

# Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin

Vol. XXXVIII No. 2

Yuba City, California

April 1997



**Meridian Road Facing North from Central Street**  
*(Photo Credit: Lyle Callaway)*

# SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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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 1997 dues are payable as of January 1, 1997.

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 Comments

As I pen these thoughts to my friends in the Historical Society, my mind continually flashes back some thirty years. A business acquaintance and I were having a conversation regarding the unusual Spring weather. I commented that this was certainly a different year. He, being of almost grandfather age to me, looked chastely at me and sternly said, "No!, Bruce, this year is the same as every year, because every year is different." It took me several moments to interpret his sage advice; but how true his wisdom is!

I am hoping that most of you are continuing your anecdotal writings -- on a daily basis or at least each week. Remember, "Every year is the same." The script will be invaluable to prying eyes in years hence! You, yourselves, certainly would enjoy perusing over those peoples and yesteryear's doings, wouldn't you? I beg you to leave some of your legacies for the next generations. They will be more valuable than gold!

As President, I certainly have appreciated my tenure with the members of the Society and Board of Directors. Most particularly I just can not adequately relate to you folks how Linda Leone has helped me during my term. It has been a true joy to have had her as a right hand to me in particular and to the Society in general. Thank you very much.

I am anticipating seeing you all in Meridian for our Annual Meeting. Come: We'll have a very brief meeting -- then it's an evening of an entertaining historical lecture, a fine meal, and most of all - FROLIC!

Let's make history!

Bruce Harter  
President



## The Jefferson Connection

The principal meridians and base lines of California are a direct result of the Northwest Ordinance of 1785. This act provided for the orderly survey and sale of public lands and required that public lands in the United States be divided by lines intersecting true and at right angles to provide townships 6 miles square. California has three such meridians and the growing town of Meridian, on its third attempt to name itself, took its name from its proximity to the Mount Diablo meridian which runs about a quarter mile from the town. The author of this well thought out plan for carving up America's public lands was none other than Thomas Jefferson.

## Director's Report

Spring and the hard work of the Garden Club members have made the park around the Museum truly beautiful, and we have a lot of great springtime activities on the agenda.

Bring your favorite child and join us at the Museum for the Spring Vacation Children's Program on Wednesday, April 3 at 2:00 p.m. In anticipation of the new exhibit, the theme will center around local historic buildings. The children will color and assemble an historic building of paper. They will hear a story, a memoir written by Ruth Smith Grant of her first memories of Yuba City as a little girl. Her father was elected sheriff in 1892, so her family had to move into town from Harkey Corners, and Ruth described her new experience in minute detail. We have illustrated her charming child's eye story (which first appeared in the Bulletin in 1958) with historic photos from the Museum collection. Of course, delicious cookies and punch will follow, made possible by our dedicated Auxiliary and Commissioners.

The Museum's new exhibit opening April 11 is titled *Those Old Familiar Places*. It is an exciting collection of oil and watercolor paintings of historic buildings and homes created just for this exhibit by local artist Luisa Leger. Luisa has chosen to paint buildings and street scenes that are most pleasing to her aesthetically and that have interesting stories attached to them. We hope that you will join us at the opening reception on Friday, April 11 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. to enjoy these marvelous paintings and meet the artist. *Those Old Familiar Places* will be at the Museum through June 29.

April will also bring the 7th annual *Wear & Remembrance* Vintage Apparel Fair on the weekend of the 26th and 27th in Franklin Hall at the fairgrounds in Yuba City. A joint fundraiser of the Community Memorial Museum and the Mary Aaron Museum in Marysville, *Wear & Remembrance* is the only event of its kind between San Francisco and Seattle. Dealers from all over the West present their intriguing variety of vintage clothing and accessories for sale. Both women's and men's clothing from the Victorian era through the 1960's, hats, jewelry, shoes, Western wear, textiles and accessories of all kinds will be available. Hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, and 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 27. Coupons for \$1.00 off the admission price are available at the Museum.

Scheduled for Friday, May 9 is the Museum's annual *Mother's Day Decadence* fundraiser. We are preparing beautiful gift bags filled with a delightful assortment of goodies for Mother. Our dedicated team of Museum friends volunteer to assemble and deliver the gift bags on May 9. An order form is enclosed in this issue, and you can place an order by mailing the form to the Museum with a check for \$20. *Mother's Day Decadence* benefits the Museum's educational programs.

Hope to see you at some of the Museum activities this spring.

Julie Stark  
Director

## Letter from the Editors

This issue has been very difficult because we had so much information available to us! We'd like to first thank all the people who spoke with us, but are *not* included in this issue. Celia Ettl, Nook & Meriel Davis, Harry & Mary Barr, Harold Rohleder, Gil Doss and France Peters all took time to talk to us. There just wasn't space available this time around!

Thank you, Ray Frye, for the article about the Indian basket. The museum did not have any background on it and welcomed your information. We enjoyed the story and look forward to more from you.

Margaret Madden, one of our "Honorary Members", is always willing to answer questions we may have. We appreciate her help.

Judy Hale shared the history written by her grandfather, C. E. Reische, with us and allowed us to print it. She also furnished the photograph of Meridian School. Thanks, Judy.

The "Little Red School House" article was written by Bernice (Burtis) Wilson when she was in the eighth grade. The Appeal Democrat article was found in a scrapbook. She said her sources were probably primarily George and Lettie Wood.

Jim and Eva Rickert still live in Cottonwood as do Duke and Elizabeth and Bud and Ruth. Jim seemed to enjoy sharing his memories for the article and really enjoyed sharing his basketball stories and the scrapbooks. There will be more about the basketball team in the next issue of the Bulletin when we talk about

entertainment.

The articles from the Meridian Index newspaper were copies of papers collected by Glenna Kay. George Garcia, who now resides in Yuba City and is 94 years young, did the repair work on the linotype machine used by the Index when it was owned by Mrs. Pennington in the early 1940s. His normal fee was \$1.50 per hour; because they didn't have a flourishing business, he didn't charge the Penningtons for the repairs. Joe Baxley, who now lives in Oakland, was the type setter at that time. He lived in the attic and was paid \$18.00 per month. If you have any information or copies of the Index, Linda would really like to talk to you; please call her at 673-2721.

The July issue of the Bulletin will feature the four winning essays in the Judith Barr Fairbanks Memorial Essay Contest. In addition, we will be sharing entertainment in Sutter County prior to television taking over. We'd like to hear what you did for fun. Where did you go? What did you see? Was it the ball games or the dances that you enjoyed? Or both? Write us a story. Call and make arrangements to share your memories with us.

The October issue will include Jim Taresh's article about life in Rio Oso. Greg Glosser should have his article ready for us and we hope to hear from Ruby Romovich again.

Linda Leone (673-2721)

Sharyl Simmons (674-7741)

## Memorial Contributions

In Memory of **Emma Audet**  
Burwell & Loretta Ullrey

In Memory of **Waldo F. Beck, Sr.**  
Joe Benatar & Friends at  
Fidelity National Title Ins.

In Memory of **Ornee E. Blazer**  
Burwell & Loretta Ullrey

In Memory of **Gordon Boyd**  
John & Hope Sheehy

In Memory of **Newell Burtis**  
Connie Cary  
Norma & Deanna DeWitt  
Esther Forsythe  
Linda & Scott Leone  
Sharyl Simmons

In Memory of **Helen P. Changaris**  
Bogue Country Club

In Memory of **Wilson Coats II**  
M/M Robert T. Coats

In Memory of **Esther Cholcher**  
Connie Cary

In Memory of **William L. Conkey**  
M/M William Andreason  
Judy Barton  
Virgil & Camille Biondi  
Nancy Bristow  
M/M Roger Chandler  
M/M Robert T. Coats  
James & Avis Cook  
Henry & Betty Everett

Thomas Frye  
Woodrow & Dorothy Jang  
Robert W. Jones  
Annabel Onstott  
Dr. Bob & June Wallace  
Ralph & Jane Washburn  
Margo & Jim Watson

In Memory of **Clifton Davis**  
M/M Richard Scriven, Sr.

In Memory of **Margie Davis**  
M/M Richard Scriven, Sr.

In Memory of **Howard Dunbar**  
Marian Regli

In Memory of **Ann Farrell**  
M/M Robert T. Coats

In Memory of **Cedric I. Gould**  
Dennis Wolfe & Joe Benatar  
Fidelity National Title Ins.

In Memory of **Doris Griesa**  
Joe Benatar & Friends at  
Fidelity National Title Ins.

In Memory of **Richard W. Harter**  
M/M Roger C. Chandler  
Joan & Bud Doty  
James F. Gilpatric

In Memory of **Christine Heape**  
Evelyn & Harold Quigg

In Memory of **Velma Hornlein**  
M/M Warren Hall

In Memory of **George Kinoshita**  
Joe Benatar at  
Fidelity National Title Ins.

In Memory of **Marie Krull**  
Nuestro Homemakers

In Memory of **Eileen Kuster**  
M/M Richard Scriven, Sr.

In Memory of **Gertrude Kuster**  
M/M Richard Scriven, Sr.

In Memory of **William Kuster**  
M/M Richard Scriven, Sr.

In Memory of **Harold Ottens**  
Orlin & Johanna Schuler

In Memory of **Elizabeth Rosenblum**  
Leo & Elsie Stevenson  
Allen & Dorothy Sutfin

In Memory of **Mabel Scheiber**  
Eleanor Holmes

In Memory of **Joseph R. Silva**  
Joe Benatar & Friends  
Fidelity National Title Ins.

In Memory of **Mattie Sims**  
Mary S. O'Neal

In Memory of **Ruth Sullivan**  
M/M Robert T. Coats

In Memory of **Neil Ulrey**  
Ev & Liz Berry

In Memory of **Albert S. Victorino**  
Joe & Patti Benatar & Friends  
Fidelity National Title Ins.

In Memory of **Dorothy Wilbur**  
M/M Richard Scriven, Sr.

In Memory of **Robert Wilcoxon**  
Joe Benatar  
Fidelity National Title Ins.  
Jim & Betty Howard

In Memory of **Frances Williamson**  
Helen Frye

In Memory of **Madge Wold**  
Marian & Mel Regli

In Memory of **Albert P. Zanooco**  
Dennis Wolfe & Joe Benatar  
Fidelity National Title Ins.



### Local History Competition

The Association for Northern California Records and Research (ANCRR) is once again sponsoring a local history competition. A cash award of \$500 will be given for the best written account, photo essay or oral history of some phase of Northeastern California local history. Entries must be received prior to June 30, 1997. To request the entry form and competition rules, write to ANCRR, P.O. Box 3024, Chico, CA 95927.

## Historical Society News

### April Annual Dinner Meeting

The Society's Annual Dinner meeting will be held at the Veteran's Hall in Meridian on Tuesday, April 15. The hall is located one block south of Highway 20 at the corner of Fourth and Bridge Streets. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. The meal (roast beef, baked potato, mixed vegetables and dessert) is being prepared by the Lilac Rebekah Lodge #250. The cost for the evening is \$10.00 per person.

Mrs. Judy Barr will present the winners of the Judith Barr Fairbanks Memorial Essay Contest with their awards. The winners have been notified, however, they will not learn how they placed until that evening.

The program will cover the history of the Meridian community. Speakers (including Celia Ettl, Don Burtis and John Reische) will discuss various aspects of the history of the community. Items will be displayed relating to the community.

Bruce Harter will be handling the "MC" duties as well as the raffle again this year.

We hope you will join us for a fun and informative evening. Reservations, required prior to April 8, can be made by calling Linda at 673-2721.

### By-Laws

The Board of Directors has studied the Society's By-Laws and suggest some changes be made to up-date the document. Most of the proposed changes concern how meeting dates can be changed. Copies of the text and proposed changes may be picked up at the Museum by members; copies will also be available at the Annual Dinner meeting or will be sent upon request. If, after reading the document and the proposed changes, you have comments, we would appreciate hearing from you. To comment or request a copy, write the Society at P.O. Box 1004, Yuba City, CA 95992 or call Leonard Henson at 674-0776 or Linda Leone at 673-2721.

### Upcoming Meetings

The July meeting will again be a "Pot-Luck-In-The-Park." Join us on July 15 -- come see the park improvements, have some good food and enjoy the program.

In October, we plan to return to Hermann Sons' Hall in Nicolaus for some great German food. The program has not yet been set.

Plans are in the works to hold the January 1998 meeting in Live Oak. It's been quite some time since we've gathered in that community.



## A Basket Tale

by  
Ray Frye

When I visited the Sutter County Memorial Museum in December 1996 to make a donation for paver blocks, I was shocked to learn that vandals had broken a window the night before and made off with the donation box. What a low thing to do to a non-profit organization!

Then I was devastated a couple of weeks later to read in the paper that someone had struck again and removed the treasured Indian baskets and some arrowheads and other items from their glass case.

Imagine my relief when these items were recovered by the police.

The large oval basket was donated by my brother, Emmet Frye, shortly after the Museum opened. It has special appeal to me as I lived with that basket and another smaller one for the first twenty-eight years of my life. On holidays, the larger one was always filled with fruit or nuts and the smaller one with candy or stuffed figs.

The smaller one is now in the hands of my daughter and son-in-law. I hope some day it will be donated to the museum to join its sibling.

The same person made both baskets. These baskets were so tightly and beautifully woven that the large one would hold water; a fact that I verified when I filled it with water on one occasion. Only a few drops seeped through, and would have stopped had I left the water in for a few more minutes.

Since I am the only person still

alive who can verify the origin of these baskets, I feel it my duty to do so. I hope it will be as interesting to others as it is to me.

I was born in District 70 near the west end of Long Bridge, on Highway 20 at the home of my parents, "Tom" and "Minnie" Frye. I had three older brothers, Ulysses, Gerald, Emmet, and a sister Gladys.

Our house was built on stilts about four feet off the ground as it flooded every winter. I remember "Mom" telling how the older brothers used to paddle around the yard in washtubs with a board for a paddle.

We lived next to what they called the old back levee, which used to deflect the flow of water until it backed up to the house. This was before the present day by-pass was completed. The west by-pass levee is a continuation of the old back levee along Butte Creek.

Along about 1912, when I was two years old, there lived a family of Indians in a shanty atop the old back levee next to the property of an Irishman by the name of Jim O'Connor. The father of the Indian family was called Sam Indian. The Indians had no last name, so they were all referred to as "Indian." He had a son known as Jesse Indian. He had a wife and a daughter whom my sister Gladys knew and spoke of highly.

One day the wife of Sam Indian arrived at my mother's door with a beautiful basket she had woven and asked

"Mom" if she could trade it in town (Marysville) for a lady's hat. My mother said she would try, so she took it on her next trip to either J.C. Penney or Bradley's store where she usually traded. I think it was Bradley's. There, one of the clerks was overjoyed to trade her a hat for the basket. Mrs. Sam Indian was also pleased.

Now this lady was an artistic genius at basket weaving and got her reeds and material in the tule land in which they grew.

The family may have wintered in the Buttes as many Indians did.

Sam and Jesse Indian both worked for my father at times to help with their livelihood.

One eventful day our neighbor, Jim O'Connor, who was known for an occasional bout with the bottle, became inebriated and ousted the Indians from

their home. Then he proceeded to tear down their shanty and throw what was left of their belongings into the slough. A couple of days later my brothers, Ulysses and Gerald, found the destruction and by wading into the water of the slough, were able to salvage a couple of hunting bows and two baskets; the larger which now resides at the Sutter County Memorial Museum.

The only Indians I can remember seeing were when my father finished harvesting beans in the fall. Then they would come with their sacks and baskets to glean the fields on their hands and knees.

Whatever happened to Sam Indian and his family remains a mystery to me. God bless them and may their offspring multiply and prosper.



Meridian, our progressive little town just over the river in Sutter County, is continually making improvements. It has three telephone lines with a phone in nearly every house. There are two churches, a Methodist and a Baptist; two general merchandise stores, two blacksmith shops, a drug store, and a cigar and confectionery stores, butcher shop, public hall and lodge room owned by the Odd Fellows. Meridian also has a public school with two teachers and eighty students. On Third Street is the Golden West Hotel and Livery Stable where the public gets the best money can afford. A daily stage, excepting Sundays, connects the town with Colusa and Marysville. Another plant to be installed is an electric one so that ice will be available at all times.

Colusa Sun-Herald - 9 Nov 1983

1883

# Remembering Winship School

by  
Margaret Madden

Prior to my family moving to Sutter in 1910, we lived on Garmire Road and I attended Winship School. I was five years old when I started school. They needed one more student or the school was going to close and I was old enough to attend. I guess I went part of the year. All I did was color pictures and, as they tell me, eat the crayons.

My older brother, Roy Meyer, also went to Winship School. He drove a horse and cart to school. I don't ever remember Roy walking to school, but I did. I remember the roads were bad with deep ruts.

I carried my lunch in either a lard bucket or a tobacco bucket. A typical lunch was a sandwich made from whatever we had for breakfast, probably sausage, and almost always some kind of fruit and maybe a cookie.

I have a picture taken in 1906 or 1907 showing twenty students. Some of the other children in the picture are Ivan and Tom Wilder, Kirby and Valetta Smith, Georgia Smith, Chester and Foster Winship, Shirley and Desmond Winship, Irlene and Gladys Cook, and two Hedricks children. There were mostly Winships. Gladys Cook was a Winship. Winships lived all around the school. It was quite a change when we moved and I went to Brittan School because there were so many more children.

The building was just a plain wooden one-room building with a stove on the north side. We went in from the west side and the teacher sat up in the front. There were windows on the north and south sides of the building; I don't remember if they were double or single windows. There was one outhouse. We had regular school desks, not a table with benches.

I don't remember having a favorite subject; we just took care of all of them. At recess we played tag. Hazel Hoke and Alverda Reische were my teachers. I don't remember anything in particular about when I went to school there except the Christmas program. All the Community got together; I think that's about the only time we all got together.

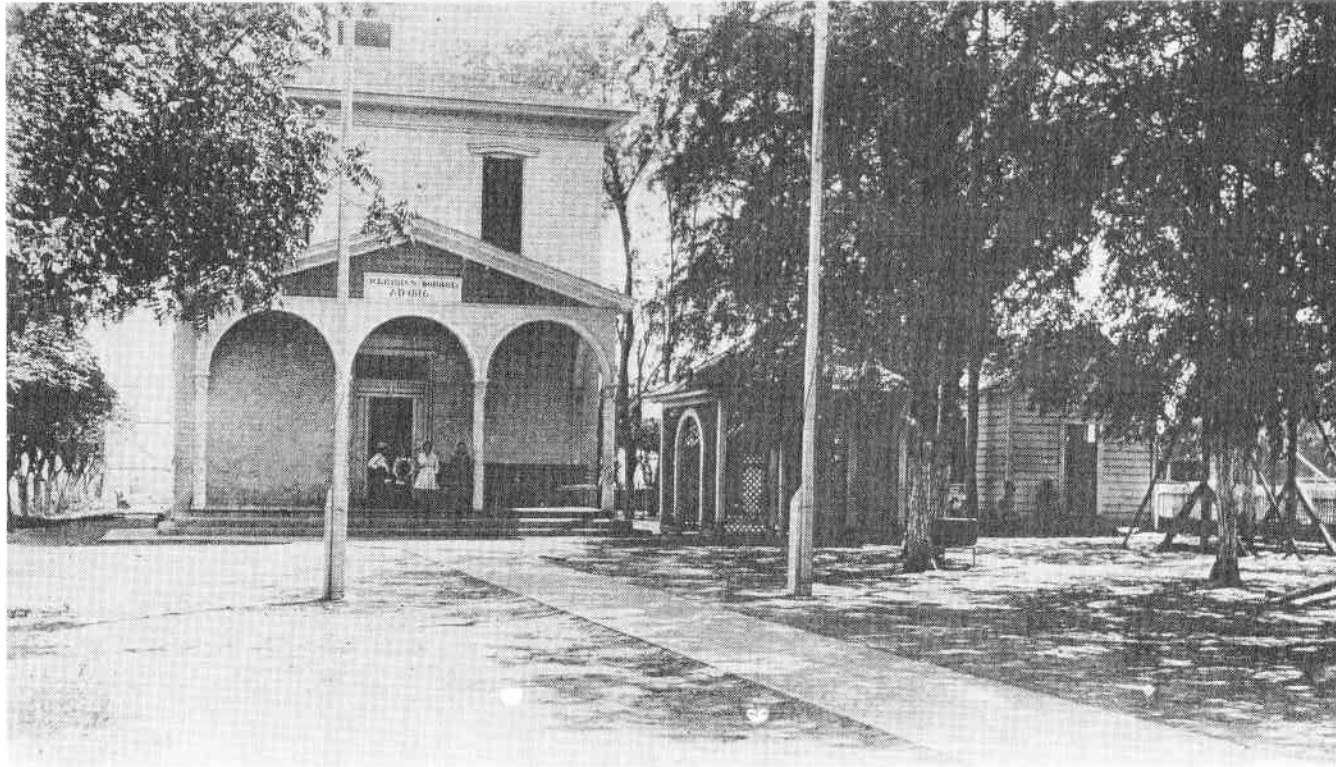


The June 6, 1905 edition of the Sutter County Farmer lists the following promotions to the eighth grade:

Farmer School — Velma Robinson

Meridian School — Melvin Summy, Lutie Blackmer, Ray Gault and Alleen Jones

Winship School — Ray Garmire



**Meridian Grammar School — Built 1876**  
*(Photo Credit: Judy Hale)*

## Some Side Lights on the History of Meridian School

by

C. E. Reische

I have been asked to write something of the history of the Meridian School, I presume, because of my almost thirty years with the school, first as its principal and later as a member of its Board of Trustees.

I was born in the Meridian area in 1881 about thirty years after the white pioneers first came to settle. I am the grandson of a gold seeking ancestor whose widow came to Meridian with her nine children after her husband's death in 1868 at Forbestown, Yuba County. She bought a farm and sent her children to the Meridian school. I understand the first school was located near the river just south of the present Meridian bridge. My knowledge of the Meridian School prior to 1890 is very sketchy. I was grown before some of the pioneer settlers had died; most young people are occupied with thinking about their own time in life. Perhaps I should explain that the early school district was considerably smaller than the present one. As far back as I can remember (about 1890) there was a West Butte School and a Slough School. In the early days most children walked to and from school, so they had to live within a walking distance of two or three miles. Roads were sometimes almost impassable during the rainy season. Then, too, farms were small and families had more children. I started school at West Butte, attended Slough during the 1890 flood, and graduated from Farmer School in 1896. The residents of the northern part

of what is now Meridian School District formed a school district of their own in 1890 and called it Farmer District. I attended that school and have a picture of the building and its pupils taken about 1895. There was an attendance of 32 the day the picture was taken. I never was a pupil in Meridian school.

Meridian built a two room, two story building in 1876. When this 1876 building was torn down to make way for the one of recent years, we found a board on which was written the names of the 1876 school Board of Trustees. I remember only one name -- that of Jim Jones (I knew him as a child) and grandfather of Mrs. Lettie Garmire. The only name of an early day teacher I can recall is that of one young man named Peck. There were many big boys in the school then and Schoolmaster Peck had quite a reputation both as a disciplinarian and as a teacher. I remember him as Sutter County's County Surveyor. A story of Peck's days was told to me many years ago. It seems two rather unusual boys who later became fine men, got into a dispute on the school grounds. Yates was beating Allie Blackmer who did not defend himself. Peck brought all the pupils into the school room and said to Allie, "Allie why did you not hit him back." Allie replied in his slow, solemn way, "My mother told me never to hit a cripple or a fool." C. G. Kline who had been my first teacher at West Butte was a Meridian principal in the 1890s. He later became

Sutter County Superintendent of Schools. Oscar Munson was principal for a year around 1903. My immediate predecessor was Mrs. Mary Davis who had also been a one time teacher of mine.

With the advent of the automobile and tractor in the early 1900s, small farms began to disappear, families became fewer, roads began to be paved. Many years ago both West Butte and Farmer were forced to close because their daily attendance became too small. Just in recent years Slough voted to become a part of Meridian District. I doubt if Meridian School today has as many pupils as the four combined had in the 1890s.

In 1905 I married Alice Hathaway, a teacher in Sutter Union High School, and that same fall I became the principal of Meridian School. The trustees were J. C. Albertson, J. D. Jones and F. T. Reische. My first year's salary was \$675.00. Since houses were cheaply built and few of them had bathrooms or kitchen sinks, house rents in Meridian were low -- under \$10.00 per month. Also we kept a cow and had a few hens, so we got by on that small salary. However, I was the last person in Meridian to get a family automobile -- a Model T Ford which cost me \$500.00. This was in 1918. In those days about half the teachers had gotten their certificate to teach by passing examinations given by County Boards of Education. This I had done. Prior to coming to Meridian I had taught two years at Winship School.

During my first years as principal I taught the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth grades. The primary teacher had the five lower grades. Miss Mary Hygelund who had been the primary teacher before I

came was a really dedicated teacher. About the middle of my fourth year as principal, she had a stroke in the schoolroom and died a few months later. My wife served as primary teacher during the remainder of the school year. Part of the time I did the janitor work, but usually a part time janitor was hired for twenty dollars per month. Meridian had a reputation as a hard one in which to maintain discipline. After my first two weeks in the class room, I had rid myself of all those pupils who did not intend to study. From then on the going was not too bad. I had a strap which I sometimes used. It seemed there occasionally was no other way to get obedience. Perhaps the greatest incentive to get the pupils to work was the system of County examinations, mostly written, which were sent out by the county Board of Education twice yearly. The promotion of the pupils depended on the grades the Board gave them on these two examinations. The Board provided the schools with a course to be covered during the school year. I felt it was my duty to see that each child got a certain amount of familiarity with the various subjects in the Board's study course. A pupil who did not know his lesson was kept in at recess and after school until he did. I had no other time to help the individual pupil. For many years the five Board of Education members fixed five meeting places within the county where the graduating class took an examination under the direct supervision of a Board member. In my day we did not hold elementary school graduating exercises simply because the Board of Education had not announced the list of graduates by the time we closed for the school year. A

Meridian School custom, even before my time, has been to hold a school program and picnic dinner at the close of the school year. In my time we usually had a baseball game with another school. Some of our ball teams were really very good. In speaking of sports I might say we had school track and school basketball teams which competed with Sutter. We usually got beaten, but one time we surprised them. I remember Herb Doty decided the meet by winning the high jump. Herb's eyes were poor and he could not see the crossbar. By schooling himself to take a certain number of steps, he was able to do very well. Our kids played a lot of basketball at recess on a tennis court which I personally built with money donated to the school by a local creamery -- the trustees would not put out school money for recreational facilities. They would, however, plant trees on the limited area we had for a playground. Each year those Umbrella trees were all pruned to an even height and really looked very nice. I did get them to dig out enough of these trees so we could have a tennis and basketball court.

At the end of my fourth year in the school, I was fired and no reasons for such action were given me. I am sure my use of the strap on a trustee's son turned that trustee against me. The next year Trustee Jones lost to Allington Wheeler and a year later Trustee Albertson lost to Charlie Messick. The man who became principal after my ouster was in trouble most of his school year. The following year I was asked to come back. I returned for eight more years and finally quit because of the small (\$990.00) salary. After World War I, living costs had gone up but not my salary.

During my time at Meridian, a third teacher was added and a schoolroom made for her by remodeling the woodshed. I was fortunate in having good assistant teachers. All of them were unmarried. They came in about this order: Mary Hygelund -- Gladys Elam -- Nola Goe -- Clarice Kennedy -- Gwen Powell -- Helen McLaughlin -- Sadie Hart - - Barbara Kirk and Lydia Meier.

Very few of the graduates from Meridian School had gone to high school so I suggested to the trustees that I teach the high school freshman course. They agreed and I surely had a job on my hands for I had to prepare my lessons just as my pupils did in addition to my school work. I really did not get enough sleep that year. I did get a lot of satisfaction out of the fact that my pupils were allowed to take the examination for promotion into the sophomore class at Sutter Union High School and passed with better grades than the regular high school students. As I remember there were six of them: Lester Wood -- Chester Reische -- Clarence Emery -- Iva Emery -- Cleo Robertson and Eunice Gibbs. My wife helped me by teaching the English course. She also helped in the early days by coming to the school once a week so the kids could have an hour of singing. As a result, the trustees wanted a primary teacher who could teach music. With this requirement in mind I wrote Chico Normal [presently known as CSUC] and they sent us Miss Clarice Kennedy. She evidently liked Meridian for Mrs. Clarice Wood is still a Meridian resident.

In the spring of 1919 I was very much surprised to be elected a trustee of Meridian school, a job I held for fifteen

years. The two other members of the Board were Dal Smith and Charlie Messick. Messick was a trustee for a long time and was followed by Steve Burtis and Dal Smith by Dr. W. L. Stephens. Stephens resigned when Messick and I favored hiring a Catholic teacher. M.S. Davis took the place of Dr. Stephens. One action of our school Board of which I am not proud is the firing of Lydia Meier as a teacher. Lydia was a local girl and a bright and very quick minded person. As a teacher she did not seem to understand the teaching of the slower minded pupils and was very blunt and short tempered with them. There were a lot of complaints about her, but I have since always been ashamed of her firing. I now feel we did an injustice to a very conscientious person, who perhaps could have changed her ways if we had talked more with her.

In the fall of 1918 a woman principal was hired to follow me but for some reason she resigned at Christmas time and was replaced by Leonard Betty, who stayed for the next year also. Then came Chester Winship and A. Lemenager for a year each. There were several other principals during my trusteeship but I cannot remember the order of their service. The ones I remember were C. A. Ball, Earl Allen, Lester Skelley, John Bailey, and a very religious man named Mr. Morse. Assistant teachers were Mrs. Clarice Wood, Mrs. Lorraine McKeenan, Elleta Wilson, Jolene Decker, Loretta Blackmer and Miss Madison whom we got through a teacher's agency. She stayed

only one year.

Along in the mid-twenties the District voted a bond issue of about \$30,000.00 to build a new four room school with an auditorium. At that time the assessed valuation of Meridian School District was only about \$500,000.00 and \$30,000.00 was all that the law would allow us to have. By assessing a special tax, payable in one year, we were able to get enough funds to do the job. Of course this bond issue was fully retired some years ago. I do not remember that we had State approval of the building plans. Chester Cole of Chico was the architect.

I do not think the law required Board meetings for the legal transaction of school business, nor did we have a minute book. Two trustees, perhaps, would meet on the street and agree on some school matter. The third member was not present. Perhaps later he was told about our decision. Such a practice naturally made the third trustee resentful. The other trustees did not consciously intend to slight the third trustee but it was most convenient to settle the matter this way. I told the other trustees that fifteen years was long enough for a person to serve in that job. Red Davis put up my name at the next election anyway, but Steve actively campaigned against me and I was defeated. I was somewhat chagrined to end thirty years of school service in such a way. By now I have learned that defeats are a part of life and the manner in which we take them enables us to grow as a person.



# The Rambler

## Friendly Comments As the Days Roll On

by  
Lou Eichler

Little Bernice Burtis, who was graduated from the eighth grade of Meridian elementary school, turned historian at final exercises the other day. She gave the history of the Meridian school from the days of the first "little red schoolhouse," with no play facilities, down to the present modern building and its extensive equipment. Here is her contribution to the written history of the Meridian school, as she obtained it from older folk:

"The first school was held in a one-room building situated about the center of the south part of the Dr. E. V. Jacobs place, west of town. There were many oaks and other trees around it. There were not any real roads around it.

In 1860 a one-room schoolhouse was built near the river south of where Mrs. Chesney's duplex now stands. There was no levee there then, and the schoolhouse stood on the river bank and faced the river. They carried water from the river to drink when they got thirsty, and sometimes went down to the river and drank.

The school was built of straight boards, and was known as 'the little red schoolhouse.' The school wasn't graded then, and had but one teacher, with about 25 pupils. They didn't have a tennis court and a volleyball court like we have, and they didn't have near as many things as we have to play with now.

By 1875, the little red schoolhouse was too small and some of the classes were held in the Masonic hall, which was a part of the old hotel building that burned some time ago. It stood then by the Jesse Saunders place.

The two-story brick building was completed in 1876, where the present school now stands. The bricks were made on the place where Mrs. Lena Burris lives. J. J. Jones lived there then and made the bricks. E. A. Larkin taught upstairs and Miss Alice Paine taught downstairs. They had around 50 or 60 pupils. Another room was needed, so a small house was built in the yard and they had the first and second grades there.

In 1922 our present schoolhouse was built. It has three classrooms, music room and auditorium. This school has three teachers and had around 80 pupils until the flood (March 1, 1940). Now we have 62. We have a tennis court, baseball diamond, volleyball court, ring tennis, basketball, soccer ball, swings, rings and bars.

Appeal Democrat - June 1940



## Remembering Meridian

by  
Jim Rickert

I was born in Greenville, Pennsylvania in 1918 and am the oldest of three boys. Duke and Bud and I are each about two years apart in age. My family first came to California in 1923. My uncle and grandfather had a service station in Los Angeles, but my dad didn't care for that so we returned east to the worst winter they had ever had in Pennsylvania. The family immediately wanted to come back to California. The second trip out, they fixed up a Chevrolet truck with a canvass cover over the back end and put we three boys in the back with no communication with the front; we fought for 3,000 miles all the way through the country. In those days, there were no motels, just a campground where you'd pitch your tent. When you hit Kansas or one of those places and it rained, you stayed because all the roads were muddy. I don't remember any paved roads going through there. We kids were alright, but I don't know how my mother survived. She had her washing machine, which was a tub, on top of the vehicle and that is what she used to wash our clothes. We returned to Los Angeles and kept working our way north. My dad always wanted to have a ranch and we ended up in Gridley where he got in the auction yard business; he was partners in one of the first livestock auction yards in California.

He knew a lot of people in Meridian. You wouldn't know it today, but everyone over in Meridian at that time milked cows and did different things to

supplement their income because a milk check was the only time you could get money every ten days. Otherwise it was a check once a year for walnuts, once a year for cattle or sheep or whatever you raised.

In 1942 we moved to Cottonwood because we went into the beef business and Gridley was not a beef cattle area. We bought a good size ranch outside of Redding and Bud was on the ranch with our parents. About 1946, we heard that Chris Hansen wanted to sell the meat market and slaughterhouse in Meridian. Chris operated the slaughterhouse and leased the meat market out to Herman Neilsen. In the fall of 1946 we purchased the business; my brother, Duke, and I moved to Meridian and Herman Neilsen opened a meat market in Colusa. Bud and Ruth didn't move to Meridian until 1955.

We'd never had a knife in our hands before; it was terrible. Genevieve Reische used to come in and say, "You know, we really like you boys, but I don't even know what you're trying to sell us." We hired Johnny Karsten who had been a butcher in Sutter. He came and taught me the butchering trade. Duke worked out in the slaughterhouse. He went around to the different slaughterhouses and found out how to get a sharp knife and keep it sharp and how to slaughter. Duke and I slaughtered for a while Nielsen was still in the market. We would sell in carcass form to a meat market in Colusa. The butcher called up and said, "What did

you do to the meat?" Instead of cutting right down the backbone which I think was hard, we moved over and cut where it was easy. They didn't have any T-bones or anything; it was all on one side. We were really green peas, but it didn't take long and we got going.

Gil Doss, my brother-in-law, was still in elementary school when we first moved to Meridian. He would come down in the summer and work. The first job he had was with Barney Reische, helping irrigate and things around the ranch. The second summer, we got him working in the market and the slaughterhouse. That's how Gil got started in Meridian and now he's got the same place we had. Both Gil and Willis Carnegie worked for me as butchers when they were in high school.

Harry Barr worked for us too. When Harry went to work for us, he'd never had a knife in his hands, but he was tired of working seasonally for people and wanted a job where he had a paycheck every week. We talked and I told him, "This is an inside job; you don't have to go out there and fight the north wind and the dust and that sort of thing." Harry didn't like the north wind. *[ed. note: Harry Barr said he told Jim he would go to work in the market if the north wind blew the next day — and it did]* Inside the first month of him coming to work in the shop, I pulled my Achilles tendon in a basketball game. I was the main butcher, hopping around on one foot on crutches and poor old Harry was trying to figure out what the heck he could do there.

When we first came to Meridian, there were no freezers. You had to buy your meat every day or two. There was

no way to store meat other than cured meat like bacon or ham. We saw people every day or every couple of days. People were used to grass-fed animals which were only fat in the springtime when the feed was good. My dad grain-fed the animals at the ranch. We worked up a heck of a business with Colusa, Williams, Arbuckle — all over the west side because they had to come through Meridian to get to Yuba City and Marysville. There were big stores over there, but they didn't have our kind of meat. A lot of times, there would be fifteen or twenty people out on the street waiting to get in to get served. There would be four of us butchers waiting on people.

Meat markets in those days had sawdust on the floor to absorb the grease. One of Gil's jobs was to take the rake and clean it up and add fresh sawdust. The sawdust was changed every week or two weeks depending on how dirty it would get. We had it in the refrigerator boxes too. You didn't use pine because the meat would absorb the smell of the pine; you used hardwood sawdust. Trucks would come around and deliver the sawdust to the various meat markets.

When Hansen had the slaughterhouse, he would slaughter the animals and then bring it to the store. We put refrigeration in at the slaughterhouse so we wouldn't have to bring the meat right into the store. When the meat is hot, it's not very easy to handle. It was pretty primitive when Hansen was there. He had an old case that was run by ammonia. The water in Meridian has a lot of mineral in it. Water ran through pipes to cool off the machinery that you ran and they would clog up and then the ammonia

would leak out. We'd have some guy come in and take those pipes apart and clean out the minerals that would collect in the pipe. He was a weird guy, but you've got to be weird to work around all that ammonia. Boy, that stuff is terrible. We had to get rid of that and buy a new case so we could display the meat.

Evidently, the building was an old hotel at one time. Upstairs you could still see that they'd had a fire. You could still see burnt places in the rafters up there so I don't know how far back that building would go.

When we first moved to Meridian, the post office was next to the Jacobs' building. The newspaper was in that building too. Chris Hansen bought the house next to the market and had the post office in the front end of the house. There were three stores, the Red & White and Zoller's and ours. There were service stations and the Diamond Match Company. The Lone Palm used to frost the root beer mugs. Meridian was quite a bustling little town, but when they put the new bridge in, that really changed it.

Living in Meridian was a very fun time in life for me. We were among sportsmen; they liked to fish and hunt and do sports of all kinds.

The year before we moved to Meridian, I played basketball with the Sacramento Senators, an AAU team. The guys in town knew I played basketball. Barney Reische came to me and said, "Why don't we have a team?" I said, "Well, can you get enough guys around here to have a team in Meridian?" They came out of the woodwork. I looked at the guys around Meridian and they didn't look like basketball players to me. I'd gone to

Sutter High School one year when we lived around Live Oak and I knew George Wood was a pretty good ballplayer, but the rest of them, I didn't think they'd ever had a basketball in their hand. What a surprise. There was a league in the Yuba City-Marysville area and we played some teams from Sacramento and Williams and Colusa and East Nicolaus. We lost the first game we played and won all the rest that year, even the Woodland Tournament which was like the Sacramento March of Dimes Tournament now. Every day after a game, they would all come to the market and we'd have a big discussion of the game. We'd replay it again and again.

Every year the school had a picnic. The town closed down for the picnic; everybody went over and had a great time. I didn't eat for two days before that gathering because I knew what was going to happen to me. They'd grab me and say, "You gotta try this." There was a big soft ball game with the grown ups against the kids.

We had thousands and thousands of dollars on credit when a thousand dollars was a lot of money. We didn't lose any. They'd come in and we'd keep tags. People would send their kids to the store and we'd mark it down and give them the tags and they'd just tear them up; they never checked whether we were honest with them. You get that kind of reputation and then you don't have to worry about it at all. We never lost any charge account which was a miracle. Meridian was really a solid little community. They were just good hard-working, honest people.

C. P. James was our bookkeeper and did our taxes for us. He was one of the finest old gentlemen I've ever known.

He was always reminiscing. He was the station manager for the Sacramento Northern Railroad and he used to tell me about the railroad and what went on there. He had the best handwriting. He was a great guy and very precise. He always wanted to live to be 100; I think he was 99 years old when he died.

People would send their kids to the market to get what they needed. I'd say, "Butch Davis, get your tail out of here or I'm going to call your mother up." He was the orneriest little son-of-a-gun. I'd call his mother up and I'd say, "Hey, do something about this Butch -- drivin' me nuts." I was afraid he'd get in the knives or something. Then he grew up to be a real nice young man. I knew all the kids in town.

Rosie Hemphill was Portuguese and spoke with an accent. One day she came in the market and said "I want some sheep meat." I said, "Well, Rosie, we got lamb and we've got beef and we've got pork, but we don't have any sheep." I thought she meant older meat. She said, "Sheep, you know. Not cost much." She wanted some cheap meat.

There was a group of men who lived up on the levee, winos, I guess you'd call them. There was One-Eyed Jack and Old Red. There was a guy who lived under the bridge who grew flowers too. We didn't see as much of him as we did of the others. After they drank up all their money, they'd come to the market and want lunchmeat. Bologna came in rolls and you'd slice the meat as people wanted it. I'd save the ends of the rolls for them

and sometimes give them some out of the middle. You'd give them something so they'd have something to eat the rest of the month; there was no welfare or anything like that. There was one old guy, Old Red, who lived in a big cement pipe for several years. The pipe was on its side and he'd crawl in there; he lived there summer and winter.

We sold the market to the Weinrich Brothers in 1955. We put a feed mill in by the old Diamond Match building and stayed there for five years before we moved back to Cottonwood.

My brothers and I and our families moved back to Cottonwood at the same time. We had the feed lot, the ranch at Bella Vista where my father lived. We did the butchering and sold locker meat and the wives wrapped the meat. We kind of worked the whole thing and had a good business up here. I worked until I was 70 years old and I told my brothers, "I think I've had enough." We'd been slaughtering hogs and it was 110 degrees and we'd do it the old fashioned way where the water was 150 degrees. They both said, "Boy, we've been waiting for you, the oldest one, to tell us that." We finished what we had to do and just closed it down. It's been great for us because all our children worked there. The girls wrapped meat and the boys worked in the slaughterhouse. They knew they didn't want anything to do with the slaughterhouse; they wanted to go get an education so they could go off and do something else.

## History of Meridian Dates to Days of Early Pioneers; Data Interesting

Despite the heavy growth of oak timber and brush on the marshy land along the bank of the Sacramento river in west Sutter County, Lewis O'Neil in 1852, had a vision of clearing, draining and improving, and because of that vision built a cabin thereon, the nucleus of our village, Meridian. The point he selected was near the present site of the residence of George W. Wood. [Editor's Note: west side of D Street and Meridian Road]

In 1857 John F. Fouts bought the place and three years later established a ferry across the river at this point and started a store. Several years later the ferry was purchased by George W. Wood who operated it until its discontinuance some 45 years later.

A.H. Mitchell had acquired a large tract of land close by and in March, 1861, sold ten acres to W. C. Smith who blocked the tract off in town lots, selling a corner occupied by Smith, Wiseman & Company to E. F. Thornbrough & Company, who built a small store. Mitchell & Smith had each built a home in 1860, and in the same year a post-office was established with J. F. Fouts as postmaster, the town and post-office being known as Keokuk.

Later, finding that another town in California bore the same name, and because of the fact that the office was just one quarter mile west of the Mt. Diablo meridian of the U.S. survey, the name was changed to Meridian.

In 1867 Fouts built a saloon and Burgett, Moon & Co. occupied a brick store built the same year. In 1871 William

Welch built a home, the only one on the same side of the road as that of the original cabin of O'Neil.

The flood of 1867-8 was so great that many of the population moved to Colusa, some of them even moving what was left of their homes. Some of those remaining here were energetic enough to snag houses and parts of houses going by on the flood and after the water receded found themselves the owner of a home formerly belonging to some other party less fortunate somewhere further up the river. Since then the village has slowly grown, having had several set backs by fire.

In 1867 J. G. Jones commenced the manufacture of brick in a small way, and all the brick used here were made at his place north of town.

Religious services were first held in the Fouts home. A Baptist church was established at an early date, but it is impossible to obtain its history as it was discontinued after several years and the property recently sold to Ray and Lettie Garmire for residence property.

In 1861 the Methodist Episcopal Church was established as part of the circuit of the Rev. H. J. Bland. The first officials were P. B. Chamberlain and E. Wilbur. Later a church building was erected on property donated by M. C. Wood, father of our townsman, George W. Wood. This building was destroyed by fire in November, 1931, a concrete building replacing it being dedicated the following June, the Rev. Samuel Tamblyn,

pastor.

A two-story brick school house of two rooms and a small recitation room was built in 1876. Many years later this was torn down and replaced by the present modern structure.

For about ten years the mail was brought from Colusa by private carrier, then by the Marysville-Colusa stage until the completion of the Sacramento Northern Railway, which was started in 1906. The work was destroyed by a flood on March 20, 1907 and was again resumed until 1911. It was completed and dedicated in 1913.

During the early years there was established a Masonic lodge. A hall was erected which was later destroyed by fire and the lodge discontinued.

The I.O.O.F. (International Order of Odd Fellows) established a lodge and built a hall, which was later destroyed by fire, but replaced by the brick building now in use. The I.O.G.T. (International Order of Good Templars) also owned their hall which was destroyed by fire and the lodge discontinued.

A drug store was opened early in the history of the little village by Dr. Devore, related to the Wesley Moons and an uncle of Dr. W. L. Stephens, who now has his home and office on the property then occupied by the Moons. When this burned, Dr. E. V. Jacobs built a drug store on his property west of the main road, which still stands, with the old town well still on the lot and the old hitching post in

front.

Dr. Jacobs built his home near by and here brought his bride some fifty-two years ago, and where they still make their home.

As far as can be learned Samuel Reische is the oldest living pioneer of the first years of Meridian and one of the forefathers of the numerous Reische families living here.

Thomas Ficon, publisher, and his wife, Alma Ficon, editor, established the Meridian Index in 1930. Now, in its eighth year it is edited and published by Maitland S. Pennington and his mother, Mrs. Alf Pennington, associate editor.

In 1911 the Wednesday Afternoon club was organized meeting in homes, later in the church parlors, until April 28, this year, Dr. and Mrs. E. V. Jacobs presented the club with a permanent memorial home, built with concrete, with tile roof, being mission style in architectural design.

Through efforts of Supervisor E. S. Wadsworth in 1936, the county installed and maintains eleven electric street lights in Meridian.

The year 1936 also saw the organization of the West Sutter Men's Club, the most active service club in the county, the organization of a Boy Scout troop, Girl Scouts, Cub, 4-H club, and in September, this year, the reorganization of the Parent-Teacher's Association.

Meridian Index - 1 October 1938

## By-Pass Bridge History Since First Structure

As early as 1862 work was commenced on the construction of a causeway across the Butte Slough at a point now known as the Sutter by-pass. The structure was a one-way bridge with turnout in the center, 2000 feet long, its approach a macadamized rock road, the entire project paid for chiefly by subscription.

In 1871 the county replaced it with a wooden structure 1760 feet long, at a cost of about \$10,000. Tolls were collected for three years but were not sufficient to pay for its construction, and it was made a free bridge.

This bridge was destroyed by fire several years later, the county replacing it with the one now in use up to the opening of the new bridge on Sunday, October 16. The new bridge is of steel and concrete construction along the latest improved methods. Construction was begun in November, 1937, but after a few weeks was discontinued on account of high water. Resumption of work was on the first of last May and on June 1, 1938, the pouring of concrete was started for the 602 piles on which is built the 4150-foot long bridge, 28 feet wide, with 24-foot roadway, using 6000 cubic yards of concrete and 1,200,000 pounds of reinforcing steel, the work being completed September 1 of this year.

The cost, exclusive of right-of-way, was \$230,000.

Heafey-Moore Company of Oakland contractors, employed Otto Bonnesen of Oakland, superintendent of the job, who also represented Fredrickson-Watson Construction Company of Oakland.

Meridian Index - 1 October 1938

## Attractive Feature To Be Buffalo Barbecue; Sons Will Place Plaque

Under the combined auspices of the West Sutter Men's Club and the Sutter City Native Sons of the Golden West, the Sutter by-pass bridge will be dedicated Sunday with appropriate ceremonies when Governor Frank F. Merriam will address the gathering, and Grand President of the Native Sons Joseph J. McShane will have a part in the services.

Starting promptly at noon the Native Sons will commence their ritual with the placing of a plaque at the eastern entrance of the bridge. The plaque will be cemented into place with sand from historical places throughout the state, and water from famous springs. The cement comes from well-known California deposits.

Following the Native Sons ritual the governor will cut the ribbon that will officially open the Sutter by-pass bridge to traffic, and will ride in the first car to cross the bridge.

The governor will cross the bridge and come back to the spot beneath the bridge where he will speak. Joseph J. McShane, Earl Lee Kelly, director of state public works, and Senator W. P. Rich will all speak briefly. The speaking will be concluded promptly at 1:15 p.m.



Immediately following the speaking the barbecued buffalo will be served. The meal will be buffalo meat, beans, pickles, tomatoes, watermelon and coffee.

A softball game is planned for 2 p.m. to round out the afternoon's program of entertainment.

Inspector Cooper, Captain Tal Norwood and Sergeant Miller of the California Highway Patrol will have charge of the traffic.

Cars that do not intend to be in the caravan that will follow the governor's car across the bridge are urged to find parking places at the by-pass before the program begins.

Committees in charge are, the first named being chairman:

General Committee - Maitland S. Pennington, Stuart Alves, Earl Kay, Matt Phillips, Major I. E. Farington and Alvin W. Edgar.

Reception - Frank Ettl, [unable to read], Major I. E. Farington, Desmond Winship, Maitland Pennington, Francis Yates, Henry Correll.

Pit - Fred Tarke and George Tarke.

Entertainment - Del Brown, S. R. McLean, Richard Corbin and Chet Correll.

Cleanup - Carl Watson.

Fire - Frank Burkhardt.

Beans - Stanley Reische and Merle Carnegie.

Coffee - E. P. Albertson, Ferd Ettl.

Purchasing - Frank Ettl, Earl Kay, Francis Yates, E. P. Albertson, Alvin Edgar.

Soft drinks and ice cream - Harve Smith.

Parking - Homer English, Major I. E. Farington, Sutter City Boy Scouts and Meridian Boy Scouts.

Tomatoes and watermelon - Harold Rohleder, Dave Miller and Richard Corbin.

The beans, peppers, onions, tomatoes and watermelon used in preparing the meal were grown in Western Sutter County.

The sugar used is made from sugar beets raised in this district and refined by the Spreckles Sugar Company at Woodland.

Meridian Index - 1 October 1938

## Food for the By-Pass Bridge Dedication

Harold Rohleder remembers that his father, Herald, grew the watermelons for the dedication. Harold helped cut the watermelons for the meal.

The buffalo meat which was served came from the Fort Niobara game refuge, four miles north of Valentine, Nebraska. The two yearling bulls and two yearling heifers were butchered in Valentine on October 5 and 6, wrapped in muslin and burlap, placed in an ice house, and shipped by railroad on October 8. The meat arrived in Meridian via the Sacramento Northern Railroad. The meat was then taken to the Hansen butcher shop where Herman Neilsen prepared it for the bridge dedication barbecue.



# Kid's Page

## HIDDEN WORDS

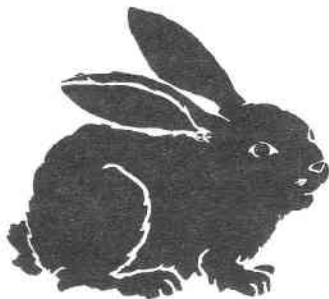
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JEFFERSON  
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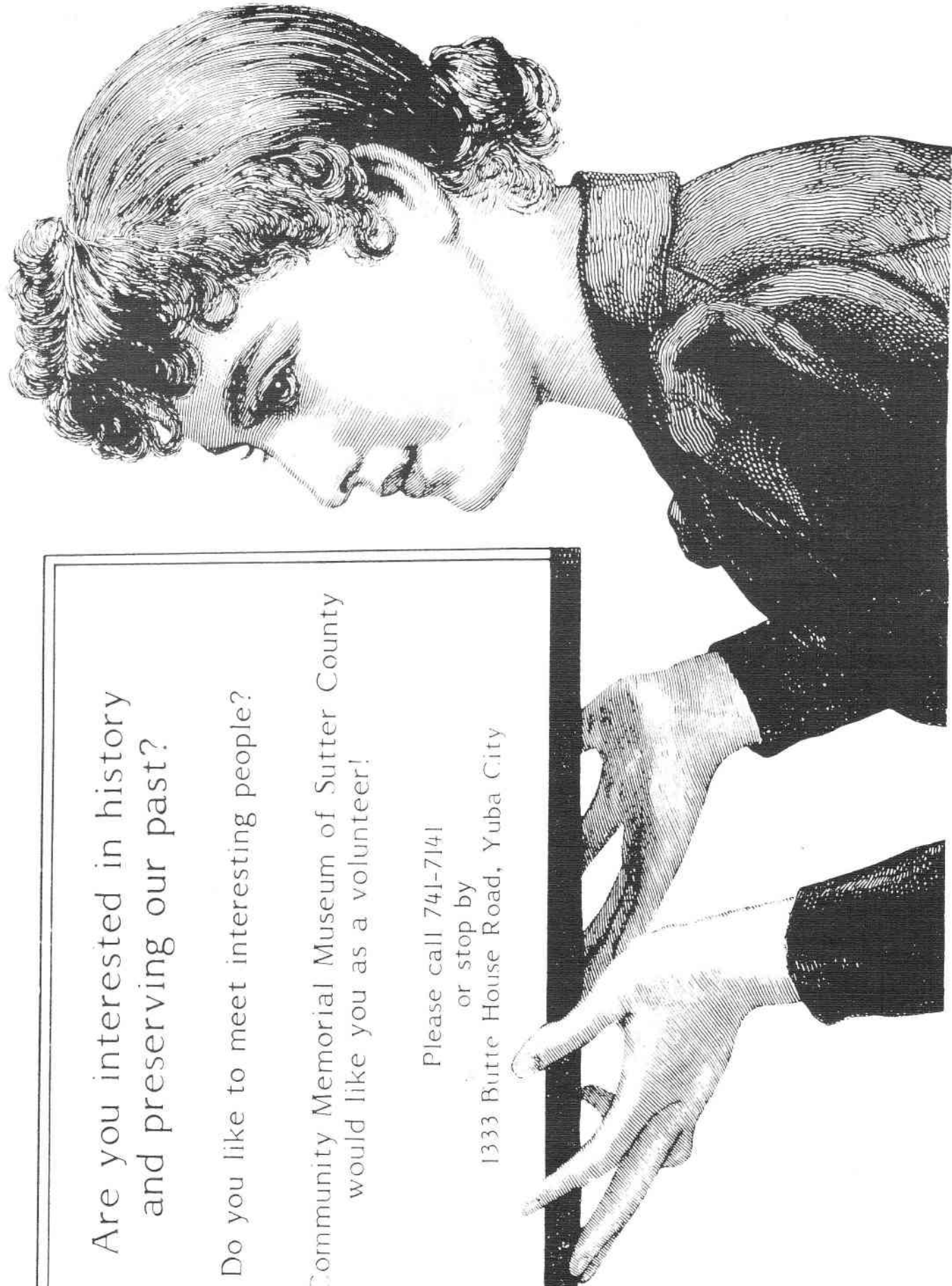
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Do you like to meet interesting people?

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would like you as a volunteer!

Please call 741-7141  
or stop by

1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City



## Coming Events

### March

30 *Between Two Worlds* - Exhibit closes

### April

2 Children's Spring Break Program - Museum - 2:00 p.m.

11 *Those Old Familiar Places* - Exhibit opens  
Reception at the Museum - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m

15 ***Historical Society Annual Dinner - Meridian***  
**West Sutter Veterans' Hall - 4th & Bridge Streets**  
**Judith Barr Fairbanks Essay Contest Awards**  
**Program: A Brief History of the Meridian Area**  
**Reservations Required by April 8<sup>th</sup> - \$10.00**

25 Wear & Remembrance - Fairgrounds - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

26 Wear & Remembrance - Fairgrounds - 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Exploring African-American Culture Series

"Allensworth, A Black Township, Now a State Historic Park"

presentation by William & Susie Smith

1:30 p.m. - Sutter County Library

### May

9 Mother's Day Decadence

### June

29 *Those Old Familiar Places* - Exhibit closes

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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