma Burtis	In memory of Hanlon Brown
Bert & Shirley King	In memory of Doris Lynch
M/M Randolph A. Schnabel	In memory of George Gunderson
M/M R. A. Schnabel	In memory of Hanlon Brown
M/M Edgar W. Stanton III	In memory of Mr. George Gunderson
Wanda Rankin	In memory of John N. MacArthur
Connie Cary	In memory of Jesse L. Carr
M/M R. A. Schnabel	In memory of Mrs. Mae Karnegas
George E. Steinmetz	In memory of John N. MacArthur
Jack & Helen Heenan	In memory of Elsie Putman
M/M Louie Schmidl	In memory of Elsie Putman
M/M Lawrence Harris	In memory of Mary Riparetti
Connie Cary	In memory of Marie Olson
Connie Cary	In memory of Lois Yacklich
Jack & Helen Heenan	In memory of Peter Jelavich
Zelma Corbin	In memory of Jack Carpenter
Janice Burroughs	In memory of Jack Carpenter
Joe & Ellie McCarron	In memory of Peter Jelavich
Anna Ulmer, Albert & Mary Ulmer & Helen Brierly	In memory of Lewis "Lou" Philpott
Jim & Alberta Gilpatric	In memory of Elwyn E. Watkins
Mary H. Amarel	In memory of Kathleen Potter
Harry & Lorraine Pappas	In memory of Kathleen Potter
Vivian & Ken Calhoun	In memory of Elwyn Watkins
Ivadel Simmons	In memory of Hanlon Brown
Harry & Bernice Wilson	In memory of Hanlon Brown
Roy & Stella Anderson	In memory of Hanlon Brown
Walter & Jane Ullrey	In memory of Hanlon Brown
Pat Del Pero	In memory of Mrs. Wm. Lynch
Bruce & Gini Harter	In memory of Jessie L. Carr
Helen Gross	In memory of Kathleen Potter
Janet Heisch	In memory of Kathleen Potter

Norman & Loadel Piner  
Stella Lyons & Jeannette Van Zant  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kells  
Lloyd & Helen Frye  
Mrs. Ann Dietrich & Joe  
Eleanor Holmes & Family  
Eleanor Holmes  
Daniel L. Hewitt  
Eleanor Holmes  
Bruce & Gini Harter  
Frank & Joyce Carleton  
  
Donald & Leila Gillett  
Jeanette McNally  
Bruce & Gini Harter  
Bruce & Gini Harter

In memory of Kathleen Potter  
In memory of Katy Potter  
In memory of Kathleen Potter  
In memory of Elsie Putman  
In memory of Tom Debolt  
In memory of Wally Montna  
In memory of Dr. John Stonkus  
In memory of Wallace E. Montna  
In memory of Peter Jelavich  
In memory of Peter Jelavich  
In honor of the 55th wedding anniversary of  
Burwell & Loretta Ullrey  
In memory of Nancy Duranceau  
In memory of Wallace Montna  
In memory of Mervin M. Lauer  
In memory of Delle Fuglaar Teja

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

This issue of the Bulletin is a reprint of an article printed in Jan. 1958 that I feel you will find interesting even if you have read it before. I felt it worth repeating for the benefit of our readership who were not members in 1958.

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## PANEL DISCUSSION

### Participants:

Randolph Schnabel - Master of Ceremonies

Bert Ullrey

Arthur Coats

Frank Bremer

Eugene Boyd

Hugh Moncur

Edward von Geldern

Sam Brannan started a typical real estate development, typical to the United States, typical to our own west, or Florida. In our discussion this evening there will be several points which will be brought up. We can't bring up everything because time would not allow. When we do bring up a point, five, six or seven different places along the line of interest to some and to all in general, feel free to put your two-bits worth in too. We would like to get all this recorded because this is one way we collect history. Some of the subjects we would like to bring up are: The Farmer Cooperative Union of Sutter County; The Flood of 1907; The Northern Electric; The Fire of 1907; that must have been an eventful year.

These gentlemen have kindly condescended to help us in this discussion but please feel free to hold up your "mitt" and be called on. Mr. Boyd, I believe the Farmer's Cooperative Union of Sutter County has something to do with a name that you carry from years gone by.

Boyd: I don't know of any name. Eventually the name of Boyd became enmeshed in the banking business here. C.R. Boyd was manager. They got their by-laws in 1873 then in 1912 the First National Bank was organized from the Farmer's Cooperative Union. Then in 1927 Bank of America bought it. C.R. Boyd was Assistant Cashier, Cashier then President.

Schnabel: C. R. Boyd was what relation to you?

Boyd: 1st or 2nd cousin, I don't know which. I was raised with George and the rest of the kids, just one of the family.

Schnabel: What was the prime purpose of the Cooperative Union of Sutter County?

Boyd: It was organized more for the farmers. They used to buy all their grain bags and handling of their grain through their warehouse where King's house is now, the big brick one, down where Mrs. Barr lives, the wooden warehouse along the river. They used to ship grain out on the steam boats.

Schnabel: How about the levee?

Boyd: Very small. There was a levee here.

Schnabel: Where was First Street?

Boyd: Never knew. Located on the maps in the office.

Schnabel: Judge, where was First Street?

Judge Moncur: The levee was about three feet high prior to that time. First Street was right where the levee is now. The old Bickley house was a store for a time and all along there was First Street. When my father came in 1868 the levee was about three feet high, old First Street.

Schnabel: The Farmers Cooperative Union went out of business, changed over to the First National Bank, is that correct?

Judge Coats: It was a bank and just changed over the name. Organized under state laws.

Schnabel: Does anyone else have more information on that?

Mr. Cooper: I don't know anything about Farmers Cooperative but I know a little about that guy you have been talking about. We used to wrestle when we were kids about 14 years old.

Boyd: It was part of the bankers business to go out and work in the warehouse. In front of the First National Bank there was a big public scale where load after load of hogs, coal and hay kept us busy all day. Only one in the back to be out at the scale. Couldn't see in the back at all. The back door was open, the money was all there, you could go in and help yourself, but no one ever did in those days. People were honest in those days. I showed Mr. Jack Dooley over at the office one day some literature they filed showing their overdraft. In those days you had to file them. The overdraft was far more than the low ones. Secured loans were practically nothing. The farmer never came to town but once a year and that was in the fall. He collected his money and the grocer got his money then. Settlements were made once a year. It was entirely different than it is today, I can tell you that.

Schnabel: Any questions? Feel free to ask.

Boyd: The Farmers Cooperative Union was first organized for the buying of grain bags and shipping the farmer's grain. They got into money lending business while using their surplus to loan to the farmer. Current rate of interest in the 80's and 90's ran as high as 1% a month. If we figure it out it was about 12% a year.

Schnabel: Guy, what was your father's name?

Guy Walton: They called him B.F. Walton, but Benjamin Franklin was his name.

Schnabel: Where did he live at that time?

Guy: He lived down at the corner of Walton and Bogue Road. The place is still there.

Mrs Gibson: My grandfather was a director of the bank.

Gene Boyd: B.F. Walton, Henry Best, W.F. Sanders, Mr. Ohleyer and Mr. Carpenter were the five directors when I was in the bank. Mr Carpenter was president.

Earl Ramey: Did anyone recall about one item I read about this bank? It was one of the few in the state able to weather the panic without issuing scrip.

Schnabel: Which panic was that?

Mr. Ramey: 1907.

von Geldern: They continued to do business through that panic. They did not issue any scrip.

Coats: It was the panic of the 90's. It was earlier than 1907.

Boyd: There was none issued here in '94. The money, as I understand it, was from the mining industry. They backed stocks up with gold dust from the mines.

Bremer: It wasn't legal or anything, but people accepted it. The people took it for a period of only about 60 days. Rideout Bank had no trouble at that time.

Tom Gianella: Half of Butte County was issuing scrip. I thought Rideout Bank went through it fine. Rideout Bank and the Bank of Butte County issued scrip. I don't remember much about that scrip. Some of it today would be worth it's weight in gold. Northern Electric was issuing scrip and paying off their employees. Everyone was issuing and accepting the scrip during the panic of 1907 and 1908.

Schnabel: Mr. Moncur, when did the Northern Electric get started in our community?

Moncur: I will date that back to where it made an impression on my mind. The year when I was the second or third person in Yuba City to join the M.A. Club, that means "Minus Appendix". I suffered the loss of mine in 1907. When I came back from the hospital the first car of the Northern Electric ran over the bridge. It was about 1907.

Schnabel: Where did it start and end its run?

Moncur: In Sacramento and eventually from San Francisco to Marysville, Live Oak, Gridley and Chico ended the line. That was the Northern Electric, Sacramento Northern or something like that.

Mrs. Baun: In 1906 they were buying the right of way. They came down through our property and they couldn't get the right of way but in Yuba County. They had given it to them on that side of the river. I think Dad can remember because they bought most of Yuba City right of way from his father, which cut our ranch in two. It was about that time. Jimmy Rory was the main guide.

von Geldern: The Sacramento Northern was in operation on July 4, 1907 because I rode from Marysville to Yuba City to take a look at the town.

Schnabel: On this Northern Electric did they try to sell stock?

Bremer: That was the main thing, stocks and bonds.

Schnabel: Judge, do you know anything about the stocks and bonds on the Northern Electric deal?

Judge Moncur: No, I was never in the position to do anything with stocks and bonds.

Bremer: Some big monies in San Francisco held the first stocks in the Northern Electric then they went through the process of reorganizing and would sell stocks in the company to local people.

Schnabel: Prior to this time in getting back and forth between the two cities we had some what of a description, my mother said they were quite a fascination, the horse-drawn busses. Mrs. Bill Green, your father was in on that wasn't he?

Mrs. Green: He was the driver of the team.

Moncur: Horse-drawn busses were before the mule street car. I have a picture in my pocket. My father took the picture in 1906.



Schnabel: Prior to that time had they been running for a number of years?

Moncur: I remember the busses we had that had tracks but we had horse-drawn wagon busses prior to that.

Schnabel: Did these mule drawn street cars put the horse-drawn busses out of business?

Moncur: Mr. Peirano was the driver, the conductor and everything on the bus. They put the horses out business quick.

Boyd: What year did they run the motor bus or whatever they tried to get across the bridge.

Cooper: It was made in Stockton by Best Tractor Company and E.E. Knight brought it up and tried it. It was much heavier than street cars were. Tom Peirano, who was the manager in Marysville and I and old D.E. Knight started from Marysville with it. It took us about three or four hours to go from C Street over to the end of the track, which was up by the cannery, then we couldn't go around the loop. We came back on the same track. It took three or four hours to go from C Street to the car barn.

Schnabel: Did it get through the covered wagon bridge?

Cooper: Yes, right through there, it was much wider than the car. The tracks were so light every once in a while it would just ride right off.

von Geldern: I saw the car years after.

Cooper: I was driving one of the mule cars at that time was how I happened to get a ride.

von Geldern: It was used on the Briggs ranch for a summer house. It was about the same size as the street cars, wider and heavier. The motor had been removed. It only made 6 trips on the circuit. They ran it for less than a week. It made one trip across the bridge. They were lucky to get it back to Marysville. When the car would run off the track, it would hold up the traffic between Yuba City and Marysville for hours until they got the car back on the track.

Schnabel: On the so called flood of 1907. Mr Bremer would you recall for us?

Bremer: The flood situation in Yuba and Sutter counties has been very vital in building up the community. Our floods started in 1851. It wiped out the town of Yuba City. Believe it or not, we had a town, in fact larger than the city of Marysville. There was quite a rivalry between them. In 1851 we

had a flood which wiped the whole town off the map. All the people left the city and all the business in Yuba City went to Marysville and got into hauling of mining supplies to the diggings. We have had a series of high waters for years. We had one in 1853, in 1861, 1866 and 1875. In '75 Marysville was flooded. It did a lot of damage in Marysville. It very near buried the city. We had a series of floods. We had no major floods until we came to 1907. We were just starting to raise the small levee we had here by manual labor, shoveling dirt into cars and hauling it in some steel tram cars up to the levee where the donkey pullies could string the cars up and dump the dirt along the levee. It was a very slow process. That started in 1906. The water came in March 19th. We had a big flow of water. The levee broke by the Hock Farm, the Holmes place now, broke north of town, the Starr Ranch, about the other side of where the California Seed and Fertilizer property is now. Not a big break. All the water missed the lower part of Yuba City and went out west. In those days we had no by-pass, no levee to restrict the water. Part of it ran off very rapidly. There was no back wash, like in 1955. It came out the same way as in 1909, ran back into the Sacramento River. They had boards on top of the levee, some places two-one foot planks and sand bags and they couldn't hold it any longer. We had three breaks on levee Dist. 9. A lot of water was coming down but went no further east than Gilsizer Slough. All the water covered up the county, part of town, Plumas Street. It was just about as high on Plumas Street as it was in the 1955 flood, but it didn't last very long. We had a number of breaks in 1909. It broke at the Gum Tree where it broke in 1955. Then it broke again this side of Shanghai Bend. These levees which they put up were full of sand and broke very easy. They used very little dirt. The levee had no chance to pack. It broke when they were building the levee trying to convert the water at Shanghai. They had pilings in it. It broke right at Shanghai and washed off south as far as the Berg Ranch, or Spangler Ranch. I remember I was at the Hock Farm fighting a break there. It was nip and tuck whether we would hold it or not. When the flood came von Geldern came down in a boat and picked me up. We have had lots of high water for many years. In 1915, 1927, 1928, we had about as high water as in 1955. In March 1928 we had 211,000 acre feet of water, that means one foot of water over an acre of land. In 1955 we had about 227,000 acre feet. We have raised the levee after the 1937 flood. The U.S. Engineers helped us build our levees. Our levee District

was practically broke. Levee Dist. #1 was the first one established in the state by an act of Legislature. It was created in 1866 and was called the Swamp Land Dist. #1. It comprised about 47,500 acres. Allowed to assess 50¢ an acre or 12½¢ on each dollar for improvements. After that we went through many floods spending millions of dollars to maintain our levees. We have something now that will stand up. If we ever get our Feather River Project through, we will not have any more problems.

Schnabel: In this 1907 flood, in the Starr Bend break, did you notice the swell on the ground?

Starr: The same swell is there to this day. That was created in 1907/

Schnabel: My grandfather Skinner came down through there from Gridley. He and the old Swede foreman of his ranch in a boat. The story goes, the Swede was at the oars and grandfather and the brown jug were in the back seat. They came down through the break and tied up at their home on Live Oak Highway only to find that most of the neighborhood was staying in their barns and in their house for the duration. So 1907 flood is nothing new. Can anybody add to the 1907 flood?

Boyd: That was when our great old Dr. Perry did the horseback riding trick. When the levee broke up north of town he got on his horse and rode all over town. He put on a real act there and woke up everybody in town. The Paul Revere of Yuba City.

Bremer: They ran steam boats with plenty of depth up to the Marysville Bridge and I understand they went as far as Gridley with it before the bridges were in. They hauled grain. The only transportation that we had. Afterwards the hydraulics stopped the steam boats. The debris came down and filled the river full of sand and today you can wade across them in the summer.

Mr. Cooper: They called them inspectors. My father was an inspector during the debris trials. I have a beautiful piece of gold that a miner gave to me.

von Geldern: I will tell one on Fred. I am surprised that his father was in that kind of business. Coats and I were in the same business up until 1911.

Moncur: That was when they caught up with you.

Coats: It was in '18 or '19.

von Geldern: I was the engineer for the Anti-debris Assn. in 1907 and I know how the spy racket worked. It is an interesting subject but it is something you could devote the whole evening to. It has many interesting facts.

Schnabel: We can put the flood subject to rest. Now lets burn the town.  
About the fire of 1907. Ed, do you remember the fire?

von Geldern: I know all about it. The Levee Dist. #1 had a little office on the levee back of the tire shop on Second St. which was a livery stable at that time, just north of the Masonic Temple. I was working at that time on some cross sections when I had paper across the window to shield the rays of the sun and didn't know what was going on at the start but heard this crackling noise. I stepped outside to see the hotel on fire. That was the Windsor Hotel run and operated by Hugh Moncur's father. I ran over there to see what was the matter and found the blaze from the fire fanned by a pretty strong north wind. The flames were going diagonally across the street. The next building to burn was the water works. The water works consisted of a two story building, the top floor looked like a block house overhanging the side. There were several large metal tanks inside the building itself, probably not more than 40 feet above ground to the bottom of the tanks. In the first place it gave no pressure and in the second place because of the water works being destroyed there was no water. Second Street was practically at the mercy of a strong north wind. The only reason it didn't burn out entirely was the fact the people south of B and C Streets, by their own efforts, getting on the roof with wet sacks and stuff and putting out the fire when they started. It might be well to mention here that if it weren 't for the Deputy Sheriff, Ben Schillig, there wouldn't have been any court house. I think he put out no less than 5 or 6 fires that had already started on the roof. That fire extended south as far as the Odd Fellows Hall and as far as the Masonic Temple. There was a small cottage occupied by Potter, a shoe repairman from Marysville. The fire extended down as far as the Potter place, where the Masonic Temple stands, and as far south on the west of the street as the Odd Fellows Hall. Walls of the building kept the fire from going farther south because of the gap. There were no buildings in between. Crosby owned the lot with no building on it and the Kimball house which is next to Barr's Title Co. on the south was far enough away and with the efforts of those people who kept it from burning. Otherwise they were helpless because the fire was cutting into the building to the north and behind where the old bank building was, east of the present bank building. If it wasn't for the fact the Marysville Fire Dept. came over with their steamer and backed it over the levee, down to the water's edge,

pumped out of the river and ran 4 lines of hose over to this part of the city, and that is all that saved it. The destruction to the south was as <sup>far</sup> the Odd Fellows Building. The destruction in the west was just behind the building occupied by Crosby's Drug Store and the Windsor Hotel and several other store buildings. One of the interesting recollection on that building of Hewitt's, where Mr. Hewitt in his anxiety to save everything in the last minute tried to move some furniture into the vault and couldn't get the door closed, so the contents of the vault burned up. There were many other amusing things happened. One was the city had gone on for years never anticipating a fire of any extent and they didn't have anything to cope with the fire if they had had one. The water works, the little inadequate water works, with 2 and 4 inch mains at the largest and no pressure, so they just played in luck. Following that, one of the things that occurred, we might state is the leading up to the incorporation of the City of Yuba City. It was one of the things that brought that about, was the need, at least, for a fire department. Their fire fighting equipment consisted on one two-wheeled hand-drawn rig with a reel of fire hose which was destroyed at the water works. That is the fire of October 7, 1907.

Moncur: I will tell you just exactly how that fire started. I was born in Yuba City on the corner of Fairman and Yolo Street, where Ora Heiken lives, and my father, having come over from Bonnie Dundee where he was a craftsman, sheet metal workers now, but he was just an ordinary tinsmith. He finally traded that business he had along with some other things. You know he was quite a trader too. Old Man Butler owned the Butler House. My father, being from Scotland, renamed the hotel "The Windsor". That is where he lived from the time I was five until I was twenty while we operated the hotel. It was a family affair, everybody worked. All we hired were the cooks. We had a Chinese cook and a Chinese dishwasher, and my sister and my two brothers, until they flew the coop and left me holding the bag. We used to deal them off the arm there. I had the pleasure many and many of times of "throwing the hash" along with Gene's uncle George when he came in there. We had an immense long French range in the hotel. It seemed to me it was a mile long. It was about as long as from here to the wall over there. It had two ovens and three fire boxes and great big coils in there with 300 gallon hot water boiler behind. That was fired with wood. How well I remember on Saturday we boys had to pile enough wood behind the stove to last the cook

for a few days. Then came the Southern Pacific along and introduced the burning of coal from Utah, which they would deliver at your door for \$6. a ton. We immediately changed from wood to coal because wood cost three times that much money and that was what we were burning until we sold the place in 1906. The place was purchased by Mrs. Parkhurst, who opened the Parkhurst addition out there along with the Forbes addition. They immediately modernized the place and they put in what was then a very fine oil burner. They discharged the chinese cooks and hired white men, two white men. The oil burner was one of those that had a reservoir underneath to fill and you had to get it good and hot so you could generate it before you could turn the oil on to heat for cooking. The story goes that the white man cook was over to Marysville and had a little time to spare so proceeded to get himself "liquored up" and he suddenly decided he had to get back to the hotel so he rushed home and did not heat the burner enough so when he turned the oil on it did not go like it should. It just burned a little bit but the oil kept running and ran all over the floor and then the next thing they knew the whole thing was one solid mass of flames. I was working for a living those days, they say I don't work now, but I had just got in from work and I unhitched the horses and put them in the barn and fire broke out. We owned the property right across the street. You were all wrong about that water works building. That was a five story building and had 100,000 gallons of water on top. We built those tanks out in the shop. It was five stories high and we called it the "Barricks". On the ground floor was nothing but cheap apartments where people could live. That was the last thing up until the time the water works caught fire our building was perfectly intact. We had just finished the house on top. I was contemplating committing matrimony with a young lady and had to have a place to live. We were going to live up there but we didn't get moved in. Anyway the fire burned the whole thing from the Masonic Temple to the Odd Fellows Building, gutted the whole thing. The site of the Masonic Temple was at Johnnie's Quick Lunch. That was the first temple built in the town in 1869. Anyway, that is the way the fire started and it jumped down and burned the water works and it just fell over and collapsed. If it had fallen this way it would have put the fire out on our place - no such luck. Then it burned the livery stable and the little Potter



house across the street and that is where the Masonic Temple stands today. The fire started at about 4: o'clock in the afternoon. I was alive and going to school when the courthouse burned the second time. That was about 1899. That was burned b y an insane man who had some matches in jail. They had him in a padded cell and they didn't search him good enough. The first court-house was burned in 1858, the second fire was 1871 December 20th. In 1872 a new and b etter building was completed and was destroyed in 1899.

Ullrey: The alterations were made in 1922-23. Still stands as it is.

Schnabel: How come liquid refreshments were not purchased in Yuba City?

Moncur: On the front of the Hall of Records - 1891 was the year the county went dry. Local option took effect in California and Sutter County voted dry. I can remember all the men voted at our hotel. That was the year prohibition came in. Twenty five years later the people got so dry they could stand it no longer so they incorporated the town and that was the way we got the first saloon. The day we opened the saloon was the day Gene Boyd got married. I don't remember if Gene was at the celebration that night or not. That was a great day in the town when the saloon was opened.

Schnabel: If you go through the past records of Yuba City you will not see any records of hotels having free lunches or anything of that nature. It was always across the river in Marysville where that took place. The movement for incorporation was the natural outgrowth of the floods and the fires and other things which the people desired. Von, as a result of the fire we had incorporation. Was the first thing the water works?

von Geldern: That brought about the construction of the water works and the matter of financing it was a factor that made some kind of an organization and they were talking then of incorporation the town of Yuba City. The County of Sutter was dry, that is comparatively dry, except when the boats came up the river and stopped along side the levee at the town of Nicolaus. Nicolaus was pretty wet then. Bootleggers in those days were like they were in prohibition, but outside of that it was dry. Then along with the proposition of incorporation of the town was the matter of getting a hotel in Yuba City to replace the one that burned. They had some fine ideas of a hotel but no one would finance it unless they were given the privilege of having a saloon. So the issue at the time of incorporation was whether or not they could incorporate Yuba City and give them local option, but there was so much opposition to the wet side of the deal that they finally pinned it down to one saloon and

one hotel and there was no other saloon allowed in Yuba City, and they voted that. When they voted that they had a dry side and a wet side and you speak about the celebration at the time of incorporation. I don't think they had anything on the celebration when they opened the hotel. They had two factors, two banquet tables on the street besides the hotel. They reached almost into the middle of the street. They hung a tent on the street side of the hotel and they two sets of tables, a dry and a wet table. Before it was over they kind of got mixed together. It was the hotel that we have here today.

Moncur: They had a big two story flour mill where the Sutter Hotel sits today

Schnabel: After the water department was settled was the matter of streets, gas, lights or anything like that?

von Geldern: It was primarily a water works. They had a good system. The mains on the principal streets were 8 inch mains. The pumps were installed under the water tower at Reeves and Plumas Streets. They had a system of pumps so that they could pump from one pump through another and compound the pressure and at the time we tried the water works out we could put a stream of water on the court house flag pole with two streams of water from two hydrants at the same time. That ended in a water fight before it was over. It was at that time, considering consumers and the length it was, a very efficient plant and I might also say that the fire department itself graduated from one two-wheeler and one reel to two two-wheeler with two reels and one at the lumber yard and one down here. The first Yuba City fire department consisted of two hose reels on carts which were pulled by human beings then Frank Bremer finally got high-toned enough to buy a Ford pick up for a delivery wagon and we used that to go to fires. We hooked one of these things behind it and took off.

Schnabel: How about the street improvement?

von Geldern: That followed later on. They went into the paving programs and paved a considerable area of the main streets.

Moncur: The contractors contacted my father one day and said "How come they plowed up down the street here and Second Street is nothing but big cobble stones?" My father said "I will tell you just how that happened. During the winter time up and down this street it would mire up to the saddle blankets, so the men volunteered with buggies, carts and whatever they had and went out to the Buttes and hauled in big boulders, dumped

them down Second Street there." They were there when they paved the street because they plowed them up and dug up the big boulders. Otherwise they couldn't run it.

von Geldern: The paving program started about 1919. (the permanent paving)

Moncur: Corrected von Geldern by telling him that out in front of the little justice court when they built the new county office building, carved in the pavement was the letters E.V.G. 1916.

Schnabel: Ed, how about the dog situation in Yuba City?

von Geldern: I don't know whether I can tell you about the dog situation unless it is some particular thing you were referring to. If it was coons or rattlesnakes I can tell you all about them.

Schnabel: Taxation, bond issues, pay for these things. How did that come about?

von Geldern: They voted bonds for the paving of Second Street and sewer system. Other streets the property owners did their own paving.

Schnabel: More and adequate school system. The closest high school was across the river and it was disdainful for some of the people to go over there to school and certainly they couldn't go out to Sutter because that was too far out. The Northern Electric might have taken them out but school busses weren't what they should have been. They would get together and build a high school here. Judge Coats, I can remember, how about you?

Judge Coats: In looking over this crowd tonight I am thankful for what I got out of, but not so thankful what I got into. The chairman called me up a few weeks ago and talked to me about fifteen or twenty minutes. I asked if I was to give a speech, "Anita, are you asking me to give a speech on the history of Yuba City?" and she said "yes". I replied "That was out of all reason, but I would be glad to answer questions". So she got the idea of bringing in some more people on this program and I guess I am responsible for the rest of you fellows being here. When I went to school I went to Marysville High, as did most of the people in Yuba City and I'll tell you Mr. Schnabel, Sutter didn't beat us very often. The Marysville High School, about 1907 when I graduated was located on E Street about where a church is now. There was about 90 pupils in the school. As time went on the school got over-crowded and they needed new buildings. At that time I was District Attorney of Sutter County. The Superintendent of Schools was Minnie Gray. She knows more about the formation of the Yuba City Union High School District than anybody because

she was the prime mover in it. She was the person who went around and got the organization going and formed various committees. Carl Schnabel, father of Randolph Schnabel, was one of the committee men. Elija Davis down in Barry district was another member of the committee; Harry McMahon, now an insurance broker in Marysville, was another; Bery Cooley, who was a farmer, married to a Littlejohn, I don't think any of his children are here now, but the Littlejohn family is still here. They went to work about 1922. We had an election and a district was organized. Then came up the question of who was to be the trustees. I made out the slate and kept my name out of it but for some reason or another I got on it. Carl Schnabel, Elija Davis, Bert Cooley, McMahon and myself were the trustees. First thing to do was erect some temporary quarters. On part of the property which is now the Bridge Street School were three houses, one fairly large and two small ones owned by Ben Manford, the Constable and later the Sheriff of the County. We purchased that site from him instead of renting it. We held school in that building until the high school was built. The first question arose as to location of a site for the high school. There were two sites in contention: the Van Arsdale property where the high school is now located, and the Jackson property where the airport is now, which was then called Jackson's Bottoms, which was surrounded by the back levee. About the only other thing about it was Carl Schnabel was generally on one side of the argument, Bert Cooley was on the other and when everything appeared in the paper it was what Mr. Schnabel and what Mr. Cooley said and no one knew I was on the Board for two elections, and when they found out I quit.

Schnabel: Mrs. Gray were there any differences of opinion in regards to the necessity of a school in Yuba City when there was one so close in Marysville?

Mrs. Gray: I was a graduate of Marysville High, but Carl will help you.

Schnabel: As I remember, Tierra Buena Dist. was one of the hold outs.

Mrs. Gray: We couldn't get three families to sign. They were forced in three years later.

Schnabel: They were the only hold outs as I remember. Mrs. Fillmore, when did you join the staff up there?

Mrs. Fillmore: I was not there for the opening in 1924. We moved in the new school just after the new year. I came the following semester. We moved into the main building. They used the shop building in connection with the houses on Bridge Street.

Mrs. Gray: The shop building was constructed first. In February 1924 they had the new buildings sufficiently finished.

Schnabel: Do you remember the number of children in the first graduation class?

Mrs. Gray: We had no graduates in 1923. In 1924 there were two graduates, one was Thelma Fine. Mildred Lang was one of the first graduates, also Mildred Hensen. 1925 was the first real graduation, the first 4 year class. In 1927 Mr. Work had completed his 5 years and was replaced by Dr Thomas Nelson who had just retired from the Berkeley Schools; Dr. Nelson was replaced by Mr. Marion McCart, who was principal for 15 years.

Moncur: One question concerning the earlier agitation for a high school in Yuba City. I am going to ask Fred Cooper if it isn't a fact that his father set aside a large acreage of land that he would give to the county of Sutter for a high school if they would build one there?

Cooper: No, he sold them a 5 acre piece of land right at the end of Bridge Street and he charged them \$200. an acre for that land but in 5 years they must have a high school on it or it would revert back to the owner. He gave them the right of way for Bridge Street.

Judge Coats: Every time they have a football game between Yuba City and Marysville they publish a big list of how many times each team beat the other. We lost about the first 8 games, but that was because most of the Yuba City boys were playing on the Marysville team.

Schnabel: I have that trouble every day at school. They still think I am from one or the other place. I keep them that way.

Ullrey: Ask Mr. von Geldern in regards to the first survey of Yuba City in 1849. Are those pegs still there?

von Geldern: No, there is no trace of the original survey. It was made by a man called Joseph Ruth in 1849 and there is no part of the original survey. Hudson came along years later and made what he termed a real survey and followed somewhat the streets named, but none of the lots are the same as the original survey.

Ullrey: The first school was here in Yuba City.

von Geldern: The first school was on C Street in back of the courthouse. C Street and McRae Way.

Moncur: When I graduated from the school on C Street there were 70 pupils and three teachers.

B. Gibson: There are now 75 teachers and over two thousand pupils.

Schnabel: for the 16 subjects you passed tests in twice a year. How about the law end of this Mr. Ullrey?

Ullrey: There were several sheriffs appointed and refused to act in the early days. The people appointed them. I haven't that down or the names.

Schnabel: Mr. Cooper when was your father sheriff in this county?

Cooper: In 1870 and 1871. I have his records right here.

Schnabel: Prior to Cooper who was sheriff?

Ullrey: Sam McClure was right after Cooper.

Schnabel: Mr. Ullrey, tell us about the early founding of Yuba City?

Ullrey: The most information I have is from early history dated back to the time that the trappers and the Indians worked their way up the Feather River to what was then known as the town of Yuba City and was one of the first county seats. Nicolaus, Auburn, Verona and back to Nicolaus, then in '56 was finally decided upon Yuba City and it is to the present day. The Indians occupied the biggest part of the city. There were about 100 to 125 called the Yubans. In very high water they moved to the Buttes. The land where Yuba City now stands was deeded to Samuel Brannan, Reading and Clevis by Capt. John Sutter July 27, 1849 and that is at the time that Joseph Ruth was to survey for the future of the town. And there were stores and different buildings put up being that this was a high point of land this side of the river. The boats unloaded their cargo which was brought in from San Francisco and finally they put a ferry across the river which helped quite a bit for the two cities. Marysville at the time that Yuba City was surveyed was called the Nye Ranch and was built another year after Yuba City. The first school was built here in 1854.

Moncur: Not to give away my age but they are now building across the Feather River the 5th bridge that I have seen built in my lifetime.

Schnabel: If you have enjoyed our meeting tonight we would like to see you at future meetings. We don't have such an illustrious panel as tonight but we would like to see you at our regular meetings.