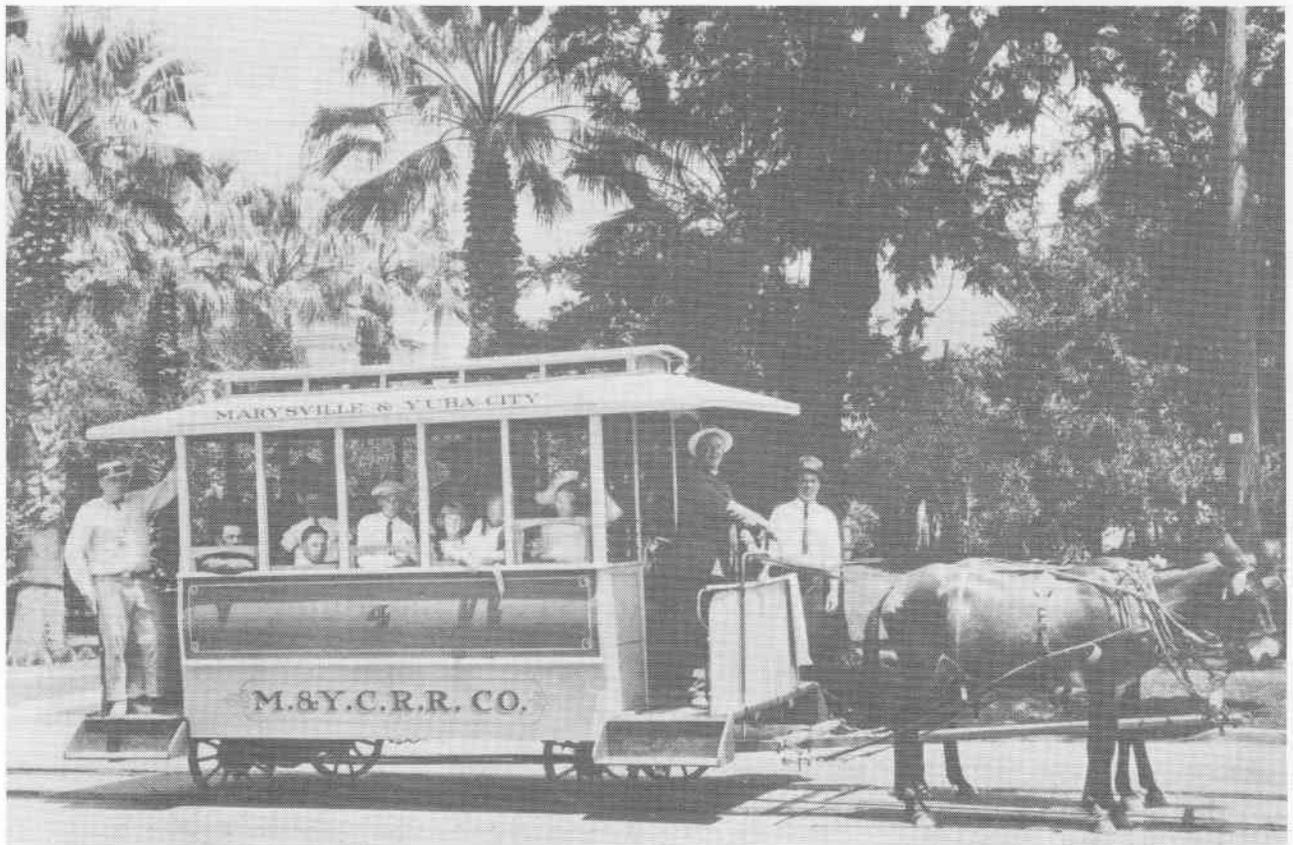


Vol. XLIV No. 4

Yuba City, California

October 2002



**Replica of a mule drawn streetcar of the  
Marysville & Yuba City Railroad Company**

*(picture courtesy of Community Memorial Museum)*



**OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY**

John Reische, President

Constance Cary, Secretary

Audrey Breeding, Vice President

Dorothy Ettl, Treasurer

**DIRECTORS**

Bonnie Ayers-2001\*

Helen Heenan-1996

Audrey Breeding-1997

Steve Perry-1994

Christy Carlos-2001

Evelyn Quigg-1991

Constance Cary-1987

Marian Regli-1996

Tom Crowhurst-1997

John Reische-2000

Dorothy Ettl-2000

Randolph Schnabel-1957

Bruce Harter-1991

Phyllis Smith-2000

Elaine Tarke-1985

\*The year the director joined the Board.

The **Bulletin** is published quarterly by the Historical Society in Yuba City, California. Payment of annual membership dues provides you with a subscription to the **Bulletin** and the Museum's **Muse News** and membership in both the Society and the Museum.

The 2002 dues are payable as of January 1, 2002. Mail your check to the Community Memorial Museum at P. O. Box 1555, Yuba City, 95992-1555.

Student (under 18)/ Senior Citizen/Library .....	\$ 15
Individual .....	\$ 20
Organizations/Clubs .....	\$ 30
Family .....	\$ 35
Business/Sponsor .....	\$ 100
Corporate/Benefactor .....	\$1000

## President's Message

It's time for the fall 2002 issue of the Bulletin and that prompts a message from the President! I sincerely hope that everyone has had a restful and eventful summer. Actually, the Society has been quiet with no earth-shattering happenings to relate.

The July Picnic-in the Park was a lot of fun with a turnout of around 75-80 people and more food than we could eat. Dorothy Coats presented a very interesting talk on "Pennington - the Man and the Town," telling us about the early history of Pennington.

As many of you know, Kristen Childs has left the Museum to continue her education and her position as been filled by Sharyl Simmons. This is a happy event and we congratulate her and wish her success in this endeavor. We know her commitment and interest in the Museum and Sutter County history, and she will continue many of her volunteer efforts with the Historical Society.

I am pleased to report that Steve Perry is making progress in bringing the Hock Farm Doors project to fruition. He will give us an update at the October meeting.

Phyllis Smith reports that the Preservation Register Site project continues to be refined. Our next step is to develop a SCHS Statement of Purpose, a Resolution establishing the Register, and guidelines outlining the "how-what-when-where" (the mechanics) of the Register. Members will be provided information on these matters and be asked to vote on the Resolution at the annual meeting next April. This action will formally establish the Preservation Register and will be used in the future when asking the City, County and State to support the preservation of Sutter County historical sites and buildings.

In closing, I would like to call your attention to the recently published Yuba City General Plan update. This is a long-range plan for the future growth of the City of Yuba City. It is a very extensive and exciting plan and encompasses a large area of what we consider the original part of Sutter County. There are many historical sites and buildings within the General Plan area. Copies are available at the City Hall, 1201 Civic Center Blvd., Yuba City. Our concern is the preservation of historical sites.

I continue to enjoy serving as your President and appreciate all the support and interest you members give to me and to the Directors, who make our success possible.

John V. Reische  
President

## Director's Report

At the Museum we are looking forward to fall for several reasons. It will bring several long-term projects to a close. The long-awaited patio is in the final stages of construction. The final touches are being put on the agricultural wing exhibits. Kudos to departing Assistant Curator Kristen Childs for her excellent design work on those exhibits. We are also looking forward to the new exhibit *Tree of Life: An Appreciation of Our Oaks and a Search for Answers to "Sudden Oak Death."* Through the stunning art photography of area photographer Tim Moen, the visitor can visualize the beauty of the oak trees that anchor the delicate ecological balance of the valley and foothill woodlands. Visitors will also learn what is most currently known about the "Sudden Oak Death" threat to many oak species. The exhibit, up September 20 through December 1, will feature a reception and program on Wednesday, October 23 beginning at 6:30 with the program at 7:30. Doug McCreary of the U.C. Field Station at Browns Valley, focusing on the Oak Death threat, and Dale Whitmore of the Department of Fish and Game, with information about the Spenceville Wildlife Area, will show slides and speak to bring us a remarkably informative evening.

We send our best wishes with Kristen Childs as she embarks on her graduate school adventure at U.C. Riverside in the Historic Resources Management program. Kristen has been an invaluable member of the Museum team for the past six years. She has greatly enriched the Museum in many ways and will certainly be missed. Filling the Assistant Curator position is longtime Museum and Historical Society volunteer Sharyl Simmons, whom you may also recognize as co-editor of this *Bulletin*. We are most pleased to welcome Sharyl. She brings, aside from her extensive experience with local history, a Master's Degree in history plus years of teaching California history in area community colleges and a very knowledgeable computer background. We look forward to a productive and creative collaboration of great benefit to the Museum.

Be sure to remember the *Ghosts of Christmas Past Sale* on November 7 for great Christmas bargains and the Christmas Ornament Workshop on November 13 at 10:00 a.m. Save Saturday, December 7 for the annual Christmas Gala fundraiser *Trees & Traditions* from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. It is the premiere holiday party, not to be missed. Patio pavers may still be ordered to honor or memorialize loved ones, businesses, etc. The Museum Store *Past & Presents* is filling up with wonderful gift ideas, many completely new items as well as our usual comprehensive list of local and California history books. Be involved in *your* Museum.

Julie Stark  
Director

## Memorials

In Memory of **Laura Ahlers**  
Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Schnabel

In Memory of **Robert Close**  
Tom & Marnee Crowhurst  
Gene & Babs Lonon

In Memory of **Don Giovannetti**  
Barry Lemenager

In Memory of **Phyllis Hall**  
Gene & Babs Lonon

In Memory of **Rosa Helwig**  
Connie Cary

In Memory of **Audrey Hill**  
Connie Cary

In Memory of **Alan Marler**  
Betty Taylor

In Memory of **Mildred Menefee**  
Marie E. Fuller

In Memory of **Andrew Montgomery**  
Dorothy Munger

In Memory of **Freda Pfeffer**  
Gene & Babs Lonon  
Sam & Becky Anderson  
Jerry & Sheila Sannar

In Memory of **Suzanne Reynolds**  
Marie L. Fremd

In Memory of **Hilda Rose**  
Jane Coats

In Memory of **Virgil Lee Short**  
Barry Lemenager

In Memory of **Carmelita Sweeney**  
Jane Coats

In Memory of **John Thomas**  
Ev & Liz Berry

In Memory of **Anna Ulmer**  
Jane Coats

In Honor of **Michael J. Fierro**  
Tom & Jean Pfeffer

**Outright Gifts from**  
Marian Regli  
Sutter Buttes 99s

## Where Does Your Contribution Go?

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

Currently, all donations to the historical society are going into the General Fund. The expenses for the Hock Farm Door renovation will come from this fund. In the next few months, with some guidance from the Museum as to what will best suit their expansion needs, we hope to announce a new building project for the Museum. Monies from the General Fund are used to pay the Society's 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.

## October Luncheon

Last issue we announced a change of location for our October luncheon. We hope you've forgotten all about that article, because we're back where we belong, at the Hermann Sons Hall in Nicolaus for another excellent German meal.

The luncheon is Saturday, October 12, with the social time starting at 11:30 and lunch served at noon. Lunch will be followed by a brief business meeting and then our program, with speaker Don Burtis talking about the history of schools and school districts in the Nicolaus-Pleasant Grove area. We'll wrap up with the ever-popular raffle.

Lunch is \$13 per person and pre-payment is required. Either send in the registration form you received earlier this month in the mail, or mail your check with your name and the number of people attending to The Sutter County Historical Society, P. O. Box 1004, Yuba City, CA 95992-1004.

For information, please call Dorothy Ettl at 673-3412; Dot Reische at 674-8106; or the Museum at 822-7141.



### Sutter County Historical Society Financial Report September 1, 2002

Checking Account Balance (9/01/02)	\$ 3,707.54
Edward Jones Accounts (7/26/02)	
Money Market Account	10,835.62
Certificate of Deposit	16,193.17
Judith Barr Fairbanks Memorial Essay Account	<u>9,320.70</u>
Total Net Worth	\$40,057.03

# History of the Hock Farm

## From 1842 to 1956

by  
Honor Laney

This article was first published in the *Bulletin* in 1956. With the new agriculture wing of the Museum becoming a reality (be sure to stop in and see the progress!), we thought we would reprint this wonderful article.

One hundred and fifteen years have passed since Sutter first established the headquarters of a stock farm on the west bank of the Feather River at a site that history soon referred to as the Hock Farm. Here in 1841 - three years after arriving in California - Sutter located a temporary base from which vaqueros ranged out over the lush miles of grazing land that spread westward past the Buttes (Los tres Picos), eastward to the foothills and southward to the junction of the Sacramento and American Rivers.

This camp stood near the northern most boundary of his domain, and a few miles below the junction of the Yuba and Feather rivers. This great area of eleven leagues was deeded Sutter by a land grant from the Mexican governor, Alvarado. Later in 1845 a second land grant of 22 leagues was deeded Sutter by Governor Micheltorena. In 1851, after the United States government had taken over California, this second land grant was declared null and void. The United States declared that California was in a state of revolution in 1845 and that Micheltorena lacked the proper authority to make a land grant to Sutter. Sutter had supported Micheltorena during the insurrection and it was for this support that Micheltorena had been so lavish in the size of the land grant. The maximum size for the Mexican land grant was

eleven leagues. With the capitulation of Micheltorena, California was left with no recognized leader, and two warring factions, the Castos and the Picos, with a Carillo thrown in for extra measure, vied for its control

At this point the Americans under Fremont stepped in and, a few months later - on June 15, 1846 - established the Bear Flag Republic. Because of Sutter's nosiness, he had been told by Fremont that he might take off with the Mexicans. Sutter decided to retreat to his fort and have little to do with the war-faring men.

One month after the establishment of the Bear Flag Republic, war had broken out between Mexico and the United States and on July 9<sup>th</sup> Commodore Sloat seized Monterey. At Cahuenga Pass, Fremont drew up the Cahuenga Capitulations and California's resistance to the Americans formally ended. With the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848, war with Mexico officially ended. California became a possession of the United States.

And now Sutter's troubles with the United States began. The confusion in regard to ownership of lands in California became so extensive that in March, 1851,

Congress passed a law providing for a settlement of claims and in 1852 established the Land Commission in San Francisco for receiving these

claims. It was not until 1865, however, that Sutter's grant of eleven leagues was confirmed. By 1846 Sutter was in serious financial trouble, and was using every possible ruse to delay, forestall and evade his creditors. What natural haven of rest and escape from his multiplicity of woes could picture itself in brighter, more luring hues than the oak and sycamore dotted park-like site at Hock Farm?

Here in 1843 young Bidwell had come to supervise further construction of more permanent buildings. Built in 1842, the adobe at the Hock Farm was the first structure in California north of Sutter's Fort. Gradually Sutter beautified the grounds, by planting fruit trees and ornamental shrubs and laying out an extensive garden and a vineyard. He added more structures to the farm, and following a near financial catastrophe at the Fort in which he signed over the Fort properties to his son, John Augustus Sutter, Jr., he transferred all movable property and live stock to the Hock Farm. With the advent of the gold seekers, Sutter's holdings melted away fast. Squatters, unscrupulous land agents, petitions to the Land Commission, lawyers and lawsuits, all made Sutter see the necessity of moving to the Farm. Sutter wrote, "In March, 1849, I moved to my Hock Farm which had been laid out in 1842. Bidwell had built a fine mansion for me there and had prepared everything for the reception of my family, whose arrival from Switzerland I was expecting just then."

Zallinger writes in Sutter, The Man and His Empire "The land belonging to the Hock Farm embraced excellent grazing ground with wide bands of extremely fertile grain and garden soil beside the placid Feather River and its willows and cottonwoods. The banks of the river were high enough

to protect the farmlands from the winter floods. Magnificent old groves gave to the estate the aspect of a park out of which the imposing pyramids of Los Tres Picos (Sutter's Buttes) rose like friendly guardians, adding immensely to the picturesqueness of the scenery.

"The old, uncomfortable farm buildings, standing a few hundred feet away from the river were now augmented by new out houses and a new, large residence so as to form a large quadrangle court, in the center of which there was a well under an old sycamore. The residence, a half frame, half adobe building, was a two story house facing eastwards toward the river, and having a wide piazza in the New England style. A few poplar trees, planted so as to emphasize the formal but friendly symmetry of the front residence, stood in line with the flag pole staff on which at later festive occasions the Stars and Stripes was hoisted amid the boom of a cannon brought up from the Fort and fired by Alfons, beloved son of Sutter and would-be young soldier."

On numerous occasions during the fair season the grounds of Hock Farm were overrun with guests and their friends who spilled over the grounds and gathered to feast at the lavishly laden tables set up under the shady oaks and the fig trees. River boats from Sacramento discharged gay visitors, accompanied usually by a band (for Sutter loved music) upon the broad park-like grounds and there was much feasting and partying, with Sutter, ever the genial, meticulously garbed host, surveying all the festivity in the manner of a grande seignior.

All this time Sutter was beset by creditors whose wily traps to snare him, he as skillfully evaded. The loyal men who served him went without pay. Several dry years brought crop failures; his expenses spiraled up-

ward; his income dried up at its source. More and more of his land was seized by squatters; his cattle were slaughtered by marauders who supplied the markets at Sacramento, and his horses were driven northward and sold in Oregon by rustlers and Indians.

In the devastating floods of 1848 and 1853, Sutter lost more livestock and property. In the flood of 1853 all buildings stood in several feet of water; old adobe walls dissolved or yielded to the pressure of the current and caved in. Only with the utmost exertion could Alfons save the cattle, driving them in the middle of the night to the top of a knoll, while his father and his mother fled in terror from one building to another.

Finally in 1857, after years of continued financial difficulty had persistently dogged Sutter, Sutter's two land grants (from Alvarado and Micheltorena) were confirmed by the Land Commission and the United States District Court for Northern California. The confirmation came just in the nick of time since the sheriff had put the Hock Farm on the auction block for the ridiculous sum of \$14,000. Fortunately and happily Sutter was able to redeem his farm. The following spring the steamship Governor Dana, with banners flying, a band playing, refreshments flowing, and loaded with Sutter's friends from Sacramento, steamed up to the Hock Farm. Here they disembarked and gathered together with Sutter and his family, not only to congratulate him but also to help him celebrate the just and fair decision of the District Court of Northern California. These affairs cost Sutter many thousands of dollars but what was money to this grand squire?

All was not clear on Sutter's horizon, however, and storm clouds gradually built up for the deluge.

Squatters appealed the District Court's decision and in 1864, the Supreme Court, under pressure, reversed the decision if the United States District Court on the Micheltorena grant and declared it null and void. Since Sutter had sold much of this property, he now had to make this money good or return the land. For eleven years Sutter petitioned the Supreme Court for a return of the \$1.25 per acre he had paid in taxes on the grant - the total of which amounted to \$122,000 (he actually requested a return of \$50,000 less than half). Sutter by this time had spent \$25,000 in petitions and lawyers fees and owed the lawyers still another \$10,000.

By 1862 the old Sutter couple were living alone at the Hock Farm. Sutter was forced to do manual labor in the fields and his infirm wife prepared the meals. For connection with the outside world, they were completely depended on the teams of charitable neighbors.

The floods of 1862 gradually ruined the best parts of his orchard, and a levee was erected to protect the rest of the property from further encroachment.

On June 21, 1865, as if the greed of men and the ravages of nature were not enough, was added one more catastrophe to the many that tipped the scales so heavily against the pioneer. Early on that morning a fire broke out and the old residence burned fiercely and quickly. Sutter and his wife barely escaped with their lives. The flames which devoured the Hock Farm constituted one more disaster in the myriad disasters that plagued the man.

On June 22, 1865, the Marysville Weekly Appeal carried this news item: "The old residence of John Augustus Sutter at the Hock Farm was destroyed by fire on Wednesday, June

21. The fire also extended to a barley field. The house was completely destroyed - home, clothing, pictures, busts, curiosities - everything he had been accumulating for the past forty years except a few medals and the family portraits. His large collection of books was also destroyed. The fire was the work of an incendiary-supposed to be a discharged soldier who had been hanging about the premises the past few days and who had been caught stealing and had been punished by being tied up. There was no insurance.."

A few months later Sutter visited the Hock Farm and then left for Washington, D.C., where he resided until 1871.

In 1850 the United States Census presents the Hock Farm as follows: Improved acres of land, 200; unimproved, 1000, cash value of the farm, \$100,000; farming, implements and machinery, \$10,000; horses, 1000; asses and mules, 25; milk cows, 300; working oxen, 50; other cattle, 600; sheep, 500; swine, 60. The value of livestock, \$46,000; bushels of wheat, 200; bushels of Indian corn, 50. Sutter's petition for redress was repeatedly presented to Congress from 1866 until his death in 1880. In 1876, Congress recognized Sutter's claim as "just and proper," but no action was taken. In 1880 Congress again neglected to act upon the petition and Sutter, informed that for the sixteenth time no action had been taken, died shortly thereafter in his shabby hotel room in Washington, D.C.

In 1868 Frederick Low purchased a portion of the considerably reduced Hock Farm from John Augustus Sutter, through Charles Covillaud, trustee for the estate and legal representative for the Sutter family. Six hundred acres was purchased for \$5000, a mere shadow of its worth.

Some months later in January 1870, Frederick Low sold the property (600 acres) to Charles Low for \$10,000. Six months later in July 1870, Charles Low sold five hundred acres to Christian Schmidt for \$11,500.

Christian Schmidt, whose name next to Sutter's, has been most closely associated with the Hock Farm, came to California in 1858. In 1850, prior to his coming to California, he had married an Irish girl, Mary Eagan, who lived with him at Hock Farm until her death in 1874. There was one child by this marriage, a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, born in 1868. In 1875, Mr. Schmidt married a second time. The new Mrs. Schmidt, the young widow of Henry Heidoting, (later spelled Heydoting) had two sons, Henry and Joseph Heydoting.

Christian Schmidt had a fine new home built at Hock Farm sometime between 1875 and 1879. During this time also - the grounds were open to sponsored picnics and on picnic days several thousand people swarmed over the grounds spreading lavish lunches on the tables under the oak and the fig trees. As Harry Carden recalled, "April and May were the picnic months. These picnics were sponsored by the Grange, Odd Fellows, St. Joseph's, Herman Sons and many other religious and fraternal groups. The Native Sons and Grange picnics were huge affairs with grease pig contests, prettiest baby contest, and every other kind of a contest that could be named. In the morning literary contests were held and he, Harry Carden, won \$5.00 - a large sum for a boy of ten, for reading "The Charge of the Light Brigade." Mrs. John Saunders (Lorraine Carpenter, then) won the prettiest baby contest at one of the picnics.

"Merchants came to the picnics and set up displays, usually farm equipment, on the outskirts of the

picnic ground. Many of the people from Marysville floated down the river to the picnic site on barges, fitted with railing around the sides. On the barges benches were placed in rows with a space in between the rows for a band. These barges were drawn by river steamers which with much whistling and tooting pulled the merry-makers on the hour and half trip down the river. The boat was met with a great deal of fanfare, the picnickers going out to meet the barge travelers."

Mr. Carden said that many of the elite traveled in shiny carriages that spun along behind matched and well-groomed pairs of blooded horses. The Sutter county people all were horsedrawn to the grounds.

Mrs. Charles Rednal (nee Berg) remarked that it took three hours or better to drive from the Berg ranch four miles north of Yuba City, to the Hock Farm. "It was an all day trip in the surrey. We often spent our time in the home of Christian Schmidt as the Schmidts were close friends of the family."

Long tables were taken over by individual families and much fuss was made to the spreading of the most lavish tables. Mr. Carden remembered Mrs. Satterley's table especially, perhaps because she served Irish tea. At her table sat Father Coleman of St. Joseph's Parish and the officials of the city of Marysville and Yuba County. It was a great day for the Irish! Mr. Carden and Mrs. Mary Bihlman thought that organizations paid a sum of money (\$75.00) for the use of the grounds.

Mrs. Ida Kerrigan and Mrs. Annie Littlejohn said that they remembered driving into the grounds and that the men in the family paid a small sum of money (50¢) and received a badge entitling them and

their families to enter the picnic grounds.

All remembered a bar at the grounds. Mrs. L. D. Baun, Mrs. Kerrigan, Mrs. Bihlman and Mr. Carden thought only soft drinks were served. Mrs. Littlejohn was under the impression that hard liquor could be purchased as well. It was possible to buy picnic lunches at the bar - but this was infrequently done. All were unanimous in stating that the Hock Farm was a beautiful place.

Mrs. Littlejohn remembered hearing "Lawyer Murphy" of the Donner Party speak time and again at the picnics. "Poor old soul, he kept saying the same things over and over again." She said that there were many decorative trees at Hock Farm, "just about everything that grew, Sutter had planted there."

Mrs. Kerrigan thought it was a pity that young people today couldn't see the farm as it was then. "It was the most beautiful spot in the world."

Mrs. Bihlman remembered the horses and buggies, rigs, surreys, carts and wagons that filled the tree-lined entrance road to the picnic grounds.

Mr. Carden was of the opinion that the picnics were discontinued about 1880. About that time river navigation was abandoned and the first trains were running on schedule into Marysville.

In 1880 Chris Schmidt died, leaving his daughter by his first marriage, his widow, Mary Elizabeth, and an infant that died, not surviving its father by many months; Mary E. Hei-doting Schmidt was named as heir to the larger portion of the estate and guardian of her step-daughter. In 1886 Mary Elizabeth Schmidt (widow) purchased for \$11,000 the interest in Hock Farm of step-daughter Mary E. Schmidt. She managed the farm for six years and then married Thomas E.

Holmes in 1886. Mr. Holmes had been engaged in farming in Yolo, Colusa and Sutter Counties after his arrival in California in 1877. Prior to this marriage, the picnics as public affairs had been discontinued.

Mary Elizabeth died ten years later in 1896, leaving her two sons, Joseph and Henry Heydoting, and twins by her marriage to Mr. Holmes, Dora and Roy. Provision was made in the will for her sons; Mr. Holmes received the Hock Farm, and her brother, Henry Heier and her husband, Thomas Holmes, were made executors of her will.

In 1898, Mr. Holmes married Mary Dena Kettman, whose father had been an early Sutter County resident but who now lived in San Jose. There were five children from this marriage, Mrs. Mildred Davis, Mrs. Adele Da Cosse, Mrs. Louise Carlin, Mrs. Marie Gallagher, and Philip Holmes.

The widespread 1907 flood that broke the banks of the Feather in several places poured through the levees at Hock Farm and gouged great gashes in the rich farm land. Mr. Holmes lost heavily in this flood. However, as after every flood, the farm recovered and was soon producing flourishing crops that yielded heavy harvests.

Mr. Holmes successfully farmed the Hock Farm until his death which occurred in 1920 while he was on a trip in the East. He was interred in Yuba City cemetery and his wife was left in charge of Hock Farm - one half of which was hers and the other half divided equally among the five children of the second marriage. Prior provisions had been made to Mr. Holmes' two children by the first marriage; however, a sum of money was left to the twins (at an earlier date Roy had been deeded a farm). The will named Mary Dena Holmes as executor. In the years that followed,

the children sold their properties; now all that remained was a remnant of the once magnificent show place.

In 1921, Mrs. Holmes leased the ranch to a Mr. Anderson, a relative by marriage, and returned to San Jose, the home of her parents. Mr. Anderson lived at the Farm for the year of his lease. From 1922 to 1932 Adele Da Cosse, daughter of Mrs. Holmes, and her husband, Charles Da Cosse, operated the Farm. A portion of this time found the old house unoccupied, boarded up, and seemingly abandoned, although the greater part of the time it was the home of Adele and her husband. During the brief period of its unoccupancy a series of thefts occurred. Taken were many old Indian relics and other objects of historical value that had been part of the Farm's collection as well as interesting old light fixtures and other movable items. Even the gold leaf inserts on Victorian pictures frames had been pried loose and carted away. Since no itemized inventory of the household objects had been fully kept, a complete record of the loss was difficult to determine. Many items that dated back to Sutter could not be accounted for.

During the 1920 period the Garden Highway was rerouted. No longer did it turn toward the Feather River just north of the ranch and then recontinue its leisurely southward jaunt to pass before the white picket fence, the tree-dotted lawn and the friendly door of the large, two-storied white clap-boarded home, full of memories and history. Now the Garden Highway dashes past the western border of its farmlands, paralleling the property. Only by looking carefully and quickly down the road at right angles to the left as one hurries south from Yuba City can one catch a brief glimpse of the once celebrated home, standing in a grove of huge,

wide-spreading oaks and walnut trees. The tall cottonwood that stood like a sentinel on the right north corner had become diseased and several years ago was cut down.

In 1932, Mrs. Holmes with her son Philip returned to the Farm and settled down once more to its operation, this time under Philip. During the depression she sold another portion of the holdings, leaving the Farm at its present size. In the meanwhile, much of the property which the children by their father had been sold; consequently as the years passed, the one portion of the Hock Farm remaining intact was that small acreage still surrounding the home.

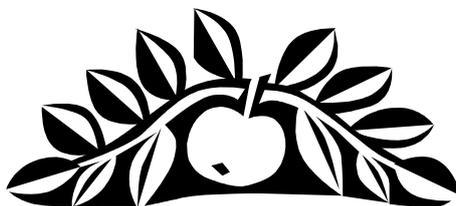
Mary Dena Holmes passed away in 1945. She willed the Farm to her five children with instructions for it to be equally distributed among them. Philip, her son, farmed the property and in 1947 bought the interests of his sisters, so that now, though the Farm is small, it is under one ownership.

In 1936, Philip Holmes married Eleanor Burroughs, daughter of a pioneer family, and since 1945, Phil and Eleanor have made their home at Hock Farm which is once more a show place in Sutter County. They have two sons, Barry, a sophomore at Stanford, and William (Bill), a junior at Yuba City Union High School.

The home has been carefully repaired and remodeled, still maintaining its traditional charm while boasting many modern conveniences. Air conditioning on the inside and a swimming pool on the outside add to its livability. Painstaking care was given to remodeling and redecorating

of the interior. To the history-steeped furniture, pictures, portraits, silver and china pieces that belong to the home have been added many other historical items that make it one of our most important pioneer homes in Sutter County, if not the most important. There are still treasures to be found, although the old adobe and the Indian quarters are gone and the Indian mound is now covered by the levee. From time to time some trinket from the past is identified or some old photograph is properly accounted for, the once unknown faces now strangely familiar in the procession of people associated with Hock Farm. One of the most interesting items uncovered and then misplaced again was an old map painted on canvas, a map of the Farm, its place names all in Spanish with the exception of the term "Hoch Farm" and "Hoch Indians" with the spelling as given, not "Hock" as spelled today. Who made the map, could the mapmaker have made the error, or was it an error? Who knows?

One hundred and fifteen years have passed since Sutter deemed the Hock site a pleasant and suitable spot to establish a camp and homesite. The keenness of vision of that much-loved, much-abused pioneer has not dimmed with the years. Instead, with the passing of the years, this campsite became a famous name in California history as well as one of the most productive farms in California, a fitting tribute and a living memorial to his astute judgment and faith in the future of the land.



# The Mosburg Trip from Oklahoma to California

by  
Perry Mosburg

Perry Mosburg, long-time Yuba City resident, business owner and former mayor, celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday this month. He shared with us his memories of his family's move from Oklahoma to California.

In the month of June, 1923, when I was 16, my daddy and mama and all of us kids were loaded into three Model-Ts and one Model-T truck and started for California. I never will forget the time we got out of Oklahoma a short ways and had a flat tire. We had a sort of a bulldog who rode on the running board of the old Model T in those days. We stopped to repair the tire and the dog got off and was rolling around and found a jackrabbit. Well, the dog took off after the rabbit and we got the tire fixed. Daddy said, "Well, where's the dog?" We told him we didn't know where the dog is. And he said, "Well, he better come back pretty soon because we got to go." So we went all over and hollered for the dog. The dog never did show up when Daddy got ready to go. He said, "Well, come on. We gotta go. We can't wait for that dog." That kind of broke us kids up. We cried and fooled around and everything. But we got started.

I drove the Model T truck and my brother Alva rode with me. It was loaded down with mattresses and cook stoves and groceries and water and everything you could imagine that we had on that thing. In those days, Mother had an old professional kerosene oil stove she set up to cook

our breakfast and dinner at night.

We started on out after we lost the dog and we were only making about 100 miles a day with these Model Ts. They weren't very fast and they were always breaking down, tires to be fixed and all. We followed the Santa Fe Railroad at that time. The road was pretty poor and there was no water along. It was desert, nothing like it is today. We tried to stay around the schools and camped there at night for water and also for protection. In the evening I had to unload the truck, get our mattresses down, set them on the springs, and get the oil stove and the groceries and all the water. Mother got dinner with my sister and put all of us kids in bed. There were nine of us. It was quite a chore for dinner and breakfast.

Well, we traveled along every day doing the same thing, night after night. It took us 23 days, I think it was, to come from Clinton, Oklahoma to Roseville, California. Before we left, my uncle told us, "Now when we get into mountain country if you have any trouble with your cars, brake bands or anything like that, and they won't go on up the hills, don't try to do anything, except if they start rolling back, you turn so the back end will hit

the bank ,not run off the side you're on." So sure enough, somewhere outside of Flagstaff, Arizona, this Model T truck I was driving burned out all the bands. I used my brake, that was gone. I used my reverse, that was gone, and so was the low gear. There was no way to slow down.

We started up this hill. I had high gear, but in high gear you couldn't make it, so I told my brother, Alva, "Get out and get a rock and put it behind the wheel." I was just about ready to stop and he jumped out of this Model T truck - there were no doors or anything. He said, "I can't find one!" "Get out of the way," I said. "I'm backing it into the mountain." So I started rolling back and I turned real sharp to back into the mountain and it made a big thud and I stopped. I was shaking and trembling all over and so my brother-in-law, Calvin, my dad, and my uncle, driving ahead of me, stopped. They knew something was wrong.

Calvin came back after to see what was wrong and there I was all scared. He took the top off the transmission of the old Model T and tightened the bands up, then he got into it and started it and we went on down the road to where the other three cars were. We got down to them and the rest of the brakes went out again. We were driving on a mining road alongside the main road, and Calvin drove kind of uphill and rocked back and forth between the up and the down until he got the truck stopped on some rocks. We had to stay right there

that night, camping on this little mining road, and take the transmission cover off and put in brake bands. We got the work done and started out sometime late in the morning, loaded up and all.

We rolled down and we were headed toward Needles, California. Before we got there, the road was quite bad and in some places there they had straw on the road and a little bit of gravel, some boards, some of whatever nature had. There was one little old hill we started up and I couldn't make it in high gear so I put it in low gear real quick and the front end jumped up and I thought the truck was going to go right over backwards. Needles was hot and quite sultry. We stayed the night and left the next morning. Daddy was kind of excited and we were coming up a hill at 30 miles per hour, pushing down on his low pedal for low gear, when suddenly he got his foot on the reverse pedal and the car started down. There were a few little posts along the rim of the canyon that served as markers. Daddy started backwards and he happened to hit that little post - that's what saved him from going over the edge of the mountain. It was pretty solid and he practically stopped. We got out if okay but he was pretty shaken for the rest of the time on. All the family was with him, even the younger kids. It would have been a disaster. It would probably have been the end of us.

We traveled on and we got into Riverside, California and all of us got cleaned up a little bit. There was a

little town there and a soda station. We got water and stuff there. Then we had to come on up from Riverside to Sacramento. I will never forget the old Grapevine Road, a very narrow road that toured around the side of the river from Los Angeles to Bakersfield. It was very crooked and steep and that's really why they called it the grapevine, because it was about like a grapevine looks. Vines just grow anyplace.

Driving that old model T, I had to push it up the hill as much as pull it from going downhill with my feet. One time another car came along. It was an old Dodge, about a '17 or '18. He blew the old horn and I wasn't able to get over. Because we only had room for one car. That's about all the wider the road was, like an old wagon road.

We got into Bakersfield and burned out all the pedals again. So we had to stop there at the foot of the Grapevine and put in some more brake banding into our cars. When one went, the rest of them went. We had all these blown out tires and tubes. We started out with about 20 tires on this truck. When we got down there in Bakersfield we repaired everything up and started on.

Money was getting short. We went out to a little town called Shafter or something like that where they were digging potatoes. My daddy said, "Well, maybe I can get a job here." He tried to get a job and couldn't. But he was able to get a few of the culls of the potatoes and we left there and came up to Roseville where we had some friends we had known in

Oklahoma.

When we got there, things were pretty bad so we came on up to Marysville, out to a place they called Hallwood. When we got there, Daddy got a job in a nursery. The mosquitoes were so bad, Daddy said to Mother, "It's too hard to work taking care of these kids and I don't want the mosquitoes to eat them up. So let's go back down to Roseville and maybe I can get a job in the railroad yard." So he loaded us back up in that car and we went to a little town, Lincoln. There was a cannery there. Daddy got a little cabin at the cannery and got work there for the rest of the summer and then we went on into Roseville.

When we got to Roseville, things were pretty quiet. We went out and picked a few olives out on Rocky Ridge Road towards Folsom. When we were done picking there was a Model T truck flatbed, and I was driving a touring car. The road was so small. The truck didn't get over very far and neither did I. The Model Ts had hubcaps on the wheels and they stuck out quite a little ways in those days. My car hit the truck and the car turned over. Daddy was in the front seat and the windshield broke and glass fell all over him and Alva and my sister Ethel, who were in the backseat. I had a little scratch or two and Daddy got hurt pretty bad. The seat cut right across the chest.

Well, we up righted the Model T and drove on home about four miles and he was pretty sick for a while. But he recuperated and he got along pretty

well.

After that, work was pretty slow. Dad was in the automobile swapping and trading place in Clinton, where we came from. In Roseville, a fellow named Jack Belden that he got acquainted with had a little old used automobile parts shop, called automobile wrecking. So Dad bought half interest into it. And in about a year, Jack wanted to sell the other half so Dad bought that. When he bought it, the place kept growing and growing and finally it wasn't big enough so he decided he would buy a piece of ground between Roseville and Sacramento on the main road and he would build a home for us plus a place for the automobile wrecking business. Dad did that and then in 1926, Daddy passed away with pneumonia. I had a little brother there too, he was born on that place and he lived for six months. He also had pneumonia. It was kind of swampy there and it was easy to get pneumonia.

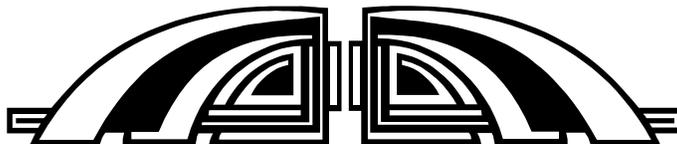
We survived that. Daddy passed away and little brother passed away, but Mother kept us kids together and we worked in our automobile wrecking shop. We continued on and finally, at

18, being the oldest of the boys, I took it over. I managed it and a it for Mother and we made a living there.

In 1928 I married Edith Daniels, who I had gone to school with in Oklahoma in the third grade. We were sweethearts all through these years. In 1932 the Depression came along and things got very slow. My wife and I knew of a little place for sale in Yuba City so we came up and I bought it for \$500 just two weeks before Roosevelt closed all the banks and shut everything down completely. After we came up here, we kept going and we had a pretty good time. One time we went out to what they called a bypass.

They grew lima beans and we picked bean by bean to get a few beans for a little extra to eat, kind of a dessert. Most of the beans we were used to eating were white pinto beans or white beans, soup beans, stuff like that. Lima beans were kind of a luxury to us.

During the years up here in Yuba City, I had two girls, Barbara and Joyce, and so we survived. We had a nice little business and nice home and all. We did very, very well here in Yuba City.



# History and Highlights of the Live Oak Women's Club

1912-2002

by  
Helen Heenan

To appreciate what a club meant to the Live Oak Ladies ninety years ago we must take into consideration that the State Highway was not constructed to the Butte County line until 1915 and no streets were paved in Live Oak until 1922. The mode of travel, of course, was by horse and buggy and a few automobiles.

On May 28, 1912, a group of ladies met in the Live Oak Fraternity Hall for the purpose of organizing a women's club. Many ladies attended when Mrs. B. F. Walton of Yuba City called the meeting to order.

Mrs. A. F. Jones, president of the Monday Club of Oroville, was asked to speak at the meeting. She gave many valuable suggestions in regard to club work as well as benefits to be derived from such an organization in the community.

Mrs. E. B. Stanwood of Marysville also gave a talk about club women. Mrs. Longbatham entertained with several vocal selections.

Mrs. W. J. Francis moved that a club in Live Oak be formed and she was elected president. Officers elected:

Vice-President - Mrs. Evelyn Brill

Treasurer - Mrs. James (Annie)

Hampton, Sr.

Secretary - Mrs. W. H. (Addie)

Stafford (Grandmother of Mary Crane, present member)

Sentinel - Mrs. Charles Shell

Parliamentarian - Mrs. Joe (Ada)

Bender (Mother of Mrs. Bud (Eunice) Ment)

Mrs. J. L. Ames, Sr., moved that the club be called "Live Oak Women's Club." Annual dues were one dollar a year.

The work of the club was to be divided into four parts: Music, Arts, Literature and Civic Improvement. Mrs. Ed (Josie) Krull and Mrs. Joe (Ada) Bender were appointed to act on the Civic Committee. They reported that the Civic Committee favored a public park in Live Oak. They reported that the Hall Association donated the Fraternity Hall for the first three meetings.

Seventeen members responded to roll call in October 1912. Bylaws were read and approved.

In November 1912 the club was admitted to the California Federation of Women's Clubs and ten cents per capita was due.

At this time the question of lighting the town was submitted to the club's Civic Committee along with the question of signs for the names of the streets in Live Oak.

Mrs. Woodbridge of Roseville suggested the club choose a motto and the club flower. Since Mrs. S. E. White was the eldest club member they accorded her the honor. She chose as motto, **Onward to Best Word, Upward to the Highest Culture**. The Live Oak tree was chosen the club emblem.

The object of the club would be civic improvement for the community and intellectual improvement for its members.

On February 3, 1914 a motion to purchase a lot in Live Oak from Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Bennett from Oregon and then to build a clubhouse was passed. The purchase price was ten dollars for the lot. Mrs. John Ames, Sr. offered to donate sycamore and poplar trees and plant them on the clubhouse lot.

In June 1913 the members voted to proceed with the clubhouse and build as much as they could with a front room and then later to build a larger room for meetings and a social center.

In October 1916 a bid was received for the clubhouse of \$1,221.00 without a fireplace or \$1,321.00 with a fireplace. This included a small front room, two small front side rooms, a bathroom and a small kitchen. Mr. Berry or Mr. Terry was the lowest bidder. It was moved the club mortgage the property to build the clubhouse. The club borrowed money from the bank. After the last \$150.00 indebtedness, the club members were asked to donate.

In January 1917 \$150.00 made from club events was available for furnishings. Also that month, the first meeting was held in the clubhouse. What a wonderful time this must have been for the ladies!

In 1917 the club voted to establish the first public library in Live Oak to be housed in the clubhouse with Mrs. Addie Stafford and Mrs. Annie Biglow as volunteers to operate the library. The club members also served at the library. The library was at the clubhouse for 21 years.

At first, members of the club alternately had charge of the library. The library was moved from the club to the Odd Fellows building in September 1938.

The club had many ways of earning money - among them: ice cream socials, teas, buffet suppers, card parties, plant sales, bazaars and salad luncheons. Bed quilts were tied for fifty cents a quilt. Two ice cream freezers were purchased for \$13.60. They rented these out for 25¢ a time. Ice cream socials were one of the money-making projects of the time.

A piano won in a piano contest was placed in the home of Mrs. Wesley Hauck until the addition to the clubhouse was built.

In June 1920 we joined the newly formed Bi-County Federation of Women's Clubs (the local clubs from Yuba and Sutter counties).

In May of 1921 a new sidewalk was installed at the cost of \$20.

The laying of the cornerstone of the Live Oak Union High School on Saturday afternoon June 4, 1921 can easily be considered one of the most important events in Live Oak and the surrounding community. The first feature of the afternoon was a parade of about 145 men which formed downtown near Hauck's clothing store and was led by male citizens of the town followed by the boys of Live Oak High School. To the rear of this group the Marysville band marched and played, immediately back of which came four American Legion men. They were the honored bearers of a beautiful American Flag - a gift to the new school. The Masons, both the Grand Lodge and the Marysville unit, brought up the rear.

After the parade a copper box containing various items of interest was laid in the cornerstone. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Live Oak Women's Club served an abundant supply of ice-cold lemonade assisted by

the Live Oak High School girls. It was a wonderful way to end the intensely hot afternoon!

By May 1922 the club membership had grown to 134 members, 80 new members during this year with only one resigning.

Mrs. Ed Allen announced the dedication of the clubhouse to be Friday evening, May 25, 1923. This was eleven years from the date of the organization's beginning.

Even with a place to put each dollar, the members never lost sight of another's need. One project was the Easter Egg Hunt for the Live Oak children and for many years the club conducted the hunt alone. The club decided on a cemetery project and the ladies raised money to beautify and maintain the cemetery. They planted trees and shrubs on the school grounds. They purchased poppy seeds and planted them along the railroad tracks. The section's foreman on the Northern Electric Railroad gladly helped scatter the seeds along the tracks.

They held flower shows for the community to attend and enjoy. The last years we held large salad luncheons and people played card games.

On April 10, 1924 the executive board met with the trustees and other officers at the home of Mrs. J. E. Fraser (wife of the high school principal) for the financial report. The report stated that \$544.31 was in the treasury to start building the second part of the clubhouse. The club borrowed money to cover the additional cost. Mr. Cole was the architect and Mr. Pond was given the contract to build the addition. Upon completion of the auditorium and sun porch, \$4,963.80 was paid for the entire clubhouse - a

great feat for the members of the Live Oak Women's Club.

President Mrs. Bessie Vantress burned the mortgage papers amid hearty applause of the club members present on December 18, 1928. That was a wonderful present for the ladies who worked so hard and accomplished so much in sixteen years.

Mrs. Addie Stafford reported that trees had been planted on both sides of the highway from the Butte County line to Lomo.

As the years passed the members worked hard to keep the clubhouse in good repair. A number of new roofs have been added. The one in 1928 cost \$251.00; in 1958, \$720.00; and the new one in 1977 cost \$2,900.00. The interior has been redecorated several times during the years before we sold the clubhouse in 1987.

Throughout the years many organizations had rented the clubhouse for their meetings. The Kiwanis Club met every Monday night. Monthly renters were The Native Daughters, Royal Neighbors, Farm Bureau, and Live Oak Dancing Club. For a short time a church rented the clubhouse.

Many private functions were held at the clubhouse and the facilities were donated for worthwhile community projects such as the Well-Baby Clinic, held monthly. Members helped the doctors and nurses with the children.

In 1942 members made 500 finished articles and 306 knitted articles for the Red Cross, and in 1943 they made 493 knitted articles for the soldiers.

Because of crowded classrooms in 1947, the club rented the sun porch as a classroom for the Live Oak Elementary School Kindergarten for six years. We installed a furnace for the

clubhouse with part of the money from the rent. In 1958 our club recommended to the city council that the Iris be chosen as the city flower. The council accepted our suggestion.

On the Golden Anniversary in 1962 the members honored the 44 charter members. Three were still members of the club: Mrs. Leona Berry, Mrs. Josie Krull, and Mrs. Ada Bender. Others honored and living in the area were: Mrs. Ivy Johnson Childs (mother of Mrs. Wilbur (Georgia) Green), Mrs. Cecil Ford (mother of Mrs. Joe (Kathleen) Ruzich), and Mrs. Visa Young O'Connor.

Two regular meetings were held each month until 1954 when members voted to only have one general meeting per month.

Dues in 1921 - \$1.00

Dues in 1924 - raised to \$1.50

Dues in 1947 - raised to \$2.00

Dues in 1952 - raised to \$3.00

Dues in 1969 - raised to \$6.00

Dues in 1980 - raised to \$8.00

The dues at present are \$10.00, so voted on May 17, 1983.

During the 1955 flood the clubhouse was used as a shelter for flood victims. The club members cooked meals for them and helped with the children. The Red Cross brought cots and needed supplies.

The club over the years has sponsored the Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and Girl Scouts, as well as youth dances.

In 1964 we sponsored the Live Oak Junior Women of the Federated Women's Club of California. It was a very active club of seventeen members.

Over the period of 90 years there

have been standing committees of the club, changing from time to time. Some of the committees were: program garden section, book section, publicity, music, decorations, inspiration, fireplace room, reception room, kitchen, history and landmarks, legislation, hospitality, community improvement, safety, membership, civil defense, youth and education, ways and means, Pennies for Pines, and rental chairman.

Over the years members of the club have served as docents at the Sutter County Memorial Museum and also served on the Museum Commission.

The Bridge Section was started in May 1968 and met two times a month, the first and fourth Tuesdays.

We held our last meeting in the clubhouse in May 1987 and celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Members from surrounding women's clubs attended our gala affair. Since 1987 we have held our meetings at various places.

The money from our sale of the Clubhouse has been invested and with the interest earned we have donated to many worthwhile local projects. Our two largest projects are the Live Oak Library Barber Branch and a \$500 scholarship given each year to a Senior girl from the Live Oak High School.

We are very proud that we belonged to the largest Women's Club - the General Federation of Women's Clubs in the U.S.A. and many countries of the world.

Throughout the years our programs have been cultural and intellectual. We continue with our unselfish community service and friendship.

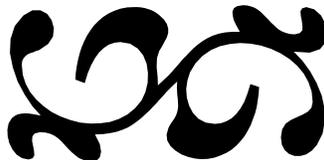
**Incidents on Land and Water**  
**or**  
**Four Years on the Pacific Coast**

Being a narrative of the Burning of the Ships Nonantum, Hunayoon and Fanchon,  
Together With Many Startling and Interesting Adventures on Sea and Land  
by  
Mrs. D. B. Bates

The following excerpt was taken from Mrs. Bates' book about her travels from the east coast to California by ship around the Horn. Mrs. Bates was in California from 1851 to 1854, arriving after having the misfortune to travel on three ships that burned *en route*, and finally arriving in San Francisco on a fourth. During her years in California, she lived in Marysville for a time and visited Sutter's Hock Farm. We will be sharing more of her tales in future bulletins.

There was one house in Marysville which had been in process of erection four years, and was not then completed. It was owned by a wealthy Spaniard, originally from South America. I went, one day, to view this curious structure. Under it were two regular dungeons, with heavy iron doors, which could be doubly locked and barred. People conjectured they were made for the purpose of holding his treasures, of which he was reputed to possess hoards. The whole building was the most massive, curious, complicated piece of architecture I ever beheld; and such an air of mystery and gloom as pervaded the whole

place! It was impossible to elucidate the feelings one was sure to have as they traversed those dismal-looking rooms. The sight of so much solid masonry seemed generative of the darkest designs. In one room were two very large, deep wells. Some of the floors were constructed of stone. The grounds were to be inclosed by a high wall. There were complicated wings, and high, gloomy-looking turrets, projecting in every direction from the main building. After being completed, it will present more of the appearance of a prison than a private residence." (P. 228-29)



# Puzzle Page

u f m o s b u r g n l x q o a h z s  
 l i v e o a k w a d d o l w d e s e  
 l q l l f y h d f a n c h o n r c h  
 q b a n f k t o t r e e v c z m h o  
 y r w o m e n s c l u b p h z a m o  
 s b a t e s h c x k g b u r c n i p  
 l j n i c o l a u s f s o i n n d e  
 n o n a n t u m q h l a u s l z t r  
 l t m k r i s t e n s w r t y u z m  
 g w c h u n a y o o n x t m t l x i  
 o p r e s e r v a t i o n a p e g c  
 j y y y h e l e n r k c r s q k r e  
 m m g h o s t s m m t y h p h y p d  
 i y m e q o r n a m e n t s z v w r

Bates  
 Christmas  
 Fanchon  
 Ghosts  
 Helen

Hermann  
 Hock farm  
 Hooper  
 Hunayoon  
 Kristen

Live Oak  
 Mosburg  
 Nicolaus  
 Nonantum  
 Ornaments

Preservation  
 Schmidt  
 Sutter  
 Tree  
 Women's Club



# Coming Events

## October

- Tree of Life: An Appreciation of Our Oaks and a Search for Answers to "Sudden Oak Death"* continues at the Museum
- 12 **October Luncheon**  
Hermann Sons Hall, Nicolaus  
Social time 11:30, lunch served at noon  
Program: History of Schools and School Districts in the Nicolaus-Pleasant Grove Area -- Don Burtis, Presenter
- 23 *Tree of Life* reception and program  
Reception 6:30, Program to follow

## November

- Tree of Life* continues at the Museum
- 7 Ghosts of Christmas Past Sale, Museum
- 13 Christmas Ornament Workshop, Museum, 10 a.m.

## December

- 1 *Tree of Life* ends
- 7 Trees and Traditions fundraiser, Museum, 5 - 8 p.m.