

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. XXXII No. 2

Yuba City, California

April 1991

THE ANNUAL BUS TOUR AROUND THE BUTTES WILL BE APRIL 6, 1991. \$8. PER PERSON. WE MEET AT THE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM AT 9: A.M. AND RETURN BETWEEN 1: AND 2: P.M.

OUR ANNUAL DINNER MEETING WILL BE AT SUTTER YOUTH ORGANIZATION BUILDING IN SUTTER AT 6:30 P.M. THE LIONS CLUB WILL BE DOING A CORNED BEEF DINNER AT \$12. PER PERSON WITH PREPAID RESERVATIONS MADE AT THE MUSEUM. THE SPEAKER WILL BE WALT ANDERSON SHOWING SLIDES AND SPEAKING ON THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS. THE DATE IS APRIL 23, 1991. COME JOIN US.

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS BULLETIN

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Elaine Tarke, President

Constance Cary, Secretary

Brock Bowen, Vice President

Wanda Rankin, Treasurer

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The News Bulletin is published quarterly by the Society in Yuba City, California. The annual membership dues includes receiving the News Bulletin and the Museum's Muse News. At the April 1987 April Dinner Meeting it was voted to change the By-laws to combine the memberships of the Society and the Museum.

The 1991 dues are due as of January 1, 1991.

Student(under 18) Senior Citizen/Library	\$10.00
Individual	\$15.00
Organizations/Clubs	\$25.00
Family	\$30.00
Business/Sponsor	\$100.00
Corporate/Benefactor	\$1,000.00

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

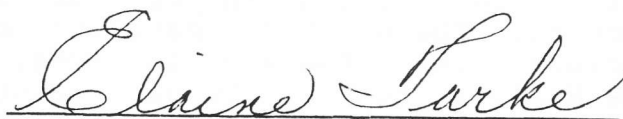
The nominating committee for the New Historical Society Board Members and Officers is being chaired by Ron Ross and assisted by Dewey Gruening and Linda Leone. The membership will vote on their proposals and any new nominees at our Annual Meeting April 23, 1991 at the Sutter Youth Building in Sutter 6:30 P.M. This will be our Dinner meeting and tickets may be purchased at the Museum and from Board Members. You may also call me at 696-2467.

We would like to see an addition to the Museum in order to promote the Historical Cultures of Agriculture in our communities. The addition to the Museum would be simple in scale, according to the original plans, and would open up into the park, now being designed by the Commission. Our Curator, Jackie Lowe, is helping to formulate these plans. If they are approved, we will need the help of all members to establish a Foundation of Pledges to attain this goal. I ask for your support.

I thank the Members who attended our January meeting. The film program of Australia, Fiji and New Zealand was enjoyed by the many who attended. I appreciated the input as to the preservation of Agricultural histories in our communities. It was especially nice to chat with each other as we enjoyed the cake and coffee also.

Our program at the Annual Meeting in April will be the return of Walt Anderson, who will give his film program of Galapagos. Thank you Randy Schnabel for making arrangements for our Annual meeting. I look forward to seeing all of you again.

MAY THE SWEETEST OF ALL ANGELS
PUT A SMILE IN YOUR HEART TODAY
AND MAY YOU FIND HOPE AND A FAITH UNTOLD
AS YOU SHARE WITH YOUR LOVED ONES TO PRAY.



Director's Report

We all miss "Elegance Past, 1875-1940 : Sixty Five Years of Sutter County Fashion", the clothing was so lovely and such fun to have around. We aren't suffering, though, because we are now surrounded by the beautiful travel photographs that are part of the travel photo contest/exhibit sponsored by Four Seasons Travel that will be up through April 30. From fashion to travel -- the Museum truly does offer something for every taste.

Opening in May is the exhibit "Creating the Buttes : The Geology and Mythology of the Sutter Buttes". We are fortunate enough to have a wide range of people helping with the exhibit, they include a geologist, a naturalist, a folklore expert, and a professor of Native American Studies. This combination of resources will expand our ability explore the fascinating beginnings of the Buttes, both in science and in myth and folklore. "Creating the Buttes" will be up through the summer, making it an excellent point of interest for those of you entertaining out-of-town visitors.

We hope that you will all come out and support the Museum Commission's newest fund raiser, the vintage clothing show "Wear and Remembrance" on April 13 and 14. "Wear and Remembrance" is similar to an antique show except that the dealers bring vintage clothing, jewelry, textiles and accessories. Not only is browsing through the booths an education, the shopping is great. Where else can you buy a high quality, well made garment for only a fraction of the price of a new piece of clothing? "Wear and Remembrance" can be added to the list of cooperative projects that our Museum and the Mary Aaron Museum have produced together. "Wear and Remembrance" flyers, good for \$1.00 off the price of admission, are available at the two museums and around town. Please plan to attend and support this event, and bring a friend.

When you are pondering Mother's Day this year, we hope that you will consider ordering a Mother's Day Decadence gift bag from the Museum. Mother's Day Decadence is one of our most important fund raisers because it pays for all of the Museum's educational programming, including the traveling trunk and the Easter and Christmas programs for school children. Samples of the gift bags are on display at the Museum.

The Yuba-Sutter Architectural Heritage Association is a brand new group that meets the second Wednesday of every month, at 7:30 p.m., at the Museum. Although only a few months old, the group's first big event is a joint venture with the County of Sutter in celebration of the 100th birthday of the Hall of Records. The birthday party is on Saturday, May 18, and will include walking tours of the area, a marching band, open house at the Hall, a group photo on the steps of the Hall and birthday cake for all. A fee will be charged for the walking tours, but the rest of the day's events are free.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BUILDING FUND AND TRUST FUND

Mr & Mrs R. A. Schnabel	In memory of Yo Oji
Mr & Mrs R. A. Schnabel	In memory of Willard Will
Mrs. Walter Ettl	In memory of Charles Alfred Driver
Mrs E. Hanlon Brown	In memory of Wendell Brown
Jack & Helen Heenan	In memory of Yo Oji
Delma Davis Reick	In memory of Mildred Gordon Nelson
Constance Cary	In memory of Louis Putman
Constance Cary	In memory of Virgie Burk
Constance Cary	In memory of Efton Pritchard
Joe & Ellie McCarron	In memory of Efton Pritchard
Hap & Marie Campbell	In memory of Hartley Minear
Arthur W. & Jane Coats	In memory of Louis Putman
Dale & Alma Burtis	In memory of Gordon Phillips
Constance Cary	In memory of Seely Cook
Constance Cary	In memory of Ada Web er
Mr & Mrs Lawrence Harris	In memory of George Davis
Mr & Mrs R. A. Schnabel	In memory of Seely Cook Jr.
Jane & Walter Ullrey	In memory of Seely Cook Jr.
Clifford & Helen Abbott	In memory of Seely Cook Jr.
Wanda Rankin	In memory of Daniel L. Hewitt
Jim Abbott	In memory of Seely Cook Jr.
Constance Cary	In memory of Richard Renton
Myrtle Newcomb	In memory of Daniel L. Hewitt
Frank & Sue Moore	In memory of Carroll Zwarg
Pete & Margit Sands	Outright Gift
Brian Hausback	Outright Gift
Hap & Marie Campbell	In memory of Yo Oji
Hap & Marie Campbell	In memory of Myrtle Becker
George & Mardel Meyers	In memory of Opal Curry
Zelma Corbin	In memory of Louis Putman
Dan Hewitt	In memory of Yoshiko Oji
Norman & Loadel Piner	In memory of Louis Putman
Norman & Loadel Piner	In memory of Yo Oji
Norman & Loadel Piner	In memory of Ann Glidden
Norman & Loadel Piner	In memory of Winona Crawford

Dan Hewitt	In memory of Forrest Geary
Dan Hewitt	In memory of Richard Balfour
Dan Hewitt	In memory of Ann Carter Glidden
Eleanor Holmes	In memory of Jane Williams
Tierra Buena Woman's Club	In memory of Alva Marvel
Tom & Marnee Crowhurst	In memory of Willard Will
Bruce & Gini Harter	In memory of Louis Putman
Bruce & Gini Harter	In memory of Ethel Dunlop
Bruce & Gini Harter	In memory of Richard Balfour
Harriet D. Harbison	In memory of Louis Putman
Thomas Frye	In memory of Robert Weddel
Gene Lonon	In memory of Robert Weddel
Richard & Elaine Tarke & Family	In memory of Louis Putman
Ray & Lena Frye	In memory of Lloyd Frye
Norman & Loadel Piner	In memory of Dolly Shannon
Normand & Loadel Piner	In memory of Albert Powell
Katie Bryant	In memory of Marie Sims Dozier
Margaret Murry	In memory of Marie Sims Dozier
Jackie Chandler	In memory of Marie Sims Dozier
Harry & Bernice Wilson	In memory of Gordon Phillips
Ivadel Simmons	In memory of Gordon Phillips
Hazel Sterud	In memory of Everett Gordon Phillips
Robert & Jan Schmidl	In memory of Vayne V. Linn
Norman & Loadel Piner	In memory of William U. Hudson
Brud & Betty Lee Perry	In memory of Gordie Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. Grover L. Davis	In memory of George W. Davis
Shyrlie A. Brown	In memory of Seely Cook
Bogue Country Club	In memory of Helen O. Harris
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kells & Family	In memory of Seely Cook
Eleanor Harris	In memory of Helen O. Harris
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Masera	In memory of Gordy Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Masera	In memory of George Davis
Norman & Loadel Piner	In memory of Daniel L. Hewitt.

MY THANKS TO WILBUR AND GEORGIA GREEN
FOR THE TWO ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE OF THE
BULLETIN.

THE EDITOR

GREEN FARMS

C. Wilbur Green started in the almond shelling business in 1937, added a huller in 1945 and expanded with another huller in 1950. During this time he and wife, Georgia, had built a reputation for integrity and quality work so had customers from all over the area.

In an article about the Green operation in the September 1961 "California Tree Nut News" Green was quoted as saying "We operate by strict rules and regulations. I would rather lose a customer than turn out a product that might be rejected. There has never been a spoiled nut go out of our plant that was caused by processing delay."

Mrs. Green hired and supervised the women who worked on the huller and sheller. When they worked at full capacity they employed about twenty people to a crew, sometimes working two shifts.

Green began farming in the Live Oak area in 1934 in partnership with his father. They had previously farmed in the Tulare area, but a threatened water shortage caused them to look for a better place. After high school and college Wilbur went into farming, starting with almonds, walnuts, grain and prunes. After several years he decided to go full time to almonds.

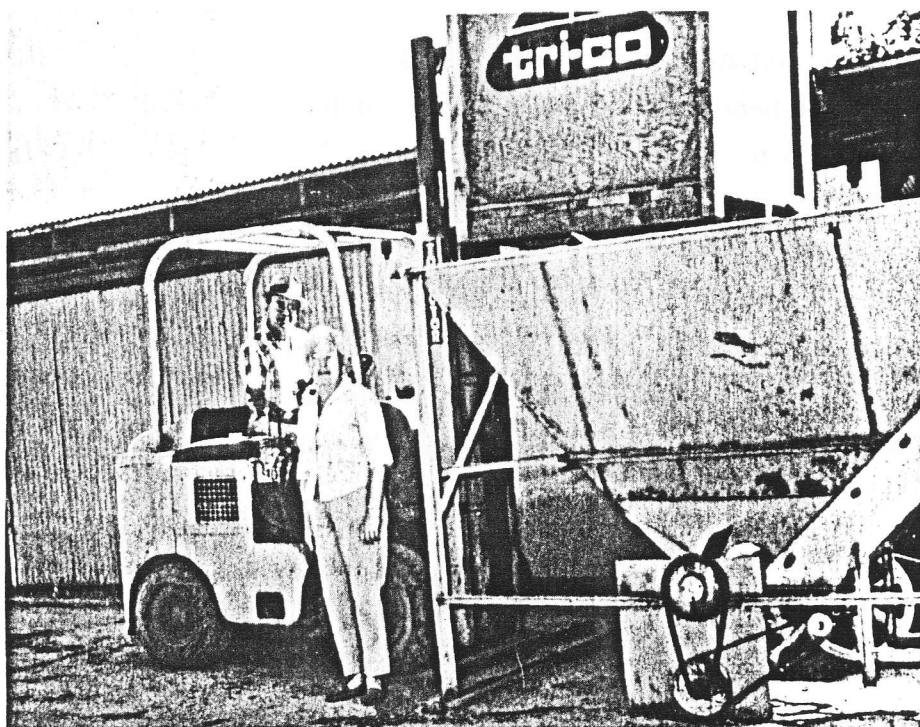
In 1961 the forty acres the family farmed was devoted to almonds interplanted with five acres of walnuts. At one time Wilbur had planned to pull the interplanted almonds but discovered they continued to grow and bear well. The eight acres of interplants were the best producers on the farm. Spraying and fertilizing were very important since he was dealing with three types of soil--sandy, sandy loam and heavy clay.

The Greens had not mechanized their harvesting operation since they felt they must look carefully at the cost to determine if equipment investment was feasible. They were fortunate that harvest labor had not been a problem since they employed mostly the same crew each year.

From mid-August to early November they lived, ate and slept with their hulling operation. After the last of the harvest was on its way they were off on a well earned vacation---an annual golfing tour of the West. Wilbur had played basketball, baseball and softball until a slipped disc had forced him to quit such rigorous sports. He and Georgia both turned to golf and laid out a practice driving range on the ranch which they used when they had no time for eighteen holes. They had also worked with little theater groups and enjoyed playing bridge with friends.

The Greens had hoped that someday their son, Barry, would join them as a partner but knew that any small farmer should have an education and an alternative occupation. He had helped in their business until he graduated from college and became a Secret Service agent. After twenty four years, he retired in 1990 and is now an investigator for the Federal Public Defender's Office.

In 1976 Wilbur was elected Supervisor of Sutter County's District One and served through 1980. In 1990 the Greens sold the ranch with the almonds and walnuts that is on the northwest corner of Township and Pannington Roads. They kept the thirteen acres on the northeast corner for Wilbur to play with in his retirement.



Taken in 1968

Wilbur and Georgia Green supervise every facet of their operation with a resultant quality that only personal attention to detail can produce.

DROUGHT IN CALIFORNIA

VARIOUS PERTINENT INFORMATION

RELEVANT TO SUCH SUBJECT

MATTERS AS

Climatic condition variations.

Draught and flood occurrences.

Rain and snow precipitations.

Conservation of water.

Conservation of land from erosion.

The Central Valley Project.

The State Wide Conservation Project.

Protection of areas to the use of water
where same originates.

The policy of the State of California and
the Federal Government in that and
kindred subjects.

Being as brief a condensation as possible of pertinent information which may be of interest at the present time, because of the draught conditions now existing, particularly as it affects the Sacramento Valley.

W. T. ELLIS,

Marysville, California

March 5, 1948

Ever since California became a State and the Weather Bureau was then established, we have complete records of water conditions, up to the present time.

However, the Los Angeles area (which thinks always in terms of WATER) wanted to know, what weather conditions had been PRIOR to California becoming a part of the Union.

Mr. H. B. Lynch, Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles Utility District, suddenly had a bright idea.

The Public had long been visiting the various Old Missions for years, BUT NO ONE had thought to go up and explore the attics of those old buildings, so Mr. Lynch thought it might be a good idea, to do some exploring and did so, and as a result found a mass of old files and records of all kinds of valuable information, so he placed a crew of investigators at work, in every one of the Old Missions in the State, and compiled all this information and which was printed in a book and I obtained a copy of this book, which was published 17 years ago, in 1931.

It appeared, that whoever had "over-charge" of all the old Missions, evidently instructed the Padres, in each of the Missions to so store all their records in the attics, when the Mexican Government ordered all these Missions abandoned, in 1834.

The result was, that from these old records, a complete history of all kinds of information was obtained for a period of 65 years, while the Missions were operating and since then, and after California became a State and the Weather Bureau and other records were kept by various persons, we now have a very complete record of climatic conditions in California for the last 196 years, to date.

CLIMATE DOES NOT CHANGE, EVEN IN MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS, but in those thousands of years, and even in every 100 years, there are cycles of various periods of years, when there are variations and when there are a few years of excessive rainfall, followed or preceded by periods of years when draught occurs, all in radical variations to the average normal for say 100 year periods. If we remember, that only about 125 miles northwesterly from Marysville are the great redwood tree forests of Humboldt County, and about 175 miles South to Santa Cruz County are also the similar great redwood trees, many of these trees two thousand years old, it indicates that there have been no radical changes of climate in California, otherwise they would probably not still be in existence.

JUST FOR EXAMPLE: Take the 65 years, when the Old Missions were operative.

In those 65 years, there were a long number of years of the average normal conditions, but there were ALSO periods of excessive water conditions and excessive draught conditions, interspersed.

FOR EXAMPLE

The records obtained from the old Padres documents disclose that—

When the Padres first arrived in 1769, that was a season of excessive rains and floods, and there was plentiful rains for the succeeding 12 years, in fact, in four of those years flood conditions occurred. Then in 1781, began a period of rainfall shortage, which practically lasted for 20 years, up to 1810. During that time, particularly in 1794 to 1796, also in 1831, the draught was so severe their sheep and cattle died, the Indians, working for them, had to be sent to the hills to forage for food, while the Padres themselves were on half-rations and had to send small sailing ships to Mexico for food.

After the Missions were abandoned, then from various authentic records, various diaries of the early day settlers and trappers, etc., it is disclosed that in 1839-40 there was a serious draught in not only the southern part of the State, but also in the Sacramento Valley, as the diary of John Bidwell (now in the State Library at Sacramento), he has written—"there has been no rain for 18 months."

Then in 1850-51, was the next most serious draught in this Valley; only one inch of rain fell up to March 1st, but later spring rains brought the amount of rain to an additional $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, making a total of $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches that winter.

In 1863-64, only $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches fell that winter.

In 1875, it was a wet season and Marysville was flooded, for the last time but the next year, in the season of 1876-77, there was only $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain fell.

And in 1897-98, there was also a draught, only $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches fell that season.

All five of those seasons, just mentioned, were, as stated, severe draught years, but even between those seasons, there were years of light rainfall, also heavy rain falls.

As a comparison of this present season, which we have worried about, it has been very much like the season of one year ago—as in 1946-47, when up to March 1st, we had only 7.5 inches of rainfall and in 1947-48 (THIS year), to March 5th, we have had only 8.3 inches.

Of course, last year, we had more rains, after the 1st of March, amounting to (according to my records) 4.93 inches additional rainfall and you may remember that included the rather unusual rainfall of 1.20 inches in the month of June. That same additional rainfall may again occur this Spring, but the FACT REMAINS

that it is the quantity of rain which we have in the months of November, December and January, which is MOST worth while later on for agricultural and horticulture, etc., and PARTICULARLY to replenish our underground water supply for the coming summer months of irrigation from wells.

We must also remember, that for the last 60 years, there has been a constantly decreasing amount of storage of snow in the Sierras, which used to settle and pack hard and form a solid cake of ice, which, in the late Spring and summer months, would gradually melt, giving us a good flow of water in our rivers here until mid-summer, and all the time, replenishing our under ground water storage.

This is NOT because we do not have a fairly similar average amount of snow fall in the mountains, each year, as we formerly had in earlier years, but (in my opinion) it is because very largely the surface of the ground conditions, which now prevail and which is much different than what prevailed many years ago when I was a young man and made a business trip each Fall and Spring to all the mining camps of each year, as a travelling salesman for my Father's wholesale grocery store here in Marysville.

When I was a young boy, about 12 years of age, after supper, in the month of say October, we used to sit on our front porch at our home at 8th and D Streets, where we had an unobstructed view of the Sierras and my Father would say to me,—“see how many fires, Billie, you can count in the mountains,” and often I could count about 30 or more large scattered fires.

What Was the Reason for Those Fires?

Well, in those days, there were a large number of what we called “Digger Indians” who migrated from the higher altitudes of the Mountains to the Valley area each Fall of the year, to spend the winter months, but before they left the higher altitudes, they would start fires, at distances apart, and these fires would spread over large areas, burning up the accumulated pine needles, broken off limbs and logs on the ground and so keep also the underbrush from growing, with the result, that this annual burning every year (which did no damage to the growing large timber) kept the area comparatively open and clear, just like an immense park, and the Indians, when they returned each summer, would then have less difficulty in killing game, deer, antelope, bears, etc., of which there were large quantities.

With the coming of the “White Man,” with his “fire water” and other things, the Indians gradually died off and have about disappeared, and the White Man does no “light burning” (as it is called), and as a result, pine needles some times are a foot or so thick,

they act like a "thatched" roof and sheds the water faster, so that the water does not sink in the ground so readily; also, the underbrush has grown up, broken limbs, dead trees now abound, the lumbering interests leave their "slashings" and when a fire NOW OCCURS, in place of a "light burning" it is a conflagration which destroys everything in its path.

The "light burning" practice annually of the Indian methods, however, kept the ground bare, when snows fell (after the first rains had soaked the ground), those snows then packed solid and froze, making well packed ice and there was no underbrush to prevent such solid packing, so those snow packs accumulated, and gave constant seepage and also good water supply in our rivers, during the summer months and always kept our underground water supply, close to the ground surface in the valley areas.

So today, conditions are different than they used to be and it would appear an impossible task to remedy those conditions and in the meantime, the necessity for water AND MORE WATER is constantly increasing so now, we must look for other and more modern methods, to meet our constantly increasing demands for water in this Valley, for our vast expansion of all kinds of agricultural and horticulture investments, etc.

Most every winter, when large floods occur on all our various rivers, just here alone, on the Feather and Yuba Rivers at Yuba City and Marysville, there are over THREE MILLIONS OF GALLONS OF WATER PER SECOND passing by our two towns, ALL WASTED INTO THE OCEAN.

I would call attention to the fact that there are other conditions existing in the Valleys here which are very much different than existed prior to the construction of the Flood Control Plan of by-pass levees, etc., and the vast reclamation of "swamp land"; for example, this large swamp land area which existed many years ago and designated as the "Colusa, Sutter, American, Sacramento and Yolo Basins," representing over 500,000 acres of "swamp lands" which were ALWAYS previously full of water during about seven months of each year, thereby creating five large lakes from which water was constantly seeping underground and so always keeping a high water table, not only under these old basin areas but also under adjoining or adjacent areas of higher altitudes, but now, with the reclamation of these vast areas by the construction of by-passes, only rain precipitation falls on these reclaimed swamp land areas, while the winter discharge in the rivers from the rain falls and melting snows in the mountain areas are discharged quickly through the old main river channels themselves, also the by-passes, within a period of a few days into the bay region, too soon to replenish the underground water storage with which to furnish necessary waters to the rapidly increasing large number of deep well pumps which are being installed everywhere. This is a man made situation which must be corrected by some other "man made" method.

So to conserve such water, the "Modern method" which I have mentioned is to build dams to store those wasted waters, and the ONLY solution to our water problems, in the future, is the earliest completion of BOTH the Central Valley Project, also, the State Wide Water Conservation Project.

WE MUST FIGHT FOR THEIR COMPLETION and we MUST FIGHT, any person or persons or corporations, who attempt to hinder their completion, and that I have been doing, particularly the last ten months.

We MUST have water conservation, or some day, if (as John Bidwell wrote in his diary) that "for 18 months, not a drop of rain fell in the Sacramento Valley," then if some day "history repeats itself" (as it usually does), there will be a great financial catastrophe in this Valley of ours.

Orchards particularly, cannot survive without fresh water being fed them by irrigation, NEITHER CAN THEY SURVIVE being fed with SALT WATER, pumped from deep wells.

Now This Brings Us Up to the Subject of Water Conservation

IT IS ONE OF THE MOST (IF NOT THE MOST) IMPORTANT MATTER IN THIS STATE.

Both last year (and this year), I have heard many persons express fears, that when the Central Valley Project is completed, and because the Federal Government is now constructing that project and which the State itself originally planned to construct, that the Federal Government might feel inclined to "parcel out" our Sacramento Valley water supplies to both the Sacramento and the San Joaquin Valleys, because, 75 per cent of the water supply in the State is NORTH of the City of Sacramento and 75 per cent of the "NEEDS" is south of the City of Sacramento.

This fear has been caused, because many have read in the newspapers that various persons in the San Joaquin Valley are making "applications" for Sacramento Valley waters.

Mark Twain once said,—"Everybody complains about the weather but nobody does anything about it."

In the same manner, "Everybody is afraid the San Joaquin Valley is planning to steal our water, but nobody does anything about it."

Well, last year, I thought I would try and "do something about it."

You will remember, that in 1933, the State Legislature passed an ACT creating the Central Valley Project, and in that Act was the following clause:

"In the construction and operation by the Authority of any project under the provisions of this Act, no watershed or area wherein water originates, or any area immediately adjacent thereto which can conveniently be supplied with water therefrom, shall be deprived by the Authority directly or indirectly of the prior right to all of said water reasonably required to adequately supply the beneficial needs of said watershed area or any of the inhabitants of property owners therein."

After this Act was adopted by the Legislature, then the Pacific Gas & Electric Co., for various selfish reasons, started a "Referendum Election" which was held in December, 1933, and as a result, the efforts of this Power Company were defeated by a vote of the People of this State, and another and important result was, that the People of the State, by a majority vote, approved that Act of the Legislature, so that clause, just mentioned above in the Act, and the People of this State so expressed, not only their desires, but also their convictions, that water, "in its origin," was a "birth right" and belonged to its area of origin and that ONLY such water, which was not and could not be used in its area of origin, could be termed "excess waters" and only such excess waters should be released to other distant areas, which were short of necessary water for their use.

So I have always believed, that when the State permitted the Federal Government to take over this Central Valley Project, there was at least the implication (even though it was not so written) that the Federal Government would take the project "as is" and adopted by The People and was not to be altered.

That policy seemed to me to be not only fair, it seemed to be just plain common sense, and that appears to be the past and present attitude of the Federal Government, as I will now attempt to show you.

Now for your information, about a year ago, I wrote to Congressman Lea at Washington, D. C., requesting him to investigate and ascertain what the Federal policy was going to be, about preserving to the Sacramento Valley, "first call" on all waters originating in the Valley.

On April 17th of last year (1947), at some length therein, Mr. Lea wrote and replied that the Reclamation Bureau had informed him that—

"Our policy in connection with this matter is to conform with the Act generally known as the "County of Origin Act," which is contained in

the State Water Code (Section 11460)" (and is the same provision I quoted you previously herein).

I again wrote Congressman Lea, early last month, intimating that I would like to have a signed letter from the Reclamation Bureau confirming the information they had verbally given him at that previous time.

Last month (under date of February 12, 1948), Congressman Lea sent me a copy of a letter, written to him by the Bureau of Reclamation and signed by them, and the following is a copy of same:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington 25, D. C.

February 12, 1948.

Hon. Clarence F. Lea,
House of Representatives.
My Dear Mr. Lea:

This will confirm the statements made to you on February 11 by Mr. Will in response to your request of February 10 to Mr. Price, Special Assistant to Assistant Secretary Warne.

You asked whether the so-called "County of Origin Law," Section 1140 et seq. of the California Water Code would be applicable to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. The answer to your question is: No.

You asked whether Section 10505 of the California Water Code, also sometimes referred to as the "County of Origin Law," would be applicable to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. The answer to this question is: No, except in so far as the Bureau of Reclamation has taken or may take assignments of applications which have been filed for the appropriation of water under the California Statutes of 1927, Chapter 286, in which assignments, reservations have been made in favor of the County of Origin.

The policy of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, is evidenced in its proposed report on a "Comprehensive Plan for Water Resources Development—Central Valley Basin, California," wherein the Department of the Interior takes the position that "In addition to respecting all existing water rights the Bureau has complied with California's 'County of Origin' Legislation, which requires that water shall be reserved for the presently unirrigated lands of the areas in which water originates, to the end that only surplus water will be exported elsewhere. . . ."

May I refer you also to our letter of April 17, 1947, in which the policy of the Bureau for the protection of basins in which water originates is set forth quite fully?

Please let me know if there is any further information on this subject which I can supply.

Sincerely yours,
WESLEY P. NELSON,
Acting Commissioner.

To me, THAT would seem to be satisfactory assurance that the Sacramento Valley WILL ALWAYS be protected in its "Birth right" to "first call" on all water for this Valley's needs and ONLY surplus waters will be released to the San Joaquin Valley, and it is quite apparent to me, that when you read of various persons or large land owning companies, filing applications for water from the Sacramento Valley, that they are filing only on the future expected "SURPLUS" waters, which may be released from the Sacramento Valley AFTER our Valley's requirements have been fully met with each irrigation season.

Just for the sake of argument, let us assume, that after the Central Valley is fully completed and has become activated, THAT THEN the Federal Government, through its Reclamation Bureau, should "change its mind" (as was expressed in the letter which they wrote to Congressman Lea and which Mr. Lea sent me a copy of and which was signed by that Bureau and which I previously herein quoted to you), THEN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?

Well, I rather imagine that "all hell would break loose" by the People of the Sacramento Valley and there would ensue practically a "Civil War" between the People of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys.

What Would Be the Result?

Well, might I not (as the only still living person who took an active part of the old Hydraulic Mining litigation for 20 years, before and after I was elected a County Supervisor of Yuba County, sixty-one years ago) explain, that in that old hydraulic mining litigation, when both Sutter and Yuba Counties (and both their County Seats) were strenuously bending their best efforts to save themselves from absolute destruction, first, the citizens themselves started this litigation with \$65,000, which they advanced, then the two Counties, through their Board of Supervisors, between 1881 and 1907, expended the total sum of \$394,983.62 just FOR LEGAL EXPENSES, and in the meantime, the land owners in the two Counties had expended the sum of \$5,747,329.59 for the construction of levees for protection against the rising floods, caused by the filling of our two rivers here with mining debris, which eventually, in 1907, had caused the Yuba River at Marysville to have its original bed raised 26 feet vertical, (since that date, that river at that place has scoured 20 feet). And remember this, that during all that period of litigation, frantic appeals were made, both to the State and Federal Governments for financial assistance but with no avail, although, by this prolonged litigation, these two Counties eventually saved the Federal Government's rivers and lower bays from total destruction.

If you will refer to the Report of Major U. S. Grant, 3rd, Document 3, 69th Congress, he stated therein—"expenditures by local interests both for Flood Control and reclamation since 1850 and up to 1925 amounted to \$86,645,855.87 and in addition the State of California had advanced the sum of \$4,479,463.76, making a total of \$91,125,319.63. And this does not include expenditures by the U. S. Government itself and does not include, irreparable damage done to large areas of farming lands, etc."

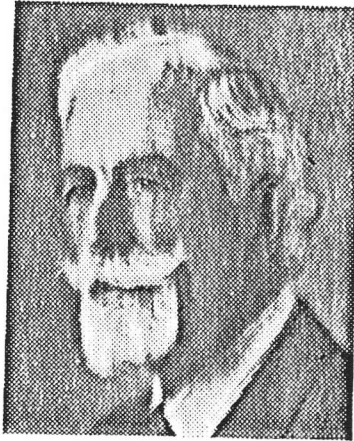
IN THE FACE OF THE ABOVE EXPERIENCE OF JUST TWO SMALL COUNTIES TO PROTECT THEIR JUST RIGHTS AND EVENTUALLY WIN THEIR FIGHT FOR THE PROTECTION OF THEIR "BIRTH RIGHTS," THAT FIGHT (OF YEARS AGO) WOULD LOOK LIKE A "CHILDREN'S QUARREL" COMPARED TO A FIGHT BETWEEN ALL THE COUNTIES OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY AND ALL THE COUNTIES OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THROUGH ITS BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, SHOULD EVER "CHANGE ITS MIND" AND THEN ANNOUNCE THAT THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WAS GOING TO BE PERMITTED TO OBTAIN MORE THAN JUST THE EXCESS WATERS OF THE SACRAMENTO RIVER AND ALL ITS TRIBUTARIES, AND THAT THE PROTECTIVE FEATURES OF THE SO-CALLED "COUNTY OF ORIGIN LAW" WAS GOING TO BE IGNORED IN THE FUTURE.

Personally, I am very confident that the Federal Bureau of Reclamation would never "take a chance" of starting a "CIVIL WAR" in California between "the North" and "the South" (two great valleys of this State) by taking any such action, and I firmly believe also, that in the letter which the Bureau of Reclamation wrote to Congressman Lea (and which was quoted above herein) had that thought in mind when they stated in that letter, that—

"The Department of the Interior takes the position that in addition to respecting all existing water rights, the Bureau has complied with California's "County of Origin" legislation, which requires that water shall be reserved for the presently unirrigated lands of the areas in which the water originates, to the end that only surplus water will be exported elsewhere—".

HOWEVER, ALL SACRAMENTO VALLEY COUNTIES SHOULD PERFECT AN ORGANIZATION AND BE PREPARED FOR ANY FUTURE POSSIBLE EVENTUALITIES.

W. T. ELLIS



W. T. ELLIS.

The parents of Mr. Ellis came to Marysville in 1852 in the "Gold Rush Days."

Mr. Ellis himself was born in Marysville on March 17, 1866, received his education in the local schools and when he arrived at mature age, became associated with his father in the latter's wholesale and retail grocery business, which was conducted successfully for 60 years. After his father died in 1913, the son sold out the business four years later and since has been in other private business.

Like his father before him, Mr. Ellis has always taken an active interest in civic affairs, not as a vocation but an avocation, as follows—

In 1887 was elected a County Supervisor, defeating three other candidates, because of his activities in the Hydraulic Mining litigation, which lasted 20 years.

In 1894 was elected Mayor of Marysville and two years later, was again elected Mayor; both times without opposition. Many public improvements were completed during those four years.

In 1900 was elected President of the Marysville Levee Commission and has been constantly connected with the Commission to date.

In 1912 was appointed as one of the first three members of the State Reclamation Board by Governor Hiram W. Johnson and served nine years, pioneering the State's Flood Control Plan.

In 1916 sold 30 acres of area now known as "Ellis Lake Park" to the City for one dollar.

In 1924 was elected a County Supervisor again and has been re-elected ever since continuously up to the present time.

In 1938 was again appointed by Governor Culbert Olson to the State Reclamation Board and served about one year.

The above represents 52 years of continuous public service; salaries received, either none or nominal; largest salary being County Supervisor \$100 a month, raised twice within last two years by Legislature and is now \$150 a month, less withholding taxes.