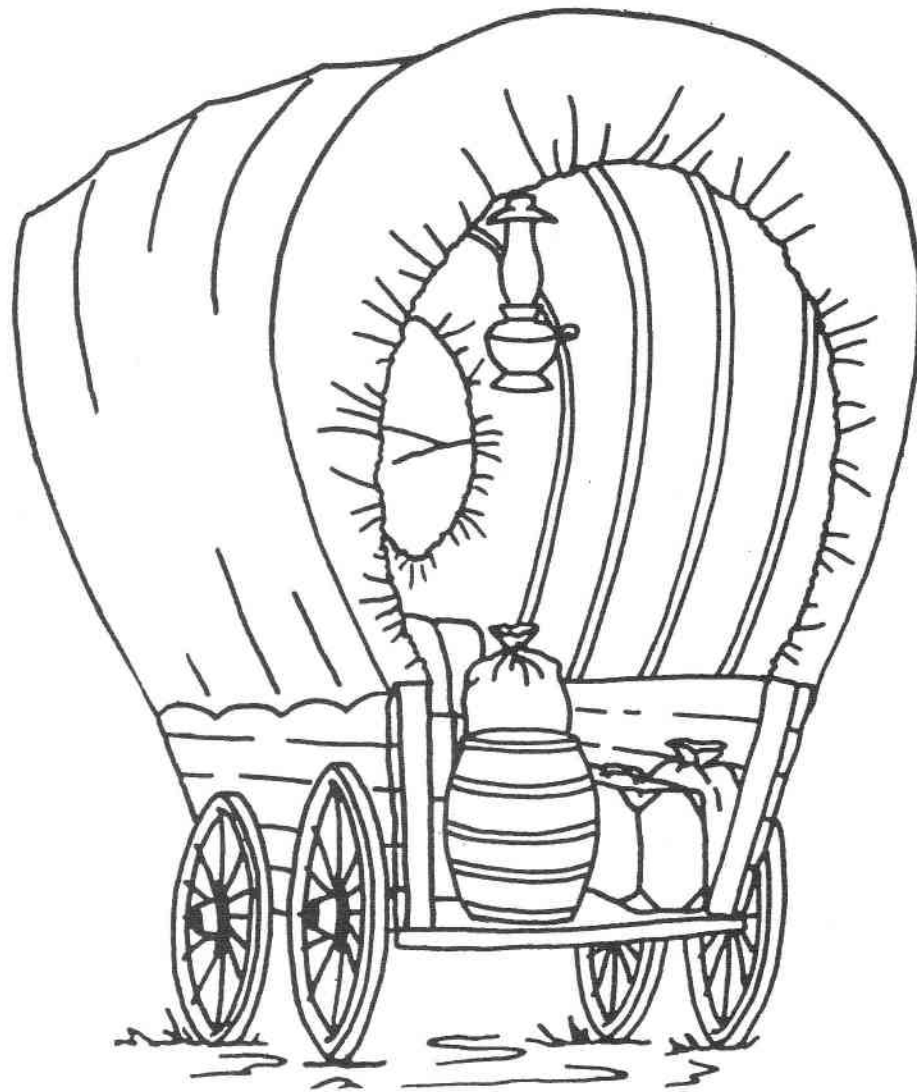








Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin

Vol. XXXVI No. 2

Yuba City, California

April, 1995




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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 Annual Dinner Meeting it was voted to change the By-laws to combine the memberships of the Society and the Museum.

The 1995 dues are payable as of January 1, 1995.

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

My term as President of the Historical Society ends in April. As this will be my last "President's Message" to you, I would like to thank everyone for the increased interest in the Society. It has been an honor to serve as your President the last two years and I know the new slate of officers will be as active and interested as I have been. There is a great future in getting the "ag addition" to the museum built to preserve our agricultural heritage.

We wish to thank Edgar and Virginia Stanton for an outstanding program for our January meeting. There was good attendance in spite of all of the rain and wind.

Hope to see all of you at our Annual Dinner on April 11th in Meridian. Dr. Pat Stanford is an outstanding speaker whom I'm sure everyone will enjoy listening to about "Women Came West." She seems to make history come alive.

The topic for the Community Memorial Museum/Historical Society's Judith Barr Fairbanks Memorial Essay Contest this year was "Living In the Gold Rush Era." The contest was open to all fourth graders in Sutter County. The top four winners will receive their awards at the Annual Dinner on April 11th. Their essays will be printed in the July Bulletin.

Evelyn Quigg
President



Subscription Offer

The Californians magazine is offering members of our society a \$4.00 discount on new subscriptions or a \$2.00 discount for a renewal subscription with the following coupon. *The Californians* is a bi-monthly, 64-page magazine of California history. To get the discount, clip or copy the coupon and send it when you make your payment.

\$4/\$2	This certificate is worth \$4 off a new subscription or \$2 off a subscription renewal to	\$4/\$2
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	No-obligation, cancelable trial sub: (800) 982-1609 Limit: one coupon per year.	
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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As the winter rains fell without seeming to stop throughout most of January this year, here at the Museum we began to wonder if our timing of the exhibition dealing with the 1955 flood was going to be just a bit too personal. Fortunately the rains stopped before we had begun to pack our cars in readiness for evacuation, but the experience did give a sense of what it must have been like to live in Sutter County in December 1955 and to wonder whether or not your home was indeed a safe haven.

One thing the January rains did was to stimulate many of you to start thinking about the 1955 flood and then share with us. We have received several loans of photographs and objects, and some very thoughtfully written personal accounts of the 1955 flood. We hope that people will continue to think about the flood and to share their memories and mementos with the Museum. The more you share with us, the better the content of the exhibition we create. *The 1955 Flood: Communities Coping with Disaster* will open at the Museum on Friday, May 5, and remain on exhibit through the end of November.

When you are thinking back to the 1955 flood, if your memories center around Marysville, rather than Yuba City, please remember to share your photographs, stories and artifacts with Karen Burrow, at the Mary Aaron Museum. In the same way that the flood watch, evacuation, rescue efforts and recovery were experiences shared by both Sutter County and Marysville, so, to, is this exhibition effort. On Friday, May 17, the Mary Aaron Museum will open the second part of the 1955 Flood exhibition with *Island in the Sea: Marysville in the 1955 Flood*.

On to a happier event. The Museum is once again offering *Mother's Day Decadence* to those of you looking for the perfect Mother's Day gift. These gift bags, available on May 12, have been designed especially for Mother's Day. Inside the beautiful rose decor bag is a mug, tea, honey sticks, chocolate truffles, soap, love puff, bath salts and a card. The price of the bag, including delivery, is still only \$20.00. An order form is included in this issue of the *Bulletin*.

We hope that you will visit the Museum this spring for a variety of reasons: to learn more about an important event in local history and to honor an important lady in your life.

Jacqueline Lowe
Director

Letter from the Editors

We would like to thank Janet Mahon of Sacramento for letting us know about her aunt, Delma (Davis) Welter Reick of Fresno, who is the newest member of our Honorary Members group. We hope to do a full interview with Mrs. Reick in the future.

Remember, any person born in Sutter County who is 90 years old or older is eligible for an honorary membership in the Sutter County Historical Society. The person does not have to currently reside in Sutter County.

Don Burtis' research to discover information about the people and places mentioned in the Buttes trip in the January Bulletin has grown into an interesting article. Knowing something about the people makes them seem more real to those of us who did not know them. We appreciate Don's contribution and are sure you will enjoy reading it. We look forward to more articles by Don. It's a good thing he's retired because he's been bitten by the "research bug"; he wouldn't have time to do research, his other projects and work too. We're glad "work" is what he's given up!

Dorothy Ross has come through with another great article about the Live Oak area. This lady's knowledge is amazing. Not only does she know her subject, she enjoys it. She has so many stories and ideas for stories. We are fortunate that she is willing to share them with us.

First we found the newspaper articles about the Assessor going out into the community, then we started asking questions. Steve Perry was the one we

asked to come up with the answers -- and he had them. Thanks, Steve.

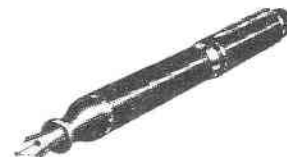
In the July Bulletin, we will be printing the four winning essays in the Judith Barr Fairbanks Essay Contest. These were written by Sutter County fourth grade students, each from a different school. You will also be reading a newspaper article about an 1888 Fourth of July celebration, thanks once again to Don Burtis and his research.

The October Bulletin will include articles about Christmas celebrations in Meridian, West Butte and Franklin school as well as New Year's in Nicolaus.

We really appreciate contributions of material and ideas. Not only does it make our job easier, it gives different views of what's important in Sutter County's history. Everyone sees things from a different perspective or angle. History is no different.

We need your continued support. If you have information to share, call us. If you're willing to be interviewed, call us. If you know of someone who might be willing to share their information, call us. We're interested in researched articles, memories, diaries, anything that contains Sutter County's past. We're all in this together. You can reach Linda at 673-2721 and Sharyl at 674-7741. Leave a message if we're out - you'll get a call back.

Linda Leone
Sharyl Simmons



Memorial Contributions

In Memory of **James E. Arnoldy**
Joe & Patti Benatar

In Memory of **Glenda Ashford**
Burwell & Loretta Ullrey

In Memory of **Vivian Baker**
Ev & Liz Berry

In Memory of **Dorothy Willis Barkley**
John & Dorothea Reische
Burwell & Loretta Ullrey

In Memory of **John Breeding Jr.**
M/M Dick Brandt
Luella Brick
Katie & Bob Bryant
Mary & Raymond Crane
Margaret Christensen
Marnee Crowhurst
Georgia & Wilbur Green
Helen Heenan
Evelyn & Harold Quigg
Dorothy Ross
M/M Joe Ruzich
Randy & Shirley Schnabel
Virginia & Edgar Stanton
Florence & Richard Van Alstyne

In Memory of **Verna J. Browning**
Mary C. Gillis

In Memory of **Percy Davis**
Linda Leone
Randy & Shirley Schnabel
M/M Orlin Schuler

In Memory of **Dan Dillon**
Jane Boone

In Memory of **Edie Stain Fenimore**
Carolyn Oswald

In Memory of **Ermelinda Ferri**
Ev & Liz Berry

In Memory of **Hazel Finke**
Bogue Country Club

In Memory of **Tony Gonzales**
Bob & Katie Bryant

In Memory of **Jack Heenan**
Louise Hendrix
George & Donna McDougal

In Memory of **James R. Heenan**
Helen Heenan

In Memory of **Perry Hill**
Newell Burtis

In Memory of **Elva Hoch**
Donna & Barry McMaster

In Memory of **William Jones**
Mary Poole
Wanda Rankin
Pete & Margit Sands
Randy & Shirley Schnabel

In Memory of **Joe Keech**
Connie Cary
Burwell & Loretta Ullrey

In Memory of **Verna M. Lemenager**
Barry Lemenager

In Memory of **Dorothy Lennox**
Randy & Shirley Schnabel

In Memory of **Edward LePine**
Jane Boone

In Memory of **Edwin Moore**
Bob & Katie Bryant

In Memory of **Rachel R. Moore**
Fidelity Natl. Title Ins. Co.

In Memory of **Barbara Nagler**
Virginia Filter & Family
Robert Schmidl Family

In Memory of **William E. Neal**
Robert Schmidl Family

In Memory of **Bessie Peterson**
Eleanor Holmes

In Memory of **Daphne Schliesman**
Fidelity Natl. Title Ins. Co.

In Memory of **Mary Steidlmayer**
Joe & Patti Benatar

In Memory of **William Van Gilder, Sr.**
Fidelity Natl. Title Ins. Co.

In Memory of **George "Bud" Wallace**
W/M H. E. Edmonds

In Memory of **Dorothy Wilbur**
Connie Cary
Fidelity Natl. Title Ins. Co.
Jim & Bobby Howard
Tom & Jean Pfeffer

In Memory of **Mary Jane Williams**
Ruth Anthony
Dale & Alma Burtis
Mary C. Gillis
Bernice & Harry Wilson

Gift to **Museum Endowment Fund**
Norman & Loadel Piner



WHERE DOES YOUR CONTRIBUTION GO?

The above list of contributions contains gifts to both the Community Memorial Museum and the Sutter County Historical Society.

Unless otherwise specified, the donations to the Historical Society go into the Agricultural Addition Building Fund of the Society. Plans are progressing for the addition to the Museum.

Donations specified for general use go into the Society's General Fund. These moneys are used to pay the Society's annual insurance premium, post office box rental, Bulletin printing and mailing expenses and other operating expenses.

All donations are greatly appreciated and help keep the Historical Society a viable entity in the community.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

APRIL MEETING

The Annual Dinner Meeting is being held on April 11th at the Veterans' Building in Meridian. A ham dinner will be prepared by the Lilac Rebekah Lodge #250.

We will have a full program starting with the Judith Barr Fairbanks Memorial Essay Contest awards. The four winning essays will be printed in the July Bulletin.

Dr. Patricia Stanford of Sacramento will be our speaker. The list of organizations to which she belongs (we're sure she's no passive member!) is long and centers around historical and medical groups. She is very enthusiastic about her topic, "Women Came West," and her enthusiasm is contagious. In addition to sharing her knowledge, she'll be sharing a "Buffalo Chip Cookie" recipe. If any of you would like to bring a history she could have, she would like to add it to her histories of women collection.

The only "business" for the evening will be to elect the Board of Directors of the Historical Society.

The charge for the evening will be \$10.00. If you have any questions or would like to make reservations, please contact Linda Leone (673-2721). Reservations may also be made by calling the museum at 741-7141.

1995 ORNAMENTS

The order is in and now we're waiting for the shipment to arrive. As we told you before, the 1995 Ornament will feature the Sutter Buttes. The art work chosen is the drawing of the Buttes which was done by Grace Ettl of Meridian and appeared on the plate collection the museum offered several years ago. Mrs. Ettl gave use of several of her sketches to the Meridian Farm Women. We would like thank Mrs. Ettl for her artistic ability and the Meridian Farm Women for permission to use the sketches. The ornaments are individually boxed and will sell for \$7.00 each. Two hundred eighty-eight ornaments have been ordered. If you would like to reserve an ornament, call Linda Leone at 673-2721.

HONORARY MEMBERS

An honorary membership to the Sutter County Historical Society is offered to any person who was born in Sutter County ninety or more years ago. The person does not need to currently reside in Sutter County to be a member. If you or someone you know falls into this special category, please contact Linda at 673-2721 or drop us a note at P.O. Box 1004, Yuba City, CA 95992.

DELMA (DAVIS) WELTER REICK

Delma Ruth Davis was born at her parents' home in Sutter City, California on May 31, 1903. She is the daughter of Wallis James and Laura Belle (Drake) Davis. She has two brothers, Donald born in 1902 and Vern born in 1911, both of whom are deceased.

Her father, Wallis, was born on July 14, 1861 in Sutter County, the oldest child of Eli and Sophia (Hyndman) Davis. Delma's mother, Laura Belle, the daughter of Issiac and Mary Elizabeth (Yeates) Drake, was born in Missouri and came to California with her family in 1889.

When Delma was five years old, the family moved to a home on Franklin Road. The house burned when Delma was 7 or 8 years old and was rebuilt in 1912.

As a child, Delma played with the children who lived near her. Her best friend was Clarice Oheyer. They played with dolls and other toys, many of which they made themselves.

Delma attended Franklin Grammar School where her first teacher was Miss Hazel Moore. She is a graduate of Sutter Union High School where she was a member of the class of 1922.

While Delma thought all of her teachers were good, she enjoyed the dances even more. Delma, Clarice and two or three other girls enjoyed going to the dances at the Moon Dance Hall. Since the girls were not old enough to go to the dances alone, Mrs. Davis would take the girls and sit from 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. while the girls danced.

Following graduation from high school, Delma attended Heald's Business College in Sacramento. After graduation, she worked as a temporary secretary for three attorneys. She was offered a permanent position, but quit to get married.

Delma married Preston Jacob Welter, a native of Sutter County, in Marysville in 1923. They had two sons, Preston Jacob Welter and Gary Lincoln Welter Reick. Her son, Preston, died as result of a gun accident in 1943.

After her marriage ended in 1941, Delma went back to Heald's to brush up on her office skills and then went to work as a deputy Sutter County Treasurer and Tax Collector. Gerald Raub was the Treasurer/Tax Collector at the time.

In 1945 in Reno, Nevada, Delma married George Edgar Reick. They moved to San Francisco prior to settling in Southern California. They were living near Northridge at the time of the big earthquake in 1971. In 1974, they moved back to Sutter County. Mr. Reick died in 1977. Their son is John Davis Reick.

In 1986, Delma moved to Fresno to be closer to her son, John, and his family. She currently resides with her son, Gary, who has also moved to Fresno.

In 1987, Delma took up oil painting. She specializes in landscapes and seascapes and has won second place at the Fresno Fair the two times she has entered her paintings. She takes painting lessons twice a week and has added a ceramics class to her schedule. Delma says, "I've had a good life; I've had lots of fun."

THE BUTTES REVISTED

In the January 1995 issue, we printed the "Old Squire's" account of his June 1892 trip around the Buttes. Don Burtis furnished us with this article. Don's curiosity got the best of him and he decided to investigate the people and places mentioned in the article. We are reprinting the original article, followed by Don's informative annotation.



TRIP AROUND THE BUTTES

Editor Farmer: Last Friday myself and wife celebrated the battle of Bunker Hill by making our regular biannual trip from Live Oak around the Buttes. The day was lovely and the knats considerate. Before arriving at the adobe, wheat looked fine, but the adobe had suffered from lack of drainage. On arriving at Pennington we find Bud J. C. Kingsbury doing a good mercantile business, the two blacksmith shops lively with work, and the grain looking better than ever. Next we come to Buttesylvania, the home of the late Dr. McMurtry. Dr. T. H. Ferguson is now the owner of this valuable ranch and starts in with 4500 bags to hold the present wheat crop. Coming to the Graves farm the grain is heavier than we ever saw on this land, but the rust is bad in places, and will probably cause the wheat to shrink. We pass a barley field already harvested and come to the Kersey place, where a change has been made in the road, and more barley has been put in the sack. Surely there is something in a name, for we would not have found the ancient Noyesburg only for the name being painted on the old shop. Mr. Noyes is an old '49er, he has a fine home, a school house nearby, a cemetery just too

convenient for anything, raises good crops and has demonstrated that alfalfa will grow on the dryest soil but not with enough vigor to choke out foxtail, or to pay as well as wheat raising. At the old Jack Porter place the house has been moved away and the crops look fair. We see some heading has been done, and arrive at West Butte. Geo. Straub and sons run everything here, which consists of a general merchandise store, blacksmith and repair shop. There are some neat residences, a public hall and a fine church, but what its politicks were we didn't find out.

G. W. Santee had threshed his barley and J. M. Cope was looking after the threshing and marketing of his barley which he had sold for 80 cents per cenial.

We pass where W. W. Wilbur is heading a heavy crop of wheat. Go on over two new bridges, interview the Farmer school house, where they have a fig staff to enforce that loyalty to the government, if not to the teacher. Return to Butte creek, eat our lunch, and are again on our way around the south end.

W. F. Hoke has a very heavy crop of early wheat which has been damaged

about one third by the late storm. We find one harvester running on wheat, pass some fine residences, including Joseph Girdner's, and arrive at Sutter City. The place has not improved with age, but on viewing its tree fringed avenues one could only wish that it had boomed into the Gem City of the Valley, but alas, it stands as a monument to its founder, of faith in the reversal of the law of nature, of hope in impossibilities, and charity with the dollars of deluded worshipers at his shrine.

Continuing our journey home by way of Union school house, where the grain everywhere was immense. Interviewed G. N. Smith the ex-Justice of

the Peace and Assessor, whose worst public offense has been the assessing of too many stray dogs. Mr. Smith's 500 acre farm is at the foot of East Butte, his home is a comfort to look at, and his young orchard is an emblem of enterprise.

Passing over Snake river the black land shows as good a prospect as the best loam land in the county. T. H. Stafford's almond orchard is thriving. More heavy grain lines the road and in every house is a candidate for sheriff.

Old Squire
Live Oak, June 24, 1892
Sutter County Farmer - 24 June 1892



A TRIP REMEMBERED

By
Don Burtis

I came across the above article and shared it with Linda Leone. I offered to write a piece that would tell a little bit about the people and places mentioned so that they wouldn't be "just names" out of the past. Needless to say, my offer was accepted. I'm sure there are some who would know about these people and places, but I'll bet there are a lot more that don't.

There we were, heading west from Live Oak on Pennington Road in a horse drawn carriage on a lovely morning on the 17th of June 1892, which actually is the anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill. There wasn't a single high power

electric line or tower, or a jet plane to be seen. Wheat fields were growing on both sides of the road as we headed toward the north side of the Buttes. The air was clean and clear and the Buttes were beautiful.

At Pennington we saw "Bud" J.C. Kingsbury (Joseph Cade Kingsbury is his full name) who owned a successful store and blacksmith shop. He purchased property there in 1886 and was appointed Postmaster at Pennington in 1887. "Bud" was a native of Jefferson County, New York, and came to California in 1859. He was in business in Marysville for a number of years before he purchased the property in Pennington.

He was a veteran of the Civil War, having served with Company B, Seventh Regiment, Volunteers of California, from 1864 to 1866. He died in 1905 at the age of 67 leaving a wife, one son and three daughters. His funeral took place at the Union Church in Pennington and he was buried in Live Oak. His wife was a sister of J.R. Garrett, who owned and operated a large and successful wholesale and retail grocery business on the corner of Third and High streets in Marysville.

Continuing on our trip, we arrived at Buttesylvania, the home of the late Dr. McMurtry. He called his place the Butte Sylvania Ranch. Dr. William McMurtry was born in Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky on August 15, 1802. He went into the field of medicine and began practicing at the age of 20. He was quite successful and became financially secure. He purchased a farm near Elizabethtown, Kentucky which was not very successful so he resumed the practice of medicine in the Louisville area. He was married in 1830 to Miss Sarah Mariah Van Anglen and they had five children. They were John (1831), Cynthia (1832), Sarah Catherine (1835), Louis (1839) and Junius (1844). On April 20, 1849, Dr. McMurtry and his oldest son John Van Anglen McMurtry, age 18, left Big Springs, Kentucky and traveled to St. Joseph, Missouri, where they purchased a covered wagon and four yoke of oxen and made their way to California. They did some mining and the Doctor also became owner of a restaurant at Boston Ravine. In 1852, he returned to Kentucky and with the rest of his family he again crossed the plains to California, arriving at Nevada City on the fifth of August, 1852. He made the first

improvements on his North Butte farm this same year. They remained in Nevada City until 1854 when they moved to the Sutter County ranch. By 1875, the McMurtry family owned 2,744 acres lying northwest of the Buttes as well as in the Buttes. Here Dr. McMurtry mainly engaged in raising hogs, chickens, sheep and wheat. Mrs. McMurtry died in 1882. The doctor continued to practice medicine, mainly among his neighbors, until he retired. In 1868, when the need arose, he donated land for a school which served the Buttesylvania School District. A school warrant record shows that William McMurtry was paid \$33.75 for teaching school there in 1871. (Since there is no other record of his teaching, it seems likely that he may have substituted until a regular teacher was found. He was 69 years old at the time.) Miss Mary Albert was the last teacher there when the school closed in 1876. The area then became part of the North Butte School District. Dr. McMurtry married Cynthia, a sister of his first wife, and moved to Oakland where he died March 6, 1892. He was buried in the North Butte Cemetery.

At the time of our trip, the McMurtry Ranch was owned by Dr. T.H. Ferguson. He was married to Sarah Catherine "Jane" McMurtry, daughter of Dr. William McMurtry, on January 5, 1882 at Butte Sylvania. He was a native of Warren County, Kentucky and served as a prominent physician in the area for many years. He died June 17, 1910 at the Rideout Hospital in Marysville, aged 73 years. C.R. Boyd, a prominent resident of Yuba City, accompanied his remains to San Francisco where they were cremated. His wife Jane died August 23, 1912 and she, like her

husband, was cremated in San Francisco.

Although John Van Anglen McMurtry was not mentioned in the original trip, it would not be inappropriate to include some information about him. John was an authentic pioneer and "49er" in his own right having crossed the plains with his father, mined, and acquired holdings of his own which lay along the route of our trip. He is credited as being the first man to start the cattle and sheep industry in Sutter County. He purchased a flock of sheep from Captain Gridley, for whom the town of Gridley is named. This flock became the foundation of the industry in the county. On March 24, 1884, he married Miss Anabel Miller and they had three children, one of whom was Imogene McMurtry.

Continuing our trip we arrived at the Graves Farm, which in 1886 was part of the estate of Henry S. Graves. Mr. Graves was born in Connecticut on February 4, 1830 and came to California by crossing the plains in 1849. He engaged in mining until 1852 when he settled on this ranch now consisting of about 3,000 acres lying north of the Buttes. It's interesting to note that H.S. Graves was very successful in stock raising and grain farming when he was just 22 years old. Another interesting thing about Mr. Graves was that he was one of the first and one of the leading temperance men of the state.

[I feel the reader would find the following news article about the death of Mr. Graves from the June 8, 1888 edition of the Sutter County Farmer called the Noyesburg Notes which was written by A.S. Noyes who was also visited on this original trip around the Buttes.

NOYESBURG NEWS "One of our pioneers has left us. Henry Sherman Graves died at his home at West Butte, June 3rd at 4 o'clock a.m. of pneumonia after a lingering illness of 4 weeks. He was buried at Noyes Cemetery on Tuesday, June 5. Mr. Graves was born in Connecticut on February 4, 1830, came to California in 1849 to follow mining until 1852 when he came to Sutter County near the Buttes, where he resided until his death. On January 13, 1862, he was married to Mary Daple, sister of F. Terstegge of Marysville, who has borne him six children - 3 sons and 3 daughters, all grown. He was a loving husband, a kind father and beloved by all who knew him. Mr. Graves was one of the few tempornic forty-niners who gained wealth and enjoyed it. (signed - A.S. Noyes, Noyesburg, June 6, 1888.)"

The names of their three sons were Frank, Albert and George Graves, and their daughters were Mrs. Louisa J. Doyle, Mrs. Julia Royce and Mrs. Annie Farnsworth. Mrs. Graves had a daughter from her first marriage, Mrs. Carrie Godfrey.

Mr. Graves died without having a will so under the laws of California his wife received one-half of his estate and his six children the other half which amounted to one-twelfth of the estate to each of them. His land holdings consisted of about 3,826 acres. Included in the list of his personal property was one cow and 3,000 head of sheep.

We next came to the Kersey Place which was owned by Thomas S. Kersey who was a native of Kentucky. He lived and farmed in the West Butte-Noyesburg area for many years. In September 1869 he sold his farm at Noyesburg to C.W. Noyes of San Francisco who was a

nephew of A.W. Noyes. He and his wife then moved to Bangor, in Butte County. He died May 20, 1913 at his home in Bangor and was buried in the Pennington Cemetery.

Our next stop was at Noyesburg or where Noyesburg used to be. We identified the location by the name painted on an old shop building. [This building no longer exists.] Noyesburg was the name given to a settlement located about four miles north of the West Butte store which was located on the northwest corner of Pass Road and West Butte Road. In 1886, there were about forty buildings in the community of Noyesburg, including a school house, a blacksmith shop and the elegant new house built by A.S. Noyes after whom the burg was named. About 18 to 20 people lived in the immediate vicinity. A.S. Noyes and B.F. Stevenson were the first people to homestead land in this area west of the Buttes.

In 1868 the need arose for a burial ground. Anna Elizabeth (Cilley) Gilpatric, Mrs. Noyes' sister, was the first to be buried at the Noyes Cemetery. Both the school and the cemetery were named for their benefactor, Allen S. Noyes. A deed recorded April 21, 1888, 20 years after the death of Mrs. Gilpatric, shows that A.S. Noyes gave the land comprising the cemetery to Sutter County. He did this by deeding the property to the Trustees of the Noyes School District of Sutter County. The cemetery is presently a part of the Sutter County Cemetery District. Analena Stohlman Sears wrote in the July 1976 Bulletin, "This over-a-century cemetery is located west of the Sutter Buttes where in years gone by, it was an unbelievably quiet part of Sutter County and remote -

from almost anywhere." It really still is.

When the need arose, Mr. Noyes also donated land for the Noyes School. This school was in operation during the 1874-1875 school year and remained in session until it closed in 1923. Miss Eleta Hill, who taught at Brittan School for so many years, taught at Noyes School from 1915 to 1918. The last teacher was Vera Carroll in 1923. She was buried in the Noyes Cemetery in 1974.

At the close of the Noyes Grammar School in June 1923, the cemetery grounds and upkeep were turned over to the Sutter Cemetery District. A document on record at the Sutter County Recorder's Office, signed by Mrs. Anna E. Stohlman and Henry Counts, both of whom were the last active Trustees of the Noyes Grammar School, verifies this fact (1926).

Mrs. Sears also writes, "With all of the hardships these fine folk endured in the early years at Noyesburg - crop failure, loss of livestock from disease and the elements, long harsh winters, unbearably hot summers, fire, illness, death - there were good times too. Weddings, births, Community affairs, dances, church services, fun and laughter, so hope bloomed eternal with each spring's new beginning." But it all passed on and there is very little evidence in view to show that Noyesburg even existed. [Here is a mystery! I am informed by a most reliable source that the school is still there, but you may not recognize it!]

Allen S. Noyes was born at Amhurst, New Hampshire on September 18, 1826. At age 21 he moved to Massachusetts and lived there for 2½ years and learned the carpenter's trade.

He came to California in 1849, via Cape Horn and immediately ventured into the gold mining fields at Foster's Bar in Yuba County. Later he engaged in the butcher business in the same area for 5½ years. Near the beginning of 1855 he returned to Massachusetts and married Miss Philena Cilley of Maine on March 2, 1854. He and his bride returned to California in 1855, by way of the Isthmus of Panama and went back to Foster's Bar and his butchering business. Mr. Noyes purchased a "squatter's claim" in 1854 and continued to acquire land. In December of 1857 he moved there with his family. The Noyes' first home was a one story, rambling house situated on the west side of West Butte Road, approximately one quarter mile north of the cemetery. When their son, Edward A. Noyes, was married to Miss Belle Dean, in 1876, Mr. and Mrs. Noyes built a new home east of the county road and a bit south from their former residence. Belle was the daughter of Thomas Dean. All five of Bell and Edward Noyes' children were born in the first Noyes home. They were Bernice, who married D.W. Hill; Abbie, who married Tony Vagades; Myrtle, who married James L. Haynes; Charles, who married Harriet Maud Miller; and Edna who married LeRoy Meyer.

By 1879 Allen S. Noyes owned 1,950 acres of field, hill, slough and pasture land. His wife died April 27, 1903. Edward was their only child, but they took two motherless girls into their hearts and home and brought them up as their own daughters: Amanda Amelia Westervelt and Anna Elizabeth Gilpatric. These two children were given every advantage available to them in those early days. Both grew up to be lovely

young women under the guiding hands of the Noyes.

Allen S. Noyes died on October 13, 1904 and was buried at the Noyesburg Cemetery. Edward A. Noyes fell heir to the vast Noyes holdings and farmed there until 1914. In that year he sold the farm and hill property to Thomas Quigley of Seattle, Washington, and moved to Sutter. Since then the property has changed hands several times and in 1976 was owned by Jeanne M. and Roger Wilbur of Colusa. Before this, the Wilbur's had purchased the former Charles H. Stohlman ranch, a property contiguous to the Noyes property.

Continuing on toward the West Butte Store we passed by the Old Jack Porter Place where the house had been moved away. Jack Porter was born in Lake County, Ohio in 1837 and came to California in 1854. He, like so many others, drove an ox team across the plains as a means of paying his way for the trip. He mined in Sierra County for 16 years after which he came to Sutter County. He purchased a team and did a general freighting business from the Valley to Carson City, Nevada. He was married in 1865 to Miss. M.L. Stevenson of West Butte. In 1869 he purchased his ranch near the Buttes where he raised grain and stock. His ranch was located north of the West Butte store. In 1890, he sold his 600 acre ranch to Louis Tarke for \$9,000 and moved to Live Oak where he engaged in the livery and hotel business until 1906. His health failed and he sold all his property and moved to Sacramento. He died on May 23, 1907 in Sacramento and is buried there. He was survived by his wife and three children, Addie, wife of D. Amaya of

Sacramento; Lydia, wife of T.A. Clyma of Live Oak; and Robert Porter of Live Oak.

We next arrived at West Butte where George Straub and sons ran the store, the blacksmith shop and the repair shop. George Straub was born in Germany in 1834 and came to America as a young man. He was married in 1859 in the town of Louisiana in the state of Missouri. He settled in California at West Butte in the early 1870s where he worked as a blacksmith and later owned a general merchandise store. He was also the postmaster of West Butte. He was likely the best known person in the area since everyone came to the store which also served as the post office. He died at age 88 on February 22, 1922. His funeral was held at his residence in West Butte and he was buried in the Sutter City Cemetery. He left a wife and two sons named George and William. His two sons never traveled very far to find their wives. William A. Straub married Alice Hoke and George Straub Jr. married Geneva Santee.

We next came to the farm of G. W. Santee. He had just threshed his barley. George W. Santee was born in Missouri on August 1, 1831 and came to California in 1850. He engaged in mining for eight years and returned east where, on October 4, 1860, he married Miss Elizabeth Compton. In 1862, with his wife and other relatives, he crossed the plains to California and stopped at Oroville where he again worked at mining. In 1864, he returned to Sutter County and settled at West Butte where he did some farming on his property. He died on January 22, 1914 after residing in West Butte for fifty years. Funeral services were held at his home and included a choir of local friends, namely

Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Hoke, Mrs. C.W. Jones, Misses Hazel Hoke and Leita Hill (Elita), and Louisa Paull. His pall bearers were W.J. & Lester Wilbur, D.A. Stewart, C.W. Jones, J.J. Carroll and Charles Ullrey. He was buried at the Noyesburg Cemetery.

J.M. Cope, who was also working in the barley, was born in Ohio in 1832 and came to California in 1857. He not only farmed, but was experienced as a blacksmith. He moved to Sutter County in 1858 and settled on a farm near the Buttes on what was then called the Colusa Stage Road (now Pass Road) that goes through the Buttes and on through West Butte toward Colusa. His first wife, Mary, died in an accident in December of 1886. It was of particular interest to me to find that one of his daughters, Florence, was married to Augustine W. Burtis in June 1887 and they lived in San Francisco. Florence died in San Francisco in 1893. Another daughter was Mrs. A.F. Brittan of San Francisco. [Alfred F. Brittan was a son of George Brittan, an early pioneer of South Butte.] His son L.J. Cope served as Sutter County Treasurer for a number of years. In 1896, Jesse Metcalfe Cope sold his farm to W.J. Wilbur and in 1897 he married a second time to Mrs. Bell McPherson of Modesto. He died January 6, 1905 at Mt. View, Santa Clara County, at age 74 and was buried there.

As our trip continued, it took us by the farm of W.W. Wilbur where he was heading a heavy crop of wheat. Mr. Wilbur farmed at West Butte since 1853, when he came here from Eldorado County. He was born in New York and came to California from Michigan in 1852. He owned 410 fenced acres and he raised fine wheat on 300 of them. He

was in very poor health during the summer of 1896 when he traveled to Cooks Springs in the mountain area of western Colusa County, which was a well known mineral water resort. On Saturday, September 11, 1896, while sitting on the porch of the hotel, he had what was described as an attack of heart disease and expired in his chair. He was survived by his wife and six adult children. His children included his sons W.J., Parker and Otis Wilbur, and daughters Mrs. Delia Wharton, May and Eva Wilbur. Services were held at the West Butte Church and he was buried at the Noyesburg Cemetery. The names of his pallbearers will likely sound familiar to you. There were B.F. Stevenson, J.C. Kingsbury, George Straub, G.W. Santee, R.K. Stevenson, William Doty, John Carroll and J.M. Cope.

We then traveled on west over the **new** Mawson Bridge. We travelled over a wooden bridge which was later replaced with a bridge built of concrete. Burwell Ullrey, as a young boy living at West Butte, watched this concrete bridge being built. The deck of this bridge over Butte Creek was made of board planks which, when they were a little loose, made a terribly threatening sound as you travelled over them. The concrete part of this structure still stands along the south side of Pass Road west of West Butte.

After we crossed Butte Creek, we stopped at the Farmer School House where the teacher was Miss Laura Everett. This school used to exist on Pass Road just before it intersects with Mawson Road which goes south to Meridian. Farmer School District was established in 1891 at the demand of residents in that area and was active until

1922. Some familiar names of those who taught at Farmer School include: Hazel Hoke 1909-1911, Verona Hill 1911-1912, Amele "Bennie" Lemenager 1912-1913, Ruby Norton 1917-1918 and Francis Ohleyer 1919-1920. The last teacher at Farmer School was Mrs. Phoebe Atwood during 1921-1922. When the district ended, the area was divided between West Butte and Meridian School Districts.

We then backtracked through West Butte and on around the south side of the Buttes. We passed by the farm of W.F. Hoke where we saw a very heavy crop of wheat that had suffered some damaged caused by the latest storm. W.F. Hoke farmed land that was acquired earlier by his father, Frederick Hoke, who was born in Germany in 1815. Frederick came to the United States in 1844 and crossed the plains to California in 1850. He engaged in mining until 1855 when he returned east, married, and returned with his bride to California via the Isthmus of Panama. When they arrived in California, he purchased land in the West Butte area. He cultivated 800 of the 1,860 acres he owned. William Frederick Hoke was one of his children. William was a native of Sutter County and was born on the family farm in 1858. He was very active in public affairs and was a Supervisor from 1892 to 1900. He was one of the first trustees of the Sutter Union High School and served a time as President of the Board. He was married in 1885 to Miss Katherine Shoor of Gridley and they had one daughter who was Mrs. Hazel K. Heiken. In 1897, a number of years after his first wife had passed away, he married again to Mrs. Ella Carroll who died in January 1922. They had one daughter,

who became Mrs. Caryl Kenyon. William F. Hoke died on June 5, 1922 at his home and was entombed in the mausoleum in Yuba City. In addition to Mrs. Kenyon, he was survived by his brother, Harmon A. Hoke, a sister, Mrs. Louise Carroll, and a stepson, Claire W. Jones. A sister who preceded him in death was Mrs. Alice Straub of West Butte.

We traveled on toward Sutter City which was then about five years old. We passed the fine residence of Joseph Girdner. He was born in Knox County, Kentucky on October 31, 1828, and came to California in 1849 with three other men. They paid his expenses in coming to California in return for his promise to pay them one-third of what he earned in twenty months after they arrived there. He engaged in mining on the American River near Auburn and the one-third he paid his sponsors amounted to \$913. He continued to mine for about 14 years after which he came to Marysville and engaged in the hotel business which didn't last long. He sold his hotel interest and began a career of investing his money in Sutter County land, stock raising and farming. He engaged in buying and selling ranches along the Sacramento River. He would buy, improve the property and sell at a profit. At different times he owned a lot of land and at the same time raised sheep and cattle. In later life he sold the cattle and rented his land. Joseph Girdner was married on October 7, 1858 to Miss Catherine Brittan, sister of George Brittan. They had a total of nine children. Joseph Girdner died on August 7, 1908 at Livermore where he had gone for medical treatment. He was buried at the South Butte Cemetery in Sutter

County.

The article makes reference to Sutter City's founder. This credit, of course, goes to P.D. Gardemeyer. Exactly where he came from and what happened to him remains somewhat of a mystery.

Leaving Sutter City by way of the Marysville-Colusa Stage Road (now Butte House Road) our trip took us by the Union School House (which no longer exists) located on what is now called East Butte Road before it intersects with Sanders Road. Union School District was originally established on February 2, 1860. Sutter County records show that Union School was in session in 1867-68 with A.J. Fatley as teacher. At the time of this trip around the Buttes in 1892, the teacher was Emerson Norton. Later teachers whose names may be familiar to the reader include Kate McAuslin 1896-1902, Miss Pearl Ellington 1902-1906, Rose Marie Lang 1907-1909, Assumption Lang 1909-1910, Edna Moore 1910-1913, Gwendolyn Powell 1913-1915, and Mrs. Minnie Wood 1915-1917 who was the last teacher at Union School. The school closed and the district lapsed to Brittan and Nuestro School Districts on August 3, 1920.

Our next stop was to talk with G.N. Smith. Gilbert Nelson Smith was born in New York and came to California from Ohio in the early 1850s. He married Mrs. Thorpe of West Butte in September 1861 and settled on what was called the "Old Camp Bethel Farm" at East Butte. Mrs. Smith died on November 1, 1892. [Mrs. Smith was still alive when the "Old Squire" passed by their home in June of 1892. Even though she was not included by name in the original article, she was a pioneer in

her own right, having come to California with her first husband in 1857 and settling in the West Butte area. Mr. Thorpe died and she was left a widow with two young children.] In 1897 Mr. Smith was married to Mrs. Ella Garcia, daughter of T. Guidery. He served a number of years as a Justice of the Peace and also as a deputy assessor for the County of Sutter. G.N. Smith died on January 27, 1903 at his home on the Guidery Place near East Butte at age 71. He was survived by his second wife and a son and daughter by his first wife. They were Stephen W. Smith of San Jose and Mrs. E.S. Norton of Sutter City. Mrs. L.T. Sternes and Mrs. J.L. Pottle were his step-daughters, being daughters of his first wife. Miss Lena Guidery was also a step-daughter.

Our last point of reference on this trip around the Buttes was the T.H. Stafford Place and we noted how his almond orchard was thriving. Thomas H. Stafford was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1854 in Rochester, New York. He came to California with his parents, William and Grace Stafford in 1862 when he was 8 years old. His father, William, was born in County Down, Ireland, where he worked as a weaver. William came to America in 1848 at age 22 and located at Rochester, New York. He was married in 1852 and brought his family to California in 1862, settling first in Marysville. The family later moved to Sutter County where William did some farming on a tract of land that is now part of Yuba City. [I wonder if Stafford Way was named for this family.] He also worked as a carpenter. William died in 1911 at the age of 85. Thomas H. Stafford, as a young man, learned the blacksmith trade and for several years

was associated with his brother, William, in a blacksmith shop in Live Oak. He later became a representative of the Holt Manufacturing Company of Stockton and for a number of years covered the states of Washington and Oregon for them. He then took up ranching in Sutter County and also established a grain brokerage and insurance business in Marysville which he had for several years. He was also involved in the nursery business for a while. Thomas H. Stafford died at his home near Live Oak on October 12, 1935 at the age of 82 and was buried at the Sutter City Cemetery.

I hope this information has added to your enjoyment and understanding of the people and places mentioned and that you will enjoy your next trip around the Buttes, whether it be your first or one of many you have taken.

The first edition of the Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin was published in January 1959 and has continued to the present time with much interesting and valuable information about our local history. Over the years a number of articles have been written containing information about some of the people mentioned on the 1892 "Trip Around the Buttes." One resource I used for information came from articles contained in previous News Bulletins written by Honora Anita Laney, Alalena Stohlman Sears, Phoebe Norton and Jessica Bird.

Other resources used were early editions of the Weekly Sutter Banner, Sutter County Farmer and Independent Farmer; Thompson and West's History of Sutter County; History of Sutter and Yuba Counties by Peter J. DeLay; Sutter County School Records, and records of the Sutter County Recorders office.

THE LIVE OAK DEPOT A SILENT WITNESS

By

Dorothy Ross

On a blustery autumn day in 1869, a steam locomotive chugged through the oak forests north of Marysville and rolled into a clearing that was to become Live Oak. The engine with its single flat car stopped just short of where its shiny new rails cut across a wagon road to the Feather River. The tracks hadn't been laid much further at this time.

Hezekiah Luther could have been passing on his way to the boat landing on the river with a load of wood from his claim further west. A.M. McGrew, one of the very few settlers in the area, who had just built a cabin nearby, might have walked over to talk to the trainmen and watched unloading of some railroad material. Ever since the tracks for this new railroad had come through his land heading north, he had speculated about the possibilities and advantages of this crossing becoming a permanent stop.

Forests of live oaks in the northern Sacramento Valley were being cleared by Chinese who had worked on the transcontinental railroad. Much wood was being shipped by boat to cities downstream and many oak timbers had been sent to supply the mines.

Among other early settlers was Ed Boynton who was living on the Antelope Ranch along the river north of the wagon road. Charles Metteer had just bought some of the Larkin grant north of the wagon road where the stage route from

Marysville curved around sloughs by the river on its way north to Bidwell's and beyond. Both men shipped wood during high water when the steam barge *Larkin* was making regular runs south from what was called the "live oak woodyard." Wagon trains from the head of navigation at Marysville travelled north along this pioneer stage road. James Clark and his five sons, who had settled away from the river further south, were clearing 480 acres at \$1.25 a tree and hauling wood to Marysville with a 4-mule team.

The railroad had foreseen the clearing of this wide flat valley and its becoming a productive agricultural plain. Possibilities were great for land development, freight and passenger traffic. Due to the development of the gang plow, vast acres along the Sacramento River were already producing wheat which was being shipped down the Sacramento River. Although enough wheat had been raised in California since 1856 to halt imports of flour, it was not until 1861 that exports were started when it was found the grain could be shipped to England from San Francisco.

As the mines petered out, freighters and miners poured out of the mountains joining squatters looking for land. Although riverfront land was already taken, the Larkin grant was being sold and railroad land was for sale.

An 1866 Act of Congress gave the railroad all vacant odd-numbered

sections of land within 20 miles on each side of its roadbed. Even sections were government land open to pre-emption or homestead settlement in tracts of 90 - 160 acres to keep out land monopoly. One could buy 80 - 160 acres from the railroad, but only buy from the government if one settled on and improved the land. Eighty acres of homestead land could be had for nothing, but 160 acres by pre-emption and settlement was \$2.50 an acre.

As land sales boomed in 1875, George Bihlman bought 480 acres along the railroad south of the wagon road to add to 280 acres he had further west. In 1870, Jesse Goodwin purchased 3,000 acres extending six miles south of the road to where the Berg family had settled on the railroad. William Stafford located on land near the Clarks.

As more wheat was planted, a Farmer's Co-op Union was established in Sutter County. Yuba City and Nicolaus had warehouses on the river for storage, sales and shipment of grain.

Freight service on the river south from Marysville and Yuba City was active, but passenger service had been discontinued by the California Steam Navigation Company as railroads fanned out across the land. During a period of low water when sandbars and snags hindered river traffic, someone persuaded the "live oak woodyard" to move from the river to the railroad crossing. A siding had been laid along the tracks in 1874 and wood was already being stacked there.

During completion of the railroad, Luther and McGrew were promoting a settlement for a rail station at McGrew's crossing. Luther was buying and selling land and donated a lot for a store which

H.L. Gregory opened in 1874. J.M. Crum donated an acre of land for a burying ground.

As wheat sacks piled up along the siding, a warehouse was built with a loading platform. Soon a post office opened in Gregory's store with the name Live Oak Station.

Finally, in 1876, a depot was built next to the warehouse with its own platform for Wells-Fargo express and mail shipments. Land sales soared.

When Goodwin died in 1879, the Berg brothers bought his 3,000 acres which extended their ranch north to Live Oak Station.

Hazards to navigation on the rivers developed as a new method of obtaining gold called "hydraulic" mining washed whole mountainsides downstream, filling the rivers with debris. As river shipping declined, railroads prospered.

Among new pioneers to come to Live Oak Station were J.F. Channon and his brother, T.B. They rented the Berg ranch which they worked at clearing for 14 years while introducing 5-team plows. They shipped wood and hay and operated threshers up and down the valley for 35 years.

As the little town grew up around the depot, streets were laid out and the townsite was mapped by J.F. Pennington. This showed the railroad right of way running north and south from 1st to 6th Streets and east-west from A to C. Live Oak enjoyed two stores, two stables, three saloons and a large Chinatown. The old wagon road became Pennington Road.

Luther and McGrew formed the Live Oak Hall Association and had a building near the depot which became a place for meetings, programs, parties

and dances.

The depot with its noisy telegraph office was a busy place with people coming and going and waiting for mail. Horses and buggies could be left at nearby stables while passengers boarded the train for travel to distant cities, picnics and agricultural fairs. A passenger and a freight train came through each way daily. Two mails were received each day, one from the north and one from the south. By this time, the railroad had completely taken over river shipping and the stage road had moved from the river to follow the tracks.

As wheat harvests increased, new roads were laid out on section lines intersecting the tracks at new crossings. Warehouses were built at Bergs and a crossing called Lomo.

By 1880 Live Oak had two stores, a saloon, a hotel, a boarding house, two blacksmith shops, a butcher, a shoemaker, and two carpenters. There was a Chinese washhouse, a schoolhouse, one hall and 25 dwellings. There were about 100 white people and 25 Chinese. Religious services were held every second Sunday in the schoolhouse by the circuit preacher of the Yuba City circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Luther rented his farm in 1888 to become manager of the Farmer's Union warehouse which he purchased. One of William Stafford's sons, William Jr., settled in Live Oak and became a prominent merchant. Charles Metteer built a large brick home on his ranch. Other large homes were built in the surrounding countryside.

Between 1885 and 1901, the price of wheat declined; 10,000 and 20,000

acre ranches were no longer profitable. By 1900, many new easterners had come into the state on the transcontinental railroad. Irrigation farming was being introduced where water was available along the rivers. The vast wheat fields were cut up into small farms as irrigation districts were created.

The advantages of fruit growing were advertised up and down the valley by promoters and land colonies. The railroad encouraged immigration in order to sell land and transportation service. It offered cheap fares to prospective farmers. Because the University of California promoted fruit growing as an ideal way of life, many graduates settled on rich farmland along the Feather River. Automobiles and "autotrucks" appeared on the road beside the tracks.

In time the railroad operated iced refrigeration cars for hauling fresh fruit east. Canneries received freight cars loaded with 40 pound lugs of fruit. Boxcars lined up along the sidings for harvest. Sidetracks had been laid for shipment from Sunset Colony's crossroads south of town.

By the 1920s, the little depot with its sign, "LIVE OAK ELEVATION 75 FT.," had silently witnessed many blustery autumn days. The great oak forests had been cleared, wheat fields had been cut up into small farms, orchards and vineyards covered the land. The cling peach industry blossomed and the little depot enjoyed being in the "Peach Bowl of the World." It had watched the birth of a town and seen the hustle and bustle of every day life. But most importantly, the little depot had seen the history of a great valley unfold.

How To Preserve the Teeth

Take one pound of stale bread, parch until black and ready to crumble, then place into a mortar or wooden bowl and pound to a powder. When thoroughly pulverized it is ready for use. Keep in a dry box and apply to the teeth with a wet brush. This prevents decay and leaves the teeth pearly and white.

How to Remove Freckles

Five cents worth of red precepsitate, ten cents worth Venice turpentine, one pound lard. Mix well together and apply at night after washing face and hands in warm water. In a short time all the freckles will disappear, leaving the face smooth and lovely.

How to Prepare Salted Peanuts

These are good, cheap and easily prepared. Buy fifteen cents' worth of the raw peanuts, shell, pour boiling water over them and let them stand for five minutes. Drain, then rub off the skins very carefully. Put the peanuts in a bread pan, pour over them a tablespoon of melted butter and a half teaspoon of salt. Bake until a delicate brown in a rather slow oven. Shake them often to insure evenness of color.

How to Set the Table

Have something green for a centerpiece.

A growing plant is better in many ways than cut flowers. Have as many forks at each plate as there are "soft" dishes, which include fish, vegetables and pastry, and as many knives as there are meats, butter included. Water in a decanter or carafe is cleaner and easier to serve than in a pitcher. A "cover" includes a plate of any size or design to protect the table from the steaming hot soup course, from two to five forks, between two and four knives, a couple of teaspoons, a water goblet and wine-glasses, napkins and a bread and butter plate.

Sutter County Farmer - 30 June 1899

ASSESSMENTS THEN AND NOW

By

Steve Perry

In the 1890's, the property assessments were handled much different than they are in the 1990's.

The Assessor and the Tax Collector (sometimes the same person) would go to the different townships to handle the annual assessment of property. An announcement in the local paper would advise land owners when the Assessor would be in a specific location, such as the school house in Meridian or the Nicolaus Grange Hall, on a specific date. The assessment, amount of taxes due and payment of the taxes were usually handled all at once. Mr. Landowner would wait his turn while visiting with his neighbors. When his name was called, he would approach the make-shift work table. He would be asked if he still owned a certain number of acres at a specific location. Based on the answers he gave the Assessor, the Tax Collector would then figure the amount of that year's property taxes. Mr. Landowner would pay the taxes and be on his way. At the end of the day, the county officials would pack up their papers and pens and go home. They would re-appear at a different location the next day. This continued until the entire county had been covered.

March 1st was not a county-wide lien date. The assessment and collection of taxes was a year-long process. Not all property owners in a township would be able to appear on a specific date. The assessment/tax team would be in the different area several times before the work was completed. It was truly a year long process.

At that point in time, it was considered more of an honor to pay property taxes than it is now. In order to owe taxes, you had to own property. Owning property was a sign of success to some degree.

Now, 12:01 a.m. on March 1 is the magic moment that the Sutter County Assessor decides who owns every parcel of land in Sutter County. The owner's name, as of that minute, is printed on a tax role along with the taxable value of each parcel. The tax role is then given to the Sutter County Auditor, who applies the tax rate multiplier times the taxable value given by the Assessor and creates a tax bill. The Auditor also adds the special assessments and district taxes (levee district, water district, cemetery district, etc.) to create the total tax bill. The Auditor then gives the tax bill information to the Sutter County Data Processing Center who prints the county's 30,000-plus tax bills at a rate of 1400 lines per minute, and turns the printed bill over to the Sutter County Tax Collector, who mails the tax bill to the current owner and waits to collect the tax.

Before 1954, each county in California had it's own parcel numbering system. Sutter County used a series of hand drawn maps with the owners names printed on the face of the map. As the owners would change, the old names were erased from the map and the new owner's name was added.



The deputy Assessors will start out on their work next Monday.
Sutter County Farmer - 8 March 1895

Get ready to answer leading questions propounded by the County Assessor.
Sutter County Farmer - 8 March 1895

News From Live Oak

The price of second hand bicycles has advanced very much since the Assessor was here.

Sutter County Farmer - 12 April 1895

The Assessor and his deputies are making good progress in taking the statements of the taxpayers.

Sutter County Farmer - 19 April 1895

The new map of Sutter county has been recorded.

Sutter County Farmer - 8 March 1895

Map

The new map of Sutter county as compiled by Punnett Brothers of San Francisco, was submitted to the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting Monday. The members of the Board carefully examined the same, accepting it and ordered that a warrant be drawn for the amount as contracted for, \$250. The county receives twenty-five copies of a first-class map which has heretofore been costing from \$1,000 up in this and other counties. The map shows the Supervisor districts in colors, [illegible line] county roads, streams, levee and swamp land districts, location of school houses and each farm with number of acres and name of owner. It is a splendid map and well mounted. The firm will dispose of a number of the maps at \$6 each and will have an agent to canvass the county. The trustees of every school district should secure one and probably many farmers and businesses [illegible line] an ornament to any home and is a valuable reference. Maps can be seen at the Courthouse or this office.

Sutter County Farmer - 8 March 1895

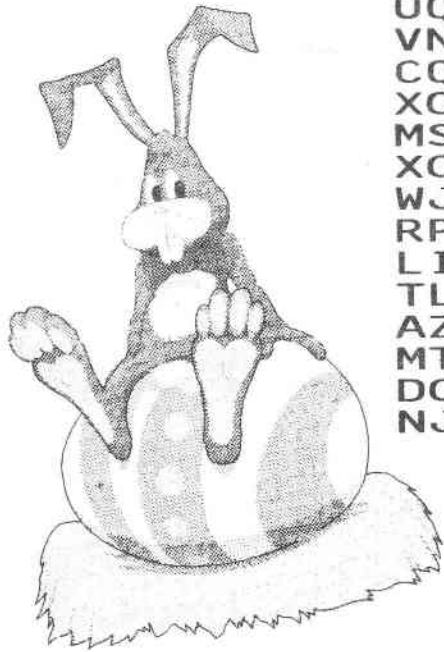
Map of Sutter County

The new official map of Sutter county published by Punnett Brothers, of San Francisco, is now ready for sale and delivery. It is a very fine map, as we have before stated, and deserves the liberal patronage of the citizens of Sutter county. The price has been reduced to \$5 per copy. The agent is now filling orders and is meeting with good success in the sale.

Sutter County Farmer - 29 March 1895

KID'S PAGE

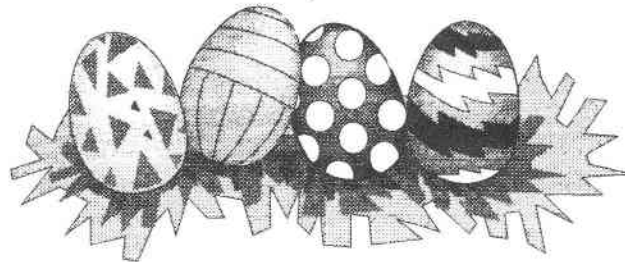
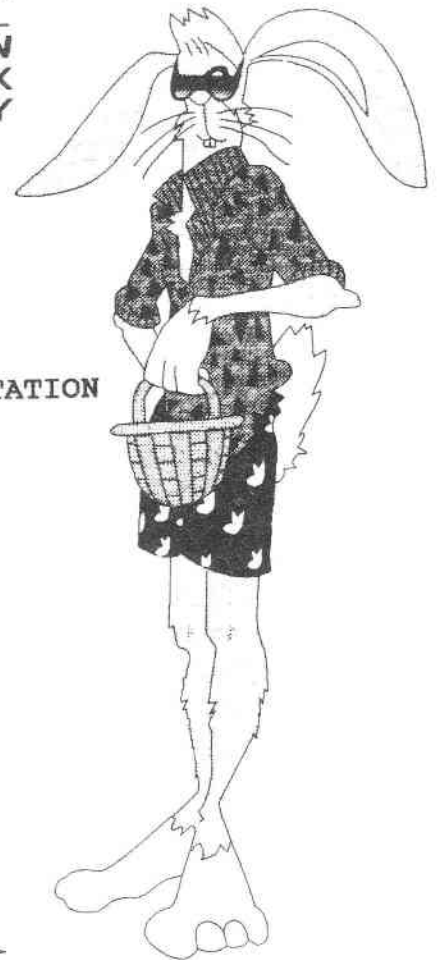
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Find these words

ASSESSOR
BUNNY
BURTIS
BUTTES
CALIFORNIANS
DELMA DAVIS
DEPOT
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Are you interested in history
and preserving our past?

Do you like to meet interesting people?

The Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County
would like you as a volunteer!

Please call 741-7141

or stop by

1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City



COMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 1 Sutter Buttes Hike
- 8 Bus Tour Around the Buttes - Sold Out
- 8 Wear & Remembrance, a vintage apparel fair
Preview - 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. \$8.00
11 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$4.00/\$3.00 with coupon
- 9 Wear & Remembrance - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$4.00/\$3.00 with coupon
- 11 **Historical Society's Annual Dinner** - 6:30 p.m.
Meridian Veteran's Hall Price: \$10.00
Judith Barr Fairbanks Memorial Essay Contest Winners
Program: Women Came West
Speaker: Dr. Patricia Stanford
- 20 Cartooning for Kids - Museum from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Cartooning Workshop, ages 8 and over, No Charge

MAY

- 5 The 1995 Flood: Community Coping with Disaster
Museum exhibit opens
- 12 Mother's Day Decadence
- 19 Island in the Sea: Marysville in the 1955 Flood
Mary Aaron Museum exhibit opens

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOX 1004
YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95992

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