

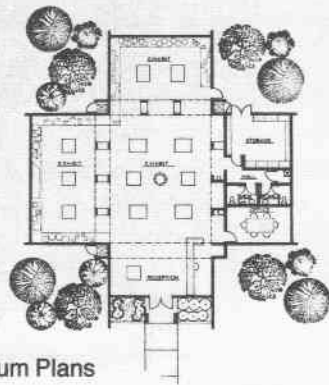
Vol. XLVI No. 3

Yuba City, California

July 2004

We're 50 This Year!

Museum 1975



Original Museum Plans

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM



Norma & Howard Harter



Winners of the Judith Barr Fairbanks Memorial Essay Contest
James Jackson, Lauren Koll - Not pictured: Sydney Reese



OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Tom Crowhurst, President

Constance Cary, Secretary

Bonnie Ayers, Secretary

Audrey Breeding, Vice President

Dorothy Ettl, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Bonnie Ayers-2001*

Helen Heenan-1996

Audrey Breeding-1997

Bob Mackensen-2002

Constance Cary-1987

Steve Perry-1994

Tom Crowhurst-1997

Margaret Pursch-2002

Bud Doty-2002

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. Editors are Sharyl Simmons and Phyllis Smith. 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 2004 dues are payable as of January 1, 2004. 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 is with great pride and honor that I address you on the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Sutter County Historical Society. Our Society was founded by a group of people with a vision of preserving our historical resources, and I think that today they would be pleased to see how this group has grown and evolved.

In an interesting comment at the time of our 26th anniversary, a writer stated that the Society started out with four goals and had accomplished them all. However, I see our mission as an ongoing endeavor, one from which we can never rest.

Preserving local history is not something you do and be done with - it is a venture that will occupy us forever. What was once our present becomes our past, so that our history is always changing and growing.

And we are always faced with new challenges. Currently Sutter County is undergoing great growth, while Yuba City is planning to expand westward into what was once wide open spaces and agricultural land. As developers head into those spaces, buildings and other structures and sites that are important to our history are in danger. What will be our legacy? The Historical Society will continue its efforts to preserve those valued sites.

We have done well, but there is much to do, and it is only possible through the continued efforts of our active membership. I encourage all of you to participate in the work that needs to be done to preserve our history and to educate others to its importance. Help expand our membership by sharing our good work with your friends and neighbors. Give memberships as gifts to young people so they gain an early appreciation of our heritage.

Thank you for your support, your interest, and your involvement in our great work. There is every reason to believe our next fifty years will be even more productive than our last.

Tom Crowhurst, President

Director's Report

Through July 23, you have the opportunity to see the Hawaiian-Maidu exhibit in the main gallery. Learn about how a small colony of Hawaiians became established at Verona along the river south of Nicolaus in the 19th century. A small number of Hawaiians came to California with John Sutter, and they eventually intermarried with the native people of our area, the Nisenan Maidu.

The annual Summer Children's Program will follow the Hawaiian-Maidu theme, as children learn games and activities from each culture. The program is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14 at 10:00 a.m. at the museum. No reservations are needed, and the event is free of charge. Spread the word to children you know that this will be a fun-filled learning experience.

An extra special traveling exhibit will come to our museum in August when *Ansel Adams: Inspiration and Influence* opens on Friday, August 13 with a reception from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.. Along with photographs taken by Adams himself and his group of contemporaries, there will be photos by early photographers who influenced his work. The exhibit also includes photographs by those who were strongly influenced by Ansel Adams. This marvelous collection of photographs comes to us through the California Exhibition Resources Alliance (CERA), which organized the tour in concert with The Oakland Museum. The exhibit will remain through October 3. Watch for details about the accompanying program.

Get ready for a fun-filled evening at the museum when the Swing era meets vintage cars in August! On Sunday, August 8, antique autos will surround the museum while guests will be treated to the sizzling sounds of Sister Swing, a group of three sisters who recreate the music of the 30s and 40s. Starting at 5:00 p.m., guests can enjoy the vintage autos, chatting with their owners, many of whom will sport vintage attire to match the era of their automobiles. Wine will be served on the lovely new museum patio. Sister Swing will perform in the (air-conditioned) museum gallery from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., with a short intermission in the middle. Tickets for this exciting fundraiser are just \$12.50 per person or \$25 a couple and are available from any Museum Commissioner or at the Museum. The proceeds will go toward the purchase of new lighting for the main museum gallery, a pressing need for some time. Help support a good cause and enjoy great entertainment too.

As always, we invite you to visit your museum and take advantage of the many activities and resources it offers.

Julie Stark
Director

Memorials

In Memory of **Robert "Dale" Burtis**
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hale
Roger Zwanziger & Family

In Memory of **Glen Hale**
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hale

In Memory of **Odessa Heitman**
Randy & Shirley Schnabel

In Memory of **Ernestine Hilbert**
Perry Mosburg & Family

In Memory of **Bernadine Hough**
Bob & Katie Bryant

In Memory of **Stella Jensen**
Perry Mosburg & Family

In Memory of **Major Hollan Jones**
Patti & Joe Benatar

In Memory of **Jeffrey Lee**
Jean Goss

In Memory of **Richard Long**
Bob & Katherine Bryant

In Memory of **Kathryn Meschendorf**
Bob & Katie Bryant
Debbie, Tom, Maxwell & Zakary

In Memory of **Maggie Moyers**
Bonita (Bee) Brandt
Connie Cary
Sharyl Simmons
Julie Stark

In Memory of **Alfred Perrin**
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Wallace

In Memory of **Joseph K. Roberts**
Howard & Ruth Anthony
Bonita (Bee) Brandt
Mrs. Helen U. Brierly
Chipman & Renfrow
Mary Etcheverry & Family
James Grishaw
Dewey & Barbara Gruening
Stanley & Delight C. Hart
Bob & Lillian Hatamiya
Mr & Mrs. G. A. Haydon
Bob & Lillie Inman
Mary S. O'Neal
Ida J. Philpott
Margit & Pete Sands
Randy & Shirley Schnabel
Barbara & Fred Sullins
Tom & Terrie Wallace

In Memory of **Harry Wilson**
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hale

In Honor of **Der Hsien Chang**
Virginia Bower

Early Days of Marysville

by
Sharyl Simmons

The April Historical Society meeting in Meridian was enjoyed by all who attended. The food was good, the companionship amiable and the program enlightening.

After a lunch from the El Rio restaurant, the winners of the Judith Barr Fairbanks Essay Contest received their awards. Donna Landerman, of the Friends for the Preservation of Yuba County History, then presented a history of Marysville. She provided illustrations of Marysville from its earliest days during the gold rush to the early 20th century. From tent city, to wood to fired brick, Marysville grew into one of the most important cities in the Sacramento Valley. Some of the pictures that Ms. Landerman showed

were of the Courthouse, the second oldest in California, which was a gothic revival style; the Western Hotel; the Presbyterian Church; the Atkin's Theater; the first public elementary and high schools; Notre Dame Convent; the Empire Foundry; and the "Last Chance Saloon" - located just before you crossed the river from "wet" Yuba County into "dry" Sutter County. One striking photograph showed a view of D Street in 1910 with an airplane flying overhead.

The meeting ended with a raffle which raised funds for future speakers. After a quick clean-up most of those who attended left looking forward to our Picnic in the Park in July.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!!

Join us as we celebrate 50 years of the Sutter County Historical Society! We'll hold our bash on

Tuesday, July 13 starting at 5:30 pm
in the Harter Memorial Park behind the museum,
1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City.

This is a potluck dinner - please bring your favorite hot dish or salad to share. The Historical Society will provide dishes, utensils, drinks. and dessert.

Our program will include a presentation on the history of the society, special honored guests, and music.

Come help celebrate YOUR Society!

Sutter County Historical Society Celebrating Fifty Years

by
John Reische

Former Society President John Reische wrote this article for the Society's 45th anniversary. We provide it again, updated for our Golden Celebration.

History has always been an interesting and vital part of people's lives. People make history and what has been recorded over the centuries centers around people and how they lived and changed. Sutter County history is endowed with people who have contributed to the settlement and development of our communities. Farmers and businessmen welcomed the chance to make their homes and livelihood on the rich lands that comprise Sutter County.

Stories of the people who arrived at the time of the Gold Rush and then stayed to become permanent residents are the basis for the development of interest in recording and preserving a history of the development of Sutter County. On March 20, 1920 the Yuba-Sutter Bi-County Federation of Women's Clubs was formed as a historical society to record and preserve Sutter County's history. This organization carried out its charter from 1920 to 1956.

The Sutter County Historical Society came to be as the result of a meeting on May 25, 1954 when twenty-one people gathered to establish the Society. At that meeting they talked about by-laws, a constitution, aims, incorporation, and membership. The group held

elections and formed committees. An emblem, the Sutter Buttes, was chosen and a motto, the Cherokee word Nowetta (Welcome, You Come Again) adopted.

The Society adopted these aims:

- To collect historical facts and records pertaining to Sutter County
- To utilize this material in preparing historical publications
- To establish a museum for the display and preservation of the material
- To foster good citizenship through the encouragement of interest in local history

There have been many milestones in the fifty years since the Society formed. People like you have made this a success story possible only because of past members and your membership, interest and support. In a sense, we are all Sutter County historians contributing to the preservation of facts, records and antiquities of Sutter County. Here are some of our noteworthy accomplishments:

Membership — Starting with the original group of twenty-one people in the Society, we quickly

grew and in one year reached a total of sixty-five members. By 1961 there were ninety-two members and in 1962 we established the Honorary Life Membership, the Sustaining Membership, and an Active Membership. In 1985, we joined with the Museum to offer our members a dual membership in both organizations with the membership fees shared by the two organizations. Each group retained its own identity, but began working together toward our mutual goals of raising funds for building additions to the museum and the production and distribution of the Bulletin. Membership at the time of the reorganization was 248 and today our active membership is nearly 400.

News Bulletin – Volume I, No. 1 appeared in November 1954; you are currently reading Volume XLVI, No. 3. Through a progression of editors and bulletin committees, the Quarterly Bulletin has been a great success. Much of Sutter County's history is recorded in articles published in the Bulletin.

The Carriage Square Museum – An original aim of the Society was the establishment of a museum. Earlier in the Society's history, exhibit cases in the newly completed County building allowed us to share some of our artifacts with the community. With the completion of Carriage Square (at the intersection of Bridge Street and Highway 99) in 1963, an offer was made by the owner/builder to provide space for a museum. The

Society directors signed a lease in January of 1964 and immediately started to occupy the space and display the many pieces donated to the Society. The museum opened on May 17, 1964. Admission was free and the museum was staffed entirely by volunteers. Donations were organized, cataloged and displayed. Many of these items can still be seen in the museum today, including the giant guest book that is still in use.

Memorial Museum Park to Honor Sutter County Pioneers and Servicemen – In 1971, with the acceptance by the Sutter County Board of Supervisors of a gift from Howard H. and Norma Harter of 4.74 acres of land at the Onstott Freeway (Highway 99) and Butte House Road as well as a donation by Gilbert Williamson, the Society moved ahead in achieving its aims. The Society instituted a special fund for the development of the property to include a park in a "Living Memorial" grove and plans to build a community museum began to take shape.

Park development continues to this day. With the establishment of a museum commission came the establishment of a park committee to oversee, and participate in, the development of the site. Sutter County maintains the park, but volunteers assist in keeping up the various flowers, shrubs, and specific gardens. The park now has a grove of mature trees, a butterfly garden and a memorial rose garden. All of these have added significantly to the beauty of the park.

The Historical Society holds its July membership meeting in the park with a potluck dinner. The park is used by local residents for weddings, family reunions, picnics and other events.

Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County, Butte House Road

On October 1, 1973, with the establishment of the Community Memorial Trust Fund and the County's acquisition of the strip of land between the existing Memorial Park and Butte House Road, made possible by the gifts of Howard and Norma Harter and Gilbert Williamson, plans were underway for a new museum. Plans for a 4,480 square foot museum were developed, approved by the Board of Supervisors, and with funding assured the groundbreaking took place in September 1974. Construction was by Neves Construction Co. with a bid of \$137,189. The museum was completed and accepted by the County on April 25, 1975.

The museum provided administrative, gallery, work and storage space as well as room for a library and document storage, a reception area and a small gift shop. Moving day from Carriage Square was set for April 24, 1976. In September 1975, a Community Museum Auxiliary was formed. The initial 40 volunteers, men and women, became an essential part of the museum operation. The Auxiliary assisted as hosts and hostesses, worked with the collection in accessioning and

cataloging procedures, and assisted in special museum functions.

With the Museum now operating as a Sutter County facility under the direction of the Sutter County Board of Supervisors and a permanent museum director, the management and staffing of the Museum was no longer the responsibility of the Historical Society.

Five entities are responsible for the operation and continuing development of the Museum:

- Sutter County Board of Supervisors
- Sutter County Historical Society
- Director/Curator of the Community Memorial Museum
- Community Memorial Museum Trust Fund
- Community Memorial Museum Commission

Sutter County Historical Society Building Fund

The Society adopted new goals with the establishment of a building fund and a commitment to continue publishing and distributing the quarterly bulletin.

By July 1978, it was recognized that the original facility did not have space for storage for the Museum's collection. A proposal was made and approved to build a 1200 square foot east wing. The money for the expansion came from donations and fundraisers and in 1983 the first addition to the original plan was completed and occupied.

In 1985 it became apparent that the Museum's collection had once again outgrown the current

space. Another proposal was put forth to add an additional wing on the west side of the Museum to provide space for exhibits featuring the agricultural history of Sutter County. This project was also approved and donations and fundraising began in earnest to fund this expansion. Early in 1998 the announcement was made that sufficient funds were on hand, or had been pledged, to proceed with the construction of the agricultural wing. Plans were drawn, permits approved and a contract was signed. Extra costs, set-backs and unforeseen hurdles demanded much time and effort to ensure the success of this building project. Finally, the County accepted the building and the new wing dedicated on May 16, 1999.

The beautifully designed exhibit in the Agricultural Wing was presented to Historical Society members at the meeting in January of 2003. Precious mementoes of Sutter County agricultural history, such as the Yuba Ball tractor, are displayed, along with a mural of the Hock Farm and vintage farming implements.

In 2003 the Museum opened its patio, which was built with assistance from the Historical Society. The patio is used for museum activities from fundraisers to children's programs. Engraved paving stones dedicated in memory or in honor of individuals, families and organizations are installed in the patio and are still available for sale. The patio is open during museum hours and visitors to the museum are encouraged to visit their paver or to just take an

opportunity to enjoy the tranquility of site. A wrought iron gate with a Buttes scene decorates the entrance.

Development of the Museum, Park and other historical structures continues. The latest project, nearly completed, is the development of a structure to showcase Sutter's Hock Farm doors on Garden Highway at Messick Road, and to provide interpretive information about Hock Farm. The Society also has plans to assist the Museum in building a storage area and meeting space.

Educational activities - Work on the initial fourth "aim" of the Society, encouraging interest in local history, is a continuing task for the members. Our annual fundraiser, the Bus Trip Around the Buttes and Hike in the Sutter Buttes, take people from all over Northern California into our special mountains and provide information about the history and pre-history of the area. Our quarterly membership meetings, open to everyone, showcase a variety of topics of interest to our members and others, and the News Bulletin publishes articles on history of Sutter County and surrounding areas.

Together with the Museum, we sponsor the Judith Barr Fairbanks Memorial Essay Contest, now in its twelfth year, which promotes the exploration and understanding of our history by fourth and fifth grade students in Sutter County.

The successes of the last fifty years are a tribute to the

members and officers who have volunteered hours of time and service to help the Society realize its goals.

The Society continues to have membership meetings four times a year with speakers and refreshments. In January we meet at the Museum and members of the Board of Directors provide dessert. In April we hold a luncheon, which for the past few years has been at the West Sutter Veterans Building in Meridian, and the program includes presentation of the Judith Barr Fairbanks Essay Awards to local students. Our July meeting is a potluck picnic in the park behind the Museum. For the last few years our October meeting has been a luncheon at the Hermann Sons Hall in Nicolaus where a German meal has been served.

The political structure of the Society consists of a Board of Directors, a maximum of 17, who

elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer at the annual meeting in April. The Board of Directors are chosen biennially, in odd years, with a term of office of two years. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors are held four times a year, and an Executive Committee, made up of the officers and one at-large board member, meets prior to the board meeting to prepare the agenda.

Over the past fifty years, hundreds of Sutter County "historians" have contributed their time and talent to the Society. Naming them all is not possible, but without their - your - support there would be no Sutter County Historical Society. Our success is dependent upon people and their willingness to share and preserve the history of Sutter County. We eagerly anticipate many more years of success.

Who remembers?

In 1954 membership dues in the Sutter County Historical Society were \$2 per year.

The cost of mailing the first News Bulletin was two cents.

In 1960 a roast beef dinner at a Society meeting was \$2 per person.

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THOSE WHO SERVE...

Term	President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
1954-1956	Noel Stevenson	1st Frank Lamb	Bernice Gibson	Harold Moore
		2nd Ida Doty		
1956-1958	Honora Laney			
1958	Eleanor Reische	Ida Doty	Bernice Gibson	Earl Ramey
1959-1961	Wm. A. Greene			
1961-1963	Florence Arritt	1st Mrs. E. Littlejohn	Bernice Gibson	Earl Ramey
		2nd Dr. H. Medford		
1963-1965	Bernice Gibson		63-64 R. Redhair	
			64-65 F. Arritt	
1965-1967	Mrs. T.E. Nason		65-66 S. Wilder	
			66-67 J. Bird	
1967-1969	Howard Harter		Jessica Bird	
1969-1975	Randy Schnabel	James Barr	Jessica Bird	Lola Case
1975-1977	Wanda Rankin	Donald Bielby	Mrs. Roy Varney	Mrs. Keith Lennox
1977-1979	Indra Nason	Donald Bielby	Connie Cary	Wanda Rankin
1979-1981	Randy Schnabel	Donald Bielby	Barbara Rosso	Wanda Rankin
1981-1985	Dewey Gruening	Edward Eden	Dorothy Huggin	Wanda Rankin
1985-1987	Randy Schnabel	Edward Eden	Dorothy Huggin	Wanda Rankin
1987-1989	Edward Eden	Elaine Tarke	Connie Cary	Wanda Rankin
1989	Edward Eden	Elaine Tarke	Connie Cary	Wanda Rankin
1990	Elaine Tarke	Brock Bowen	Connie Cary	Wanda Rankin
1991-1993	Brock Bowen	Linda Leone	Connie Cary	Linda Leone
1993-1995	Evelyn Quigg	Bruce Harter	Connie Cary	Linda Leone
1995-1997	Bruce Harter	Steve Perry	Connie Cary	Linda Leone
1997-2001	Steve Perry	Audrey Breeding	Connie Cary	Linda Leone
2001-2003	John Reische	Audrey Breeding	Connie Cary	Dorothy Ettl
2003-2005	Tom Crowhurst	Audrey Breeding	Connie Cary	Dorothy Ettl
			& Bonnie Ayers	

THE SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY YESTERYEAR AND NOW

by
Bernice B. Gibson

Bernice Gibson, former Superintendent of Schools for Sutter County, original Sutter County Historical Society Secretary and president of the Society from 1963-65, wrote an article on the first 26 years of the Historical Society. It was published in the July 1980 issue of the News Bulletin. As we celebrate our fiftieth year as a Society, it is interesting to look back at how the organization viewed itself at the halfway mark. Following are excerpts from her article, which give us an idea of the events and environment that prompted the formation of the Society.

Twenty-six years ago, in the spring of 1954, a few of us around the courthouse began to realize the history and progress of Sutter County was beginning to slip away from us and if something wasn't done to preserve the activities of our pioneers, all would soon pass away.

One late afternoon, in the spring of 1954, five of us, namely Supervisor Harold Moore, District Attorney Noel Stevenson, Librarian Irmina Rudge, Newspaper Publisher Earl Brownlee, and Superintendent of Schools Bernice Gibson, met in the County Library and discussed the possibilities of forming a Sutter County Historical Society. We talked about by-laws, constitution, aims and our legal advisor said we must be incorporated in order to own or possess any property to which we might fall heir or obtain by gifts. You may be sure we were there until dark that spring evening discussing all the things which came up. We had our own legal advisor, one of our supervisors, our librarian to take care of the research and the Superintendent of Schools for record keeping and the education of the younger generations, and most important, our weekly Newspaper

Publisher, Earl Brownlee to take care of publicity.

An organizational meeting was called on May 25, 1954 at 8:00 pm. Leaflets were distributed throughout the county and Earl Brownlee took care of the publicity in the Sutter County Independent Farmer. A goodly number of dedicated and interested people showed up for the organizational meeting. Noel Stevenson called the meeting to order and led the discussion. He stated our aims and purposes, and the constitution and by-laws which we had prepared were read, discussed and approved. The acting chairman of the evening called for nominations of the following officers: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary and eight Directors.

Election of officers resulted in the following slate:

President: Noel Stevenson
First Vice-president: Frank Lamb
Second Vice-president: Mrs. Ida

Doty

Secretary: Mrs. Bernice Gibson
Treasurer: Harold Moore
Directors:
Mrs. Ethel Albertson, Mrs. L. D.

Baun, Mrs. Ida Doty, Frank Lamb, Mrs. Chester Reische, Mrs. Leana Weber, Mrs. Andrew Witt, Mrs. Harold Rudge

The Sutter County Historical Society was off to a good start with an Officers and Board of Directors meeting called for June 29, 1954. At that meeting plans were made for Charter members, with a Charter Membership Card designed by Earl Brownlee.

Big plans for the years '54 and 1955 were in progress with a fall meeting called for October in the supervisors chambers. The next meeting was held November 15, 1954, but before that event took place the first Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin was published by the Superintendent of Schools, Bernice Gibson, and was continued from that office and the Sutter County Printer's Office for the next eight years. The same format has been used continuously, begun with second edition, April 1955.

Randolph Schnabel, the first program chairman, was able to engage very interesting speakers for the first year and we were on our way.

Regular meetings were held for the years 1955 and 1956 with Noel Stevenson continuing as president until April 1956. In February 1956 Honora Laney was elected president for the new year of the society beginning in April.

Under the very capable leadership of Mrs. Laney, the society grew and with the contributions of many local writers, including our first and second presidents, many historical stories were recorded for posterity. Mrs. Laney attended the State Conference for the Council of Historical Societies of California.

Shortly after Mrs. Laney's election rumblings were heard around the county that we must get under way toward the establishment of a museum before our many museum pieces, which were coming to light, got away from us and disappeared.

Mrs. Ida Doty, one of our very urgent members for a museum, began to talk about a small beginning. Some open space in the front of the new County Office Building seemed to need something. The space would accommodate two attractive glass cases. With Mrs. Doty, Mrs. Laney and Mrs. Rudge, our librarian on the ground floor, things began to happen and thus began our present Sutter County Museum.

The next spring, 1958, opened up a new era in museum history. Yuba City was preparing to celebrate its fiftieth birthday as an incorporated city. Our ever alert Ida Doty thought, this is the time to strike for help on a museum proper. Everyone was interested in a program of celebration for our home town and the Historical Society was not idle. A new shopping center was opening up on Bridge Street and since shopping centers were quite a new arrangement for Yuba City, some stores stood vacant for a while. With the efforts of Mrs. Doty and Howard Harter and most of our active members, we appealed to the Board of Supervisors for financial aid. We were successful in securing one of the buildings in the shopping center for a museum. The County agreed to pay the rent for a museum. As soon as the contract was signed, moving day began. Howard Harter sent in a truck. Randy Schnabel was on hand with help and equipment. Sutter County people dug out barns and houses and brought in

things of historical value. Mrs. Doty supervised and did the organizing and arranging of the artifacts and cases. We all took our turn in keeping the museum open to visitors. Everything was done with volunteer help, even repair work. The first event to take place at the museum was the Historical Society's celebration of Yuba City's 50th birthday. Under the capable leadership of Mrs. Nanne Brown a "Fashion Show of 50 Years Ago" was produced in the museum. Our July Bulletin advertised a program for a week in September, and published a "blow by blow" account of a panel discussion given by six leading citizens of an earlier day.

In January 1960 we made a change in the mailing list for the Bulletin. Due to the high cost of mailing to a long list of folks, the Society voted to mail the Bulletin to paid up members only. A paid membership of \$2.00 included the subscription to the News Bulletin.

In 1960 we became interested in making a motion picture of Sutter County History from old photographs and snapshots. Bonanza Associates, Inc., assisted with the planning. The film was to be about 20 minutes long with a minimum of 200 still pictures. The cost of production would be about \$4000, and reprints would sell at \$125 each. The initial cost was a high hurdle to overcome.

Many fund raising activities in the form of book fairs, shows, and other activities were held to pay for the film. In the meantime, Mrs. Ida Doty was promoting the museum in Carriage Square and entertaining many groups of children in the Sutter County Museum. Mr. Edward Von Geldern designed the road signs leading folks to

the Sutter County Museum in Carriage Square.

After ten years of a very successful museum in Carriage Square under the faithful leadership of Mrs. Ida Doty, an interest in a Sutter County-owned museum was generated. Howard Harter became president of the Society in 1969 and through the generosity of Howard and Norma Harter, a six acre park was founded on Butte House Road to honor the memory of Butte County pioneers and veterans. Trees were donated by pioneer families. A location in the park was designated for the purpose of building a museum.

In October 1975 Jessica Bird wrote an article on the acquisition of the park and building site. "Howard Haine Harter and Norma Petro Harter of Yuba City, long prominent in civic affairs, on October 1, 1972 gave the acreage on Butte House Road to Sutter County for the Memorial Park. The next year they presented the County Board of Supervisors with securities valued at \$100,000 to establish a trust fund for financing a museum building in the park. At that time Gilbert L. Williamson of Yuba City donated \$12,500 and Wilford C. and Georgia Williams of Yuba City \$2,500 toward the purchase of additional property needed for the building site. A large number of memorial gifts in varying sums from individuals and organizations since have been added."

Thus the dream and ambition of the original charter members of the Sutter County Historical Society were realized. The Board of Supervisors appointed Mrs. Jean Gustin of Yuba City as the first salaried museum curator in Sutter County history. The ground was broken for the Community

Memorial Museum in September 1974. Since its completion and the move made from the Sutter County Museum, in Carriage Square, to the new location, growth and development has been continuous. The Historical Society is still one of the main supports of the museum.

In the beginning of the year 1978, expansion feelings were taking place at the museum. More space is needed and ground space to display agricultural artifacts.

It is a great pleasure for me to note the tours the Historical Society has taken and planned to outstanding

places of interest. I remember the first one we had was an overnight tour of the gold country, Highway 49. Another was a trip to the Presidio in San Francisco and the home of Waddell F. Smith and the Pony Express in Mann County.

Many other exhibits and musical concerts are being planned at the museum, which goes to show our early efforts were not in vain. I sincerely hope this next twenty-five years brings forth the same interest in Sutter County history and progress as the past twenty-five.

Where you there?

In the spring of 1959 the Sutter County Historical Society sponsored a trip - a guided tour of the Mother Lode Country on High 29. The Society chartered a Greyhound bus, charged \$11.75 for the trip (\$5 deposit required), which included transportation and Saturday dinner, plus the price of a motel room, which ranged from \$6 to \$10.

The trip was two full days, leaving on Saturday at 8 a.m. and returning Sunday at 9 p.m. The first day the tour encompassed Rough and Ready, Grass Valley, Nevada City, North San Juan, Camptonville, Downieville, Sierra City, Sierraville (where tourists ate their bag lunches), Truckee, Donner Summit and then overnight in Auburn.

The second day included Coloma, Placerville, Jackson, Angels Camp, Murphy's, Columbia State Park, Sonora, Knight's Ferry to Stockton, and then back to the bus depot in Marysville.

Judith Barr Fairbanks Memorial Essay Contest Winners – 2004

The Judith Barr Fairbanks Memorial Essay Contest honors Museum Commissioner Judith Fairbanks, a fourth grade teacher who loved history.

The Essay Contest is sponsored jointly by the Museum and the Historical Society. The contest is open to fourth and fifth graders who are studying California history and the westward movement in the United States.

The title of the essay contest is "Letters Home." Contestants study California and Sutter County in the 1840s, '50s and '60s, then put themselves in the place of a migrant or immigrant new to the Sutter County area and write a letter to the folks back home telling them about how they traveled to the area, what they found and their experiences in this new land.

Sydney Reese
Pleasant Grove School
Teacher: Wendy M. Rosell
1st Place

August 1, 1850

Dear Mother, Father, Mary Ann and Sarah,

California is very different than back home in New York. There are very few women here. I'm lucky, I've got 2 women neighbors. Didn't get a chance to write last night. Lot has happen since then. I was at Sutter's Fort when James Marshall came by to say he'd found gold after 4 months looking for flakes. We decided we'd make more money selling supplies. Goodness knows we were right. I'm kept busy making shirts, baking, and running the store. At the river we run a small general store. I sell everything a miner needs from hats to shovels. When all the gold seekers came prices jumped. We are planning to build a real plank house not just the little log cabin we're living in right now.

Oh how wonderful California is. It's beautiful, the tall summer grasses gently sway together with the smooth breeze. The summer was warm and pleasant, and once again the winter should be mild. In the spring, everything comes to life. Many sweet, tall grasses spring up from the rich ground. Wild flowers of every color bloom. Due to the rich, dark soil many crops grow well.

So much to write, it's kind of mixed up. We have many mining neighbors but only 3 real neighbors with houses and crops. Mr. and Mrs. Neleven are from Philadelphia, the real town! I really wonder why they came, those Nelevens seem mighty rich. I heard say from one of the miners that Mrs. Neleven had 3 trunks full of dresses! I'm teachin' her to save scraps to make a quilt, by guess is she has enough money to buy new ones if she wanted. Since Talbot and Milt helped them build a house for them she gave me a new kettle and some silverware. The Riddy's are every

day folk from Missouri. Some Chinese men by the names of Wong and Himi. I can't understand their language. We don't interact with them much.

Now as much good is in California some of it's bad. For one we all miss you terribly. And it was mighty rough gettin' over here. If you don't watch your land some dirty squatter will come and take it like Big Billy's claim. Not long ago we were robbed, but all they got was 15 pounds of flour.

Wishes from all of us that you were here.

Love,
Sarah Housing

Lauren Koll
St. Isidore Catholic School
Teacher: Lucinda Levy
2nd Place

Dear Family,

I just started a business called Kwami's mining shop. I got to San Francisco by a ship then I moved to Yuba City. Now I am living in a house that is very big. I am very sad that I missed Kwanza but I celebrated it with my wife. It is very hard living in California. I staked a claim yesterday and found two pounds of gold. Things here are very pricy. I saw some people from Congo being bossed around by Americans. I have had a lot of customers and on my breaks I mine gold. When I come back to Uganda we will be rich! I do not like the way people do hydraulic mining. I just use the panning method. It is a method where you swirl a pan around and see if there is any gold in it. The streets in Yuba City are very dirty. When I went to the barber it hurt my head and scarred it. Yesterday I saw someone jump in a river just to try to get \$25 worth of gold! Most people want gold but I look for both silver and gold. President Franklin Pierce announced gold 2 years ago. A few weeks ago I found so much gold that it was possible to eat a normal breakfast. I have seen a couple of people get hung in the middle of the town. The town of Yuba City is a lot larger than our town in Uganda. I am really starting to miss my home in Africa. I have seen people from all over the world. The other people celebrate different holidays than we do. There are people from Asia, Europe and South America. It's starting to get extremely cold. I have heard about a group of people called the Donner party that ate each other to try to survive.

Love,
Kwami

3rd Place
James Jackson
Winship Elementary School
Teacher: Barbara Smith

Dear Aunt Linda,

Our trip here was very hard. First, we had to cross lots of rivers, big and small. One river we lost an oxen, 2 bags of flour and 1 pair of clothes. We saw lots of snakes. Susie saw a garter snake and went crazy. Some states were almost a desert. I saw lots of lizards and snakes. One time I caught a blue belly lizard and I asked Ma if I could keep it but she said, "Absolutely not!" When I showed it to Susie, she screamed. We finally got to our destination, Sutter's City. John Sutter found gold at his sawmill. That was really neat. There is a really pretty mountain range that is small, they call it the Buttes. I never knew it but we live in a valley with mountains all around. The Buttes are also called Middle Mountain.

I am helping Pa a lot. I help him chop wood, and plow the field. We are still building our cabin. We are living in a couple of tents. Susie and I sleep in one and Ma and Pa sleep in the other. We have already built an outhouse. Susie helps Ma wash clothes and make a garden. Right now Pa is cutting down trees for our cabin.

The Sacramento River is very close by. I have gone fishing once and I caught 8 trout and 3 salmon. That night we had a filling supper. Ma and Pa go to meetings about building a school. I want it to be called Sycamore School. We probably won't get to have a school. But that is okay because Ma has already taught me to read and write. I have made Ma a wagon to put the garden food on, and also to put the dry clothes on and take it to the house, and for gathering wood. Mail takes a while to get here but please write soon. Hope you are feeling well.

Love,
James

Hock Farm Door Structure Near Completion

Board member Steve Perry has worked long and hard to get a structure built at the site of Sutter's Hock Farm doors, a California Point of Historical Interest in Sutter County, and his efforts are nearing their conclusion. In recent months significant progress has been made and members of both the Historical Society and the general public can look forward to a monument worthy of the importance of John Sutter's presence to our county and our state.

Plans are for a supporting structure for the doors, with interpretive displays explaining the Hock Farm, Sutter's role in our county, and other resources available on the history of Sutter County. Watch for an announcement of a dedication ceremony.

Century Farms

Work is continuing on the collection of a list of Sutter County Century Farms. A Century Farm is defined as one that

- has been continuously owned within the same family for 100 or more years
- has been in agricultural production or under first improvement for 100 or more years
- is presently owned by a person related to a person who originally owned the land - the line of ownership may be through children, siblings, nephews or nieces, and adopted children are recognized equally with blood children
- is presently owned by someone who actively manages the farm or has a family member doing so
- meets the current USDA definition of a farm: all land under one management arrangement which has a least \$1000 worth of agricultural production or sales or expense, for production of agriculture products during the most recent calendar year.

There is no minimum acreage requirement.

If you have a Century Farm or know of someone who does, please call John Reische at 674-8106 so he can add your name to our growing list.

Sister Swing

On the evening of August 8 the Community Memorial Museum is presenting Sister Swing, a three part harmony vocal group that performs the swing music of the 1940s, as well as a collection of vintage cars for your enjoyment. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the cars and wine on the patio. The Sister Swing performance is a fundraiser for the Museum and tickets are \$12.50. This is a great opportunity to wear the vintage clothing you bought at Wear and Remembrance.

Fifty Young Japanese Boys in Yuba City in 1955

by
James (Jim) Layman

In 1955 a terrible flood of the Feather River struck Yuba City. The levee simply failed. Many lives were lost and a great amount of property was destroyed: homes, commercial businesses and agricultural buildings and livestock.

This is a story of a small fragment of this terrible disaster.

Very shortly after the end of WWII, the US congress passed a displaced persons act for the world's "lost people."

In Marysville and Yuba County a very large agricultural company, DiGiorgio Fruit Corporation, farmed and maintained two large properties, Dantoni and New England Orchards, and a couple of other small orchards. In early 1955 DiGiorgio Fruit Corporation and fifty young Japanese from the bombed cities of Japan were to join hands.

DiGiorgio made a deal in Japan with fifty young men who had lost their families. DiGiorgio would pay their fare to San Francisco and give them housing and a job. They would have to fulfill the requirement of working for three years on the DiGiorgio property. And so it was that all fifty went to work in New England Orchard.

Orchard management found them to be the best workers they had ever seen.

And so we must go back to the flood. The levee broke and the first matter of business was to get as much help as possible to sandbag and everything else possible to arrest the break. Someone at the break was aware of the fifty young Japanese who at the moment were living across the river at the New England Orchard. It did not take long for the people at the break to get hold of DiGiorgio Management and ask for those fifty men.

DiGiorgio Fruit Corporation, by their great kindness, allowed the men to work on the break. The fifty men were at the break for three weeks in all, with transportation provided by DiGiorgio Fruit Corporation. For several months ten or twenty Japanese men could be found working at the break. Several engineers, federal, state and local, had this to say: Had it not been for those fifty Japanese fellows the damage to Yuba City and Sutter County would have been four times the damage that it was!

To the fifty, one can only say: GOD BLESS...

Puzzler

T V N T V G D I C K I E Q D B
 J K K B T G L O S S E R S U C
 M D Q I T L X Z Z Z H E R T T
 U O L B A I D S X Z L T T R I
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 R L I W U M C P H E R R I N V
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 N D D V P G O L D R U S H Z L
 H H B R I T T A N Y G Q Y X L
 M O O D Y S U T T E R Z Y P E

BRITTAN

BURTIS

DIABLO

DOWNIEVILLE

GOLDRUSH

HONCUT

MCPHERRIN

MOODY

SMARTSVILLE

TOYS

BRYDEN

CEMETERY

DICKIE

GLOSSER

HARTER

KINDALL

MERIDIAN

PIATT

SUTTER

TRADITIONS



Coming Events

October

- 3 *Ansel Adams: Inspiration and Influence* exhibit ends at the Museum
12 Volunteer Appreciation Tea, Museum, 10:00 a.m.
16 Historical Society October Luncheon
 Hermann Sons Hall, Nicolaus
 Social time 11:30 a.m., lunch 12:00 noon
 Program: Kit Burton, Renovation of the Smartsville Catholic Church
mid *Toying Around* exhibit opens at the Museum

November

- 9 *Dream Songs and Ceremony* by artist and poet Frank La Pena
 6:30 p.m. at the Museum
4 Ornament Workshop, 10:00 a.m. at the Museum
17 Ornament Workshop, 10:00 a.m. at the Museum
28 *Toying Around* exhibit closes at the Museum

December

- 2 Decoration Day at the Museum
4 *Trees and Traditions*, 5:00 p.m. at the Museum
19 Christmas Children's Program, 2:00 p.m. at the Museum

January

- 11 Historical Society dessert meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Museum