

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

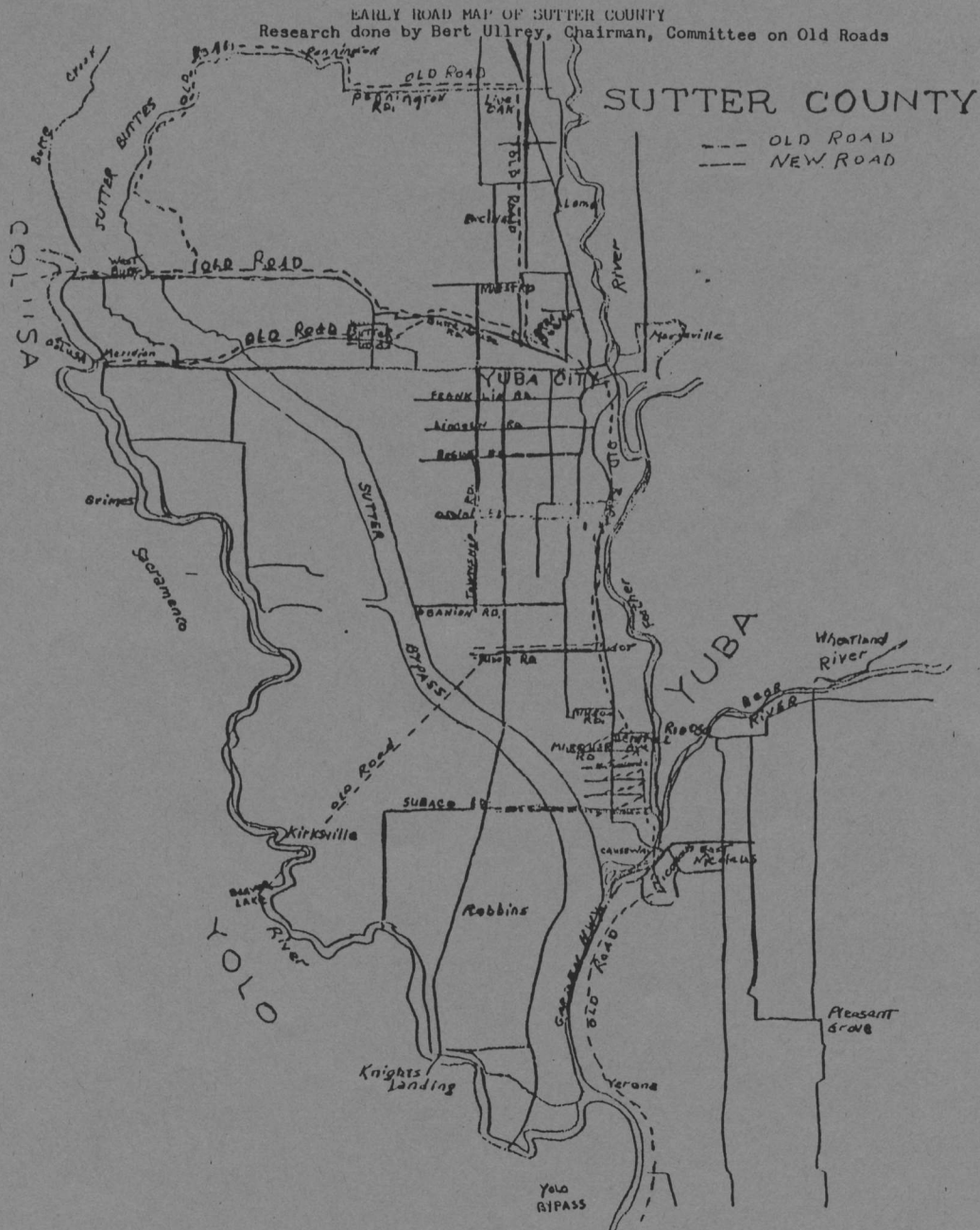
Community Memorial Museum
 1333 BUTTE HOUSE ROAD
 P.O. BOX 1555
 YUBA CITY, CA 95992

NEWS BULLETIN

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SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS BULLETIN

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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 1992 dues are due as of January 1, 1992

| | |
|--|------------|
| 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 |

Please excuse the looks of the covers on this Bulletin. We have had to use a loaner copier since our lovely one broke down and it has the bad habit of wrinkling the paper as it runs through the machine.
The Editor.

OCTOBER 15, 1991 HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING AT THE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM AT 7:30 P.M.
THE SPEAKER HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED AT THIS TIME BUT SHOULD BE AS INTERESTING AS THE ONES WE HAD AT OUR JULY MEETING. THEY GAVE US THE HISTORY OF THE START OF THE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANIES IN THIS AREA.
WE WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU.

GLEANINGS GATHERED BY WINNIE GREENE WERE ALWAYS AN INTERESTING ITEM IN DAYS GONE BY. HERE IS ONE YOU SHOULD FIND VERY AMUSING.

Treasurer's Notice

I hereby give notice that I will visit the different Townships and Bars in this County in from ten to fifteen days from this date, for the purpose of collecting taxes. All persons who have been assessed will please be ready with the amount of their taxes.

Levi Taylor, Treasurer
County of Yuba

From Marysville Herald, September 24, 1850

Director's Report

The Museum is celebrating its sixteenth birthday this year with an exhibit and a party. Some people have asked us why we are making such a fuss over 16 years, its not like the Museum is a person who at sixteen gets its drivers license and somehow feels more grown-up, but in a way that is exactly what is happening at the Museum this year : we are beginning to feel more grown-up.

In its 16th year the Museum staff and Commission can look back and see that much progress has been made. The Museum is no longer fighting for a reason to survive, the community clearly understands the need for such a heritage organization in their midst : this is truly a wonderful thing to celebrate. People have begun to expect quality exhibits and programs from the Museum and we have an obligation to meet and exceed those expectations.

Much of the credit for the success of the Museum goes to the Historical Society. Perseverance and lots of hard work went into starting a museum in Sutter County. The example set in the early days of the Sutter County Museum in Carriage Square during the 1960s and 1970s and by the first director of the Community Memorial Museum, Jean Gustin, gives us much to live up to.

In the June 1991 issue of History News an article on teaching history to children lists the things a museum is and is not. We hope that when you think of the Community Memorial Museum you think of us in terms of the things a museum is rather than the things a museum is not :

A museum is :

- a place of excitement
- a place of curiosity
- a place of participation
- a place of learning

A museum is not :

- a formal place
- a place of silence
- a place where dignity is important

These lists are good criteria to use when looking critically at a museum, whether it is your local museum or the Smithsonian Institution. What binds all history museums together is the way they all started : with the need to collect, hold on to, interpret and share history.

Four centuries ago Thomas Fuller, an English divine said the following:

History maketh a young man old without either wrinkles or gray hairs, privileging him with the experience of age without either the infirmities or inconveniences thereof.

In June 1991, Myron Marby, a historian and writer gave this timeless wisdom a different twist :

History maketh an old man young despite wrinkles and gray hair, privileging him with the imagination of youth without either the indignities or inconveniences thereof.

At the Community Memorial Museum we would like to believe that we are helping to do both of these things so that we are serving the young, the old and everyone in between to the best of our ability.

In our quest to continue to serve the community and Sutter County history, on Thursday, October 17, 1991 we are asking all Sutter County residents to stake their claim in the history of the twentieth century by participating in "The Great Write-In : One Day In Sutter County". Tell us about your day, your deeds, your thoughts -- whatever you like. Help leave future generations an indication of what life was like in the 1990s by writing down your day. All of the contributions will form a community archive and a sampling of what we receive will be compiled and published. Everything contributed will remain in the collections of the Museum for future generations. In the years to come your contributions could "maketh a young man old" and "an old man young".

Jacqueline Lowe
Director/Curator

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AG. BLDG. AND TRUST FUNDS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Wanda Rankin | In memory of Robert S. Galligan |
| Orlin & Johanna Schuler | In memory of Virginia Goetz |
| The Gentry Family | In memory of Martin Dewey |
| Mrs. Myrtle Newcomb | In memory of William R. Cleveland |
| Wanda Rankin | In memory of William R. Cleveland |
| Margaret Madden | In memory of Dorothy Martin |
| Wanda Rankin | In memory of Kirby Schull |
| Wanda Rankin | In memory of Marion Hankins |
| Celia Ettl | In memory of Marion Hankins |
| Richard & Elaine Tarke | In memory of Marion Hankins |
| Connie Cary | In memory of Dorothy E. Martin |
| Connie Cary | In memory of Gordon W. Martin |
| Connie Cary | In memory of Marion Hankins |
| Connie Cary | In memory of Robert S. Galligan |
| Celia H. Ettl | In memory of Thomas Glenn |
| Caroline S. Ringler | In memory of Leila Winship |
| Mrs. E. Hanlon Brown | In memory of Leila Winship |
| Joe Benatar & Fidelity Nat'l. Title | In memory of Elizabeth 'Winona' Kasenberg |
| Helen U. Brierly | In memory of Martin E. Dewey |
| Norma M. Welter | In memory of Margaret & Frank Welter |
| Mr. & Mrs. Gerald A. Frye | In memory of Anne Marie Steidlmayer |
| Dick & Cuba Scriven | In honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Harold & Jeannette Reische |
| Eleanor Holmes | In memory of Ruth McCampbell |
| Nina B. Johnston | In memory of William R. Cleveland |
| Bogue Country Club | In memory of Dorothy Martin |
| Glenna & Earl Kay | In memory of Nora Reische |
| Patsy & Richard Thompson | In memory of Nora Reische |
| Robert & Carol Kay | In memory of Nora Reische |
| Bogue Country Club | In memory of Gordon Martin |
| Ann Dietrich | In memory of Marion Hankins |
| Norman & Loadel Piner | In memory of Ruth McCampbell |
| Norman & Loadel Piner | In memory of Marion Hankins |
| Mary & Gary Phillips & Family | In memory of Marion Hankins |
| Caroline Ringler | In memory of Marion Hankins |
| Earl & Glenna Kay | In memory of Marion Hankins |
| Hap & Marie Campbell | In memory of Stephen Thayer |

Burwell & Loretta Ullrey
Norman & Loadel Piner
Zelma Corbin
Tom & Marnee Crowhurst
Ray & Lena Frye
Hap & Marie Campbell
Julie Stark
Gerry & Virginia Pierce
Betty & Bill Arnett
Mrs. Kenneth L. Brown
James & Judy Barr
Ken & Madge Johnson
Edwina Atterbury & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Quigg

In memory of Leila Winship
In memory of Leila Winship
In memory of Leila Winship
In memory of Leila Winship
In memory of Leila Winship
In memory of Ted Howard
In memory of Marion Hankins
In memory of Marion Hankins
In memory of Leila Winship
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In memory of Leila Winship
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The Great Write-in

One Day in Sutter County :

October 17, 1991

The Community Memorial Museum invites all citizens of Sutter County to write down or in some way record your day :

- What you do on that day
- What you care or think about
- What your occupation or avocation is
- How you spend your leisure time
- What you eat
- Who you talk to
- Anything you want to record for future generations



Help create a community archive to observe the 16th Birthday of the Community Memorial Museum. Document your day on October 17, 1991, and bring or mail your contribution to the Museum by the end of October. A sampling of the contributions will be compiled and published. Everything contributed will remain in the collections of the Museum for future generations.

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 3, 1991

CONTACT: Joyce Huyett or
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DISCOVER "CALIFORNIA'S GOLD" WEEKLY ON PBS THIS FALL

If you like history, you'll love "California's Gold", which airs in a new weekly time slot on PBS television stations statewide beginning this month (September).

Recently endorsed by the California Teachers Association and the California School Boards Association, "California's Gold" is the only program broadcast throughout the state that covers California on a regular basis.

Each program provides a fascinating look at the treasures to be found in our state as producer/host Huell Howser explores California's rich history, natural wonders and cultural diversity.

The first four "California's Gold" programs in the weekly line-up include:

- * PREMIERE. High sea adventures aboard our state's official tall sailing ship, the Californian; and a journey back in time to "Living History Day" at Fort Ross State Park, a historic fort established by Russians in 1821 in Sonoma County.

- * Journey to the Central California Coast where we'll stop in San Luis Obispo at the world's first motel; play a game of horseshoes at a former stage coach stop, and spend a day in the Oceano dunes with the last living "Dunite."

-- more --

- * From L.A. to San Francisco Bay: We'll visit the famous Watts Towers, recently designated as a National Landmark, in the Watts area of Los Angeles. Built by artist Simon Rodia, the towers consist of tiles, rocks, shells and other materials. We'll also travel to San Francisco to find out why the people of that city are so passionate about their sourdough bread.

- * PREMIERE. Head for the borders -- as we visit the northernmost and the southernmost towns in our state. Enjoy a taste of the Horseradish Festival and the surrounding natural beauty of Tule Lake near the Oregon border; then head south to experience the colorful sights and sounds of Calexico, a border town that reflects its rich Mexican-American heritage. (Editor's Note: Some PBS stations will air this program the first week of October.)

"As a history buff, this is something I've always dreamed of doing," says Howser. "'California's Gold' is a ten-year venture. When it's completed, we'll have a series of programs that will document what life was like in California during the last decade of the 20th century."

Celebrating the diversity of the Golden State, "California's Gold" (CC *) is funded by a grant from Wells Fargo Bank and presented by Huell Howser Productions, in association with KCET-TV (PBS/Los Angeles).

Check local PBS program listings for broadcast dates and times in your area.

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* CC: Offered closed-captioned for the hearing impaired on many California PBS stations.

BEAR FLAG PARTY

Throughout the spring some rumors persisted that the California authorities were going to drive American settlers out of the country. From mouth to mouth, words passed that General Jose Don Castro was making war preparations and was inciting the Indians of Sacramento Valley to rise up against the Americans as soon as the grain fields were far enough advanced to be combustible.

Captain Sutter, giving credit to these rumors, was already in active campaign against some of the lawless tribes.

Captain Fremont, who with his scientific expedition, had been for some time in California and had defied California authorities by hoisting the American Flag on Gabilan, or Hawk Peak, located thirty miles from Monterey, had left California on his way back east through Oregon.

Lieutenant Archibald H. Gillespie, of the Marine Corps, who was accredited as a confidential agent of the President, arrived from Monterey at Sutter's Fort on April 28th, and on May 1st, reached Lassen's place and engaged Lassen to take him and catch up with Fremont's party. On May 2nd, with Peter Lassen, Neal Sigler, Stepp, and a negro servant, Ben, he was on Fremont's trail. This party, riding hard, passed through Ide's place that day.

On the 7th, two men were sent in advance and the others encamped at the outlet of Klamath Lake, unable to ford the river and having had nothing to eat for forty hours. On the morning of the 9th, a party of Indians made their appearance. With apparent kindness they gave the travelers fresh salmon and ferried them over the water in canoes. After a day's journey, some thirty miles, Gillespie met Fremont at sunset, by a stream named from the event of that night, Ambuscade Creek. The sixteen tired travelers retired early and were soon sound asleep.

Fremont sat up later than the others to read his letters and dispatches from home. The Indians were thought to be friendly and no watch was kept.

Just before midnight the camp was attacked by savages, and Basil Lajeunesse and a Delaware man were killed as they slept, by blows from axes.

The sound of these blows aroused Kit Carson and Owens, who gave an alarm. The Indians fled, after killing with their arrows a Delaware man by the name of Crane. Among the number of dead Indians left behind was a chief who had helped Gillespie that morning with food and transportation further south.

The next morning they started northward to join the main body, burying their slain comrades on the way. The whole party started on the 11th, down the eastern side of the lake, wreaking terrible vengeance on the natives along the route, according to the statement of Kit Carson, who played a leading part in the killings.

The party passed Ide's place and returned to Lassen's rancho on the 21st, from where, in a few days, they moved and established a camp on the Marysville Buttes. The return of Fremont to California incited more rumors and hopes in the hearts of the American settlers.

It was sometime in the last days of May, 1846, when a young man by the name of Henry L. Ford, a partner of William Moon, stopped his foaming horse by the cabin of William Ide and told him that he was informed by the courier from the south, that General Castro was assembling horses on which to send out a company of Mexican soldiers with orders to burn the crops and buildings of and dispossess and expel all American settlers found located north of Sutter's Fort.

Ide made hurried preparations for departure, gave some instructions to his wife and the rest of the family, said goodbye, and accompanied by his son William left with Ford south toward Moon's house.

It was this Ford, who had previously had about four years of service as a dragoon in the U.S. Army, who on this occasion served as the Paul Revere of California, hurriedly riding, as he did, as far south as the Yuba River, where Marysville now stands, giving to the scattered settlers the alarm of approaching danger at the hands of the Mexicans.

The Moon house, built of hewn oak in 1845, and destroyed in 1910, was located about two miles south of Woodson Bridge, and became the rendezvous of promoters of the Bear Flag party. Among them were Ide, Ford and Merritt, from the present Tehama County, with Semple and some others from Colusa. They quickly organized in a company, to protect their homes and families, to fight the Mexicans, "if it takes all summer," and as some of them proposed, to have their own state much after the plans of those of Texas, "The Lone Star State."

I am giving herera new version of the first Bear Flag, as told by Nathaniel Merrill, the uncle of H. Ford, to Warren N. Woodson of Corning. Mr Merrill began bookkeeping and clerking for the firm of Moon and Ford January 24, 1850. According to Mr Merrill's claim it was young Ford who, appreciating the propriety, if not the necessity of having some sort of insignia or banner under which to march, and if needs be to fight, was the author of the Bear Flag.

This flag was made from a washed one hundred-pound flour sack, which had been shipped to California from Chile. A red star and a red border for this improvised flag were cut from a worn red flannel shirt. In the upper left-hand corner of this flag was a star, and facing the star was a crudely painted grizzly bear. So crudely painted was it that the Mexicans mistook it for Co-Chi-No, or a little hog. Along the lower face of this flag were painted the two words, "California Republic."

The other version, on which many historians have agreed, was told by Todd, that Granville P. Swift, Peter Storm, Henry L. Ford and William Todd made the Bear Flag in the house where they made their headquarters. No doubt several Bear Flags were made in that month of June 1846

The settlers elected Ezekiel Merritt, who knew the country well, as their captain, and proceeded toward Fremont's camp, to confer with him on the protection of the settlers and for checking the attack of Don Castro.

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Fremont firmly stated to them, that as an officer of the U.S. government, with an exploring party, he could not assist in the attack on the Mexicans, except in self-defense.

Kit Carson and others under the command of Fremont, begged to be released, that they might go with the revolutionists, but Fremont refused.

Now exciting news came by messenger from the south, that a private secretary of Castro, by the name of Francisco Arce, accompanied by Lieutenant Jose Maria Aliso and eight vaqueros, were herding 170 horses to Santa Clara.

The horses were secured by Castro from Vallejo in Sonoma, and as Arce stated along the route, were going to be used to mount the troops for driving the American settlers out of California.

The small group of American revolutionists held a short meeting and decided to strike the first blow at General Castro, also maybe to provoke an attack by Mexicans on Fremont and by that break his neutrality.

Arce, after crossing the Sacramento River at Knights Landing, reached Sutter's Fort on June 8th. The party of twelve Americans under the command of Merritt, started on his trail on the afternoon of June 9th. In passing New Helvetia, the company was increased by two new recruits. Crossing the American River late in the evening they made their first stop on the ranch of Allen Montgomery, who not only furnished them with supper, but he and the other men joined the party.

Arce, with his escort, had stopped for the night at the rancho of Murphy, using his corral for their horses, while Merritt and his men camped within three miles of the place. At early dawn on the morning of June 10, 1846, they swooped down upon the unsuspecting Arce and Aliso and disarmed them and their men.

Being gentlemen, in their own rough and ready code, they returned some horses which belonged to Arce personally, also horses to the rest of his party; they restored also their arms and offered to part fifty yards and fight the price of Castro's horses out, but Arce declined this proposition. Then they made him the bearer of the

message to Castro, that if the latter wanted his horses he could come after them. On his return, Arce also reported to Castro that the insurgents had declared their intention to take Sonoma. This declaration was a subject of official announcement at Monterey, two days before Sonoma was captured, which proved that Arce and Aliso had not falsely reported the utterance of Merritt and his followers.

Within forty-eight hours after they had started on their expedition, the revolutionists were back in the neighborhood of Fremont's camp, with the band of captured horses.

THE EARLY TRAVELED ROADS OF SUTTER COUNTY

by Bert Ullrey

While not attaining the results desired it has been my aim to make it as complete as possible.

To begin, the first mode of transportation was by boat from Sacramento to Nye's Ranch which is Marysville.

In the year 1843 a ferry was built by order of Captain Sutter. The ferry crossed the Feather River at the town of Nicolaus. From this location the road went North along and near the present road. The first stop was Hock Farm. Then the road continued North along the river to Yuba City.

Several short roads went West from this main road, as they were used mainly to haul wood and hay to the settlements. The wood was used for fuel for the boats and the hay was traded or sold to the miners for their pack mules.

From Yuba City the road was directed West on what is now Bridge Street, then, North on what is now Plumas Street, then West to what is now Onstott Road, then one-half mile North to Butte House Road which goes West to Sutter.

The roads forked at Sutter. One road went to Stohlman's near the Long Bridge, but the main road, the South Butte Pass Road, went to West Butte. It was necessary to cross the Butte Slough by ferry and then proceed West to the Sacramento River where the stage crossed the Sacramento River by ferry. This ferry was called Winter's Ferry and was later known as Moon's Ferry. There was no road to Meridian as they obtained their mail from Colusa.

About one mile East of West Butte the road forked. One road going North through the low hill, coming out at the little place called Noyesburg. This was to avoid the high water that prevailed between West Butte and Noyesburg in the winter months. This road continued around the Buttes to Pennington and then to Live Oak. The road was just about in the same location as it is at present.

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Another road which was traveled a great deal went West from Tudor across the tule to Kirksville. Again it was necessary to cross by ferry to continue to San Francisco.

District Number 70 was reclaimed in 1867 and a bridge was built one thousand seven hundred and sixty feet long at a cost of \$10,000. near the Long Bridge at the Stohlman place. Some of the old piling is still standing. This road changed the mail route to Meridian from Sutter.

In the year 1850 a ferry was built just South of the Yuba River which was used to cross to Yuba City. Later in 1853 a toll bridge was built near where the fifth street bridge was located. This bridge washed out in 1861.

The road from Yuba City to Live Oak forked off Butte House Road and continued North near the Stafford and Bihlman Ranches or may be located as Larkin Road.

A ferry was also placed at the town of Knights Landing.

Also a road led off from the Butte House Road and entered a canyon on the East side and led into the hills where large religious meetings were held. These were known as "Camp Meetings".

Very few of the roads were graded and were very muddy in the winter. Some were closed because of high water. The roads went in many directions, but in later years they were surveyed and kept in line.

This is a reprint of an article from our April 1957 edition.