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Yuba City, California

April 2005



James Bryden and daughter Olive M. Bryden-Piatt
Photos provided by Bob Bryden



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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 2005 dues are payable as of January 1, 2005. Mail your check to the Community Memorial Museum at P. O. Box 1555, Yuba City, 95992-1555. 530-822-7141

Student (under 18)/ Senior Citizen/Library	\$	15
Individual	\$	20
Organizations/Clubs	\$	30
Family	\$	35
Business/Sponsor	\$	100
Corporate/Benefactor	\$1	000

^{*}The year the director joined the Board.

President's Message

This is my final message to the members of the Sutter County Historical Society. My term comes to an end at the annual membership meeting in April. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as your president for the past two years.

I would like to thank the officers and members of the board of directors for all the help in past term. I would also like to thank the society members for their ongoing support, and the staff of the Community Memorial Museum for their never-ending help.

During my term in office, we celebrated our 50th anniversary with a picnic in the Howard Harter park. We also contributed to the purchase of new lights for the main gallery in the museum. Several projects continued to progress, including the restoration of the Hock Farm doors and the creation of a historical resources list.

My best wishes to my successor and to the Historical Society as it continues in its efforts to fulfill its mission to protect and tell the history of Sutter County.

Tom Crowhurst President



The Sutter Buttes

by Myrtle Newcomb, 1947

Guarding our valley stand the Sutter Buttes,
As in days of old, they watched o'er Sutter's Gold
Now, they act as sentinels for treasures manifold.
Sunset brings the colors, all in blended hue,
Makes you feel that somehow they just belong to you.
Anywhere you wander, north, south, east or west
Always there to guide you home are the Buttes we love the best.

Director's Report

Spring is budget time in the County of Sutter, and, because the Museum is a department of Sutter County, the Museum staff is busy submitting its budget to the county. The Museum is a unique partnership of public funds from Sutter County and privately raised monies from Museum supporters and members. We are grateful for support from Sutter County that funds the Director/Curator and Assistant Curator positions, maintains the building and grounds, and provides a copy machine, as well as publicity about Museum activities on the county website. Privately raised funds pay for the Museum's operating costs that fall in the "Services and Supplies" category, such as telephone, postage, office supplies, exhibition and conservation materials, travel expenses to museum conferences and meetings, and professional memberships (for example, in the American Association of Museums). Private funds pay for three part-time extra help salaries to keep the Museum open on weekends. These private funds are raised through your membership fees and donations, such as memorial gifts. In addition, there are three annual fundraisers that benefit the Museum: Love's Messenger Valentine gift bags, Wear & Remembrance Vintage Apparel Fair, and the *Trees & Traditions* Christmas gala. The *Sister Swing & Antique* Auto event was such a hit last August that the Museum Commission (the Museum board) is planning to repeat it this August. The proceeds from that event went toward the purchase of the new main gallery lighting. Another important source of private funds is the profit from the Museum Store. These privately raised funds make possible all of the exhibits, both traveling and in-house, and programs that the Museum offers during the year. Financial support both from county sources and your contributions are crucial to the continuing work of the Museum. Your donated dollars and volunteer efforts make a meaningful difference and are put right to work enriching the life and experience of our community.

The next Museum fundraiser is the *Wear & Remembrance* Vintage Apparel Fair on April 16-17 at Franklin Hall on the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds. Hours are 10-5 on Saturday and 11-4 on Sunday. Admission is \$5 or \$4 with a bright pink coupon available at the Museum. See vintage clothing and accessories from the last 125 years from vendors throughout the western United States, all available for sale.

The traveling exhibit *Discovery, Devastation, Survival: The California Indians* and the Gold Rush remains through May 15. A free program on Tuesday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m. features David Rubiales from Yuba Community College speaking about the impact on native people as gold seekers poured into California.

June will commence with a new exhibit and program, *Structures of Utility*. On June 1 at 7:30 p.m., David Stark Wilson will talk about his exhibit of black and white photographs featuring functional buildings on the rural landscape. Wilson will help us to see the barns, rice dryers, elevators, tank houses and other utilitarian structures with a fresh eye. His book *Structures of Utility* from Heyday Press is available in the Museum store.

As always, I encourage you to become actively involved in your museum.

Julie Stark Director

Memorials

In Memory of Helen Abbott

Maxine Rudstrom

Randolph & Barbara Schnabel

Randy & Shirley Schnabel

In Memory of Julibeth Balluff
Bob & Katie Bryant

In Memory of Robert Dittmer
Dewey & Barbara Gruening

In Memory of Sue Gilpatric
Ruth & Howard Anthony
Sam & Becky Anderson
Kenneth & Vivian Calhoun

In Memory of George E. Keeler John & Dorothea Reische

In Memory of Jean Kells Helen Heenan

In Memory of Henry Lamon
Mrs. Margie Anderson
Helen Heenan
Kimberly Heisch
Gayle & Mitzi Morrison
Carolyn Mock Oswald
M/M Ernest Speckert
Bennie & Marci Stranix
M/M Walter Ullrey

In Memory of Joyce Dahle Moore & Edwin Lincoln Moore
Julie M. Patton

In Memory of **Art Null**Perry Mosburg & Family

In Memory of **Dottie Post**Kenneth & Vivian Calhoun

In Memory of Billie Rannells
The 39ers

In Memory of Richard M. Rice Howard & Ruth Anthony In Memory of Fritz Roseman Perry Mosburg & Family

In Memory of Daisy Yadon
Perry Mosburg, Barbara & Joyce

In Honor of Bruce Jenkins 95th Birthday Dorothy Ross

In Honor of Bruce & Evelyn Witwer Stuart & Katie Amrhein

Outright Gift
Davis Egloff
Jack & Laurie Neff

Contribution to Endowment Fund

In Memory of Helen Abbott
Norman & Loadel Piner

In Memory of William Andreason
Norman & Loadel Piner

In Memory of **John Brownlee**Norman & Loadel Piner

In Memory of Norma Garrison Norman & Loadel Piner

In Memory of **Anita Laney**Norman & Loadel Piner

In Memory of Joe Roberts
Norman & Loadel Piner

In Memory of IIa Shaw
Norman & Loadel Piner

In Memory of **Anna Ulmer**Norman & Loadel Piner

Annual Membership Meeting

Be sure to make your reservations soon for the annual membership luncheon on April 9! Once again we'll have tri-tip provided by the El Rio Club in Meridian. The meeting is at the West Sutter Veterans Hall, Fourth and Bridge Streets in Meridian. Social time is at 11:30, lunch at noon, and a program will follow. We'll meet the winners of the Judith Barr Fairbanks Essay Contest, and then be treated to a presentation by Meridian residents Miles and Hope Shafer. The Shafers are living in and renovating the old house originally owned by George and Lettie Wood. They'll tell us about the history of the house and show slides of their renovation activities.

So hurry and send in your luncheon reservation form, enclosed in this issue. Lunch is \$13 per person. We **must** hear from you by April 5 to reserve a space for you!



Wear and Remembrance

It's the 15th annual vintage apparel fair, Wear and Remembrance! This important fundraiser will dazzle you with its amazing display of collectible clothing, jewelry, textiles and accessories for Ladies and Gentlemen. Also available are books, lunches and desserts.

Wear and Remembrance is Saturday, **April 16** from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, **April 17** from 11 am to 4 pm at Franklin Hall at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds. Admission is \$5 for adults, but only \$4 with the bright pink coupon available from the Museum or in your last issue of Muse News.



Errata

In the July 2004 issue of the News Bulletin, as we celebrated our 50th anniversary, we printed a table of all those who had served as officers for the Historical Society. But oops, we missed someone!

Susan Wilder, now Ferguson, was Secretary in 1965-65.

Sorry, Susan, for the oversight!

Girl Scout Firsts

by Zelma Corbin

I have a "first" that I would like to share with you.

My first teaching position was at Central Gaither school in 1933. My seventh and eighth grade girl students asked me if I would start a Girl Scout group. Thus, the <u>first</u> Girl Scout Troop was formed in the Tudor area, Sutter County. We were known as Lone Troop #1, with membership ranging from fourth grade through Yuba City High School. We had as many girls from High School as from elementary grades and all from the Tudor area.

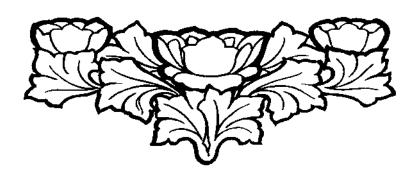
Our meetings were held at the Boy Scout's clubhouse which was on Saunder's property.

Our meetings were geared to cover interests of the various ages. This troop was formed in the spring of 1934. Mrs. John Heiden (Inga Hess), with whom I lived, was one of the Board members. She and her husband, who was a Sutter County Supervisor, made arrangements for our troop to spend a weekend at a hunting club near Colusa. We also had outdoor get-togethers with the Boy Scouts.

A teacher friend of mine who taught at Barry asked me to help her start a girl's troop at Barry.

Having married in June 1935, I moved to Meridian. There I started another Girl Scouts Troop in 1936, which existed as long as I remained there for four years.

So, within a period of a few years, I started three troops and was leader of two of these - the first and the third in Sutter County.



Following are clippings from area newspapers. All spelling and punctuation are as they originally appeared in the paper.

Yuba City Now Wants Pavement

More than one valley city has had its civic pride aroused by the example set by Oroville in paving its streets. A number of towns are planning extensive paving improvements including Auburn and Woodland. The last valley city to come to the front is Yuba City. A mass meeting is to be held there within the next few days to discuss the proposition of paving the principal streets of the city. *Oroville Daily Appeal*, *26 March 1915*

Signal From Sutter Buttes to Tamalpias

So much complaint has been received by the government Geodetic Survey that the earthquake of 1906 changed Geodetic survey lines, that the department is making an effort to learn if the original lines have been thrown out by the quake.

For this purpose, men have been stationed on various peaks in this part of the state to signal the main Geodetic station at Mount Tamalpias. The nearest station is on the summit of the Sutter Buttes, where every night an official of the Survey signals to the main station on Tamalpias. He stated that he would probably be up there for another month. He also stated that he was not using code, but merely sending by Morse, which every Boy Scout knows.

By signalling to Tamalpias from the different peaks, it will be learned whether or not the quake changed the original survey lines.

Signalling is done by powerful light flashes, visible from the Buttes to Mt. Tamalpias. *The Oroville Mercury, 29 August 1922*

Motorcyclists of Valley to Climb Sutter Buttes

Marysville, August 20 - Motorcyclists from all over California are coming here next month for a two-day hill-climbing tournament that will make the Sutter Buttes still more famous . The dates are September 21 and 22.

The contest will be held on Tarkey Hill, west of Sutter City, where a course up a steel hillside will be marked out.

The motorcycle meet will continue two days, it is announced, and many of the riders will no doubt come in advance in order to get acquainted with the course.

The event will be participated in by motorcyclists from all the big cities of the state and will be under auspices of the Capital City Club.

The roads leading to the scene of the contest will be signed and accommodations will be arranged as necessary on the grounds. *The Oroville Mercury, 20 August 1924*

Journal of a Trip from St. Joseph, MO to California in the Year 1859

by Jack Bryden

This journal came to us via Greg Glosser. Our thanks to him for sharing it with the membership.

Saturday, April 16 - Left St. Joe Saturday afternoon, April 16, crossed the Missouri River on a steam ferryboat. Traveled five miles through the bottom, roads heavy, and pitched our tent for the first time and enjoyed a foretaste of camp life, i.e., good appetites and hard beds. Got hay and corn of Mynheer.

Sunday, April 17 - Struck tent and traveled five miles and camped. Remained till Wednesday, Apr. 20. On that day went 15 miles. Passed Cottonwood and Cold Springs, both affording excellent water. Country beautiful rolling prairie with a few settlers. Camped in the prairie, bought wood from tavern keeper.

Thursday, Apr. 21 - Very disagreeable snow storm in the morning. West eight miles to Wolf Creek, some timber and plenty of water.

Friday, Apr. 22 - Traveled nine miles, passed through Kinnekuk, a small town with grocery - drug store, saloon and tavern. Camped on Grasshopper Creek in Kickapoo Indian Reserve.

Sunday, Apr. 24 - (Time of writing still at same place) No grass for cattle yet, but weather warm and pleasant. Reservation contains 40 square miles and about 350 Indians. Each receives about \$75 yearly from the government at present. Government has a mission here where a few are taught. Mission says they learn more rapidly than Europeans, yet they are jealous of the whites and opposed to labor.

Wednesday, Apr. 27 - Left Grasshopper Monday and crossed the reservation, a beautiful tract of land. No white settlers. Took dinner at Walnut creek. New bridge being built. Camped at Muddy creek, splendid spring near the edge of the creek: 18 miles traveled.

Thursday, Apr. 28 - Today have come 12 miles and are camped at Ashpoint, one-half mile north of road. Tolerable stopping place. Weather was quite cold and windy yesterday, today is quite pleasant.

Saturday, Apr. 30 - Traveled 18 miles Thursday, passing the Black Vermillion, a poor camping place. We camped in the open prairie, found some water and used prairie grass for stove wood. Friday came 13 miles to the Big Blue river. Forded the river, which was about three feet deep and 30 yards wide. Waded along side of cattle to keep them pulling and made the load lighter. There is a good ferry near the ford, charge \$1.50 for taking wagon and one yoke of oxen across. There is considerable timber on this stream. A small town, one part called Marysville, the other Palmetto. There are a few stores, a blacksmith shop and steam mill. The timber thus far in the Territory is exclusively confined to the low ground bordering on the different streams. From the highest knoll in the prairie, the eye may wander forth in every direction with a continued earnest gaze, yet will see nothing save

the emigrant wagons appearing o'er the wide spreading meadow on which to rest the tired vision. Yet when nearing a stream, suddenly a serpentine line of timber with high prairie beyond announces to the tired wayfarer the looked-for camping place. Today we have come 20 miles, passing Cottonwood creek, a good camping place 12 miles from the Big Blue. We are camped in the open plain. Some water and small brush for stove fuel. Wednesday, May 4 - Went 12 miles Sunday, May 1. Rain pouring down almost incessantly and wind blowing cold drenched and chilled the entire company. Arriving Pikes Peak (in the thoughts of many) further into distance. Sunday night it rained, hailed and blew eloquently, making the tents to flow with mud and water. General interesting time. On Monday we went 14 miles to Little Sandy creek; day pleasant, roads muddy. On Tuesday went 12 miles. Self and others went hunting, saw numerous antelopes, one of company killed one. While hunting passed through some beautiful country, high prairie land interspersed with numerous beautiful streams or rivulets of crystal like water skirted with timber, some cedar, altogether presenting a wild yet pleasing landscape. Today have come 18 miles and are camped on Little Blue river. This morning we elected Elijah Watt captain of the company until we arrive at Fort Kearney. Company consists of six wagons with the men belonging to each. One of the company went out hunting yesterday and has not got back yet, some anxiety felt on his behalf. Friday, May 6 - Yesterday traveled near the Little Blue river all day, went about 20 miles. Camped in the prairie, used weeds and grass for fuel. Today

came up the Blue about 10 miles. Stopped at noon. Have aired flour meal, etc. this afternoon. (Lost hunter mentioned above came in yesterday, having been detained by creek rising.) Yesterday and today have brought strange news from the mines. Men claiming to be from Cherry creek report no gold there to pay. Return teams are passing every hour, two or three hundred men have passed today. Some have been past Fort Kearney, others to the Fort. In fact, they are turning back at every bend of the road. There are exciting scenes on the camp grounds. Companies are divided in regard to which way to go. Some want to go on to the Peak, some to California, but the greater number, I think, want to go home. Our company are halting, wavering and divided like a discomfited army ... Many who swore vesterday they would not turn back if all others should, tonight are loudest in their clamor for return, and from every tent (nearly) is heard the exclamations, "Pikes Peak, a hoax, a bore," " We are sold," etc., while long faces and deep drawn sighs speak volumes concerning the internal struggle. It nearly resembles a revival camp meeting with sinners under conviction, the "mourners" excepted.

Sunday, May 8 - Yesterday our company resolved and re-resolved about turning back from searching for the yellow phantom, resulted in two teams starting back forthwith, three others to follow soon after. Took in another man with a yoke of oxen to our individual company and moved forward about seven miles and camped. This morning broke in upon our slumbers with all the beauties of early spring. Grass just getting sufficient for stock to live upon. Country on either side of

Little Blue creek (camping place) is undulating, fertile looking prairie. Today the road has present a strange appearance. From 60 to 100 teams have passed in each direction. Those persons going in one direction brand as fools those going in the opposite. Returning emigrants seem to me like scholars returning from school in the morning reporting, "No school for the mater's sick." Two of the backing-out teams of our former company have repented of their late decision and have overtaken us today, bound for the Peak.

Sunday, May 15 - Monday, the 9th, traveled 18 miles, camped in prairie near 32 Mile creek, met a great many teams going back cured of the gold mania. Tuesday reached the Platt valley, distance passed over about 21 miles; camped out one mile from river. We had scarcely got our tents pitched ere we were assailed with the drenching furies of a thunder storm. Rain, hail, thunder, wind and lightning seemed to be holding an uproarious revelry over the frustrated shape of the numerous fortune hunters camped in the valley. On Wednesday moved forward 11 miles to Fort Kearney. It seemed guite home-like to see the frame buildings and general appearance of civilization of the Fort. It is a small village, poorly situated, being on the level bottom prairie on the south side of the Platt river. On Thursday morning our company again sounded retreat and two from our wagons joined the flying corps, leaving three of us to pursue our lonely march westward over the bleak plains. We joined two other westward bound wagons, parted from home seeking friends and moved up the valley seven miles. Grass and wood scarce. Friday

very cold and rainy. Traveled 14 miles to present camping place. Saturday, cold and raining. Laid by. One of the company (Mynheer) killed an antelope; meat very good. Today continued cold and rainy; are still at camp. Afternoon drive 12 miles to Plum creek.

Sunday, May 16 - Traveled 17 miles; weather pleasant.

Tuesday, May 17 - First specimen of Pikes Peak beggars came to camp in the morning. They were young men who had gone out to the Peak expecting to make a fortune. Now they stopped at our wagon on their return and begged for bread to stay their hunger. "What a fall as there, my countrymen." Traveled 19 miles. Wednesday, May 18 - Arrived at Cottonwood Springs, day's travel 20 miles. At this place found a good spring, plenty of wood and a trading post and mail station.

Thursday, May 19 - Reached Fremont's Springs (so called) which consist of a slough without any wood. Day's travel 20 miles.

Friday, May 20 - Traveled 18 miles. Grass, water and wood come -at -able Passed O'Fallen's Bluffs today. Hear there is a trading post, mail station and Indian camp. Indians are the Sioux tribe. They appear to be a lazy, begging, dirty community, yet many of the men are large, fine looking specimens of the earliest settlers. Saturday, May 21 - Day's travel 22 miles. Weather quite warm and road dusty. Camped on bank of river, no wood, grass fair.

Sunday, May 22 - Arrived at forks of Pikes Peak and California road. Held a consultation concerning the propriety of a change in our destination. Considerable was said (and more thought) pro and con. In view of the

(seemingly) convincing evidence afforded by the numerous returning gold seekers, not only their words but their appearance asserting that the new gold region (so far as prospected yet) won't pay, it was decided that we take the south fork of the river, the California road. Accordingly, we crossed the river, which was about 3-1/2 feet deep and over a half-mile wide; fording tedious and disagreeable. Camped on the north side of the river. Day's travel 18 miles. The road from Fort Kearney to last named camp continues up the Platt river valley, seldom out of sight of the river. The valley, I should think, is from two to five miles wide. It is exceedingly level, with a sandy soil (apparently) well suited to raising corn. The river is very wide and shallow with a sandy bottom and bank scarce three feet higher than the bed. The water is very dirty opposite of clear, being mixed with sand. The valley is void of timber. There is little on some of the islands. The bluffs bordering the valley are often high and broken. In some places the sides of the canyons are dotted with cedar trees. Much of the country back is beautiful looking prairie. The road up the valley seems almost perfect, being level and dry. Monday, May 23 - Crossed over the north fork of the Platte, distance 18 miles. Passed through Ash Hollow, where we found a good spring of water. Traveled up the river five miles and camped; grass short. Tuesday, May 24 - Moved forward two miles. Are laying by airing provisions

Tuesday, May 24 - Moved forward two miles. Are laying by airing provisions and grazing cattle. Here we have fair grass and good dry cedar wood. Bluff near the river is high and rocky. Day warm and pleasant.

Wednesday, May 25 - Morning cold and raining. Traveled 14 miles, very disagreeable.

Thursday, May 26 - Ground white with snow. Bluffs near the river present quite a winterish appearance. Went 20 miles. Some sand on the road; heavy going.

Friday, May 27 - Pleasant. Self visited Court House rock, situated about six miles south of road, although it appears scarcely half that far. The rock or mound has very much the appearance of a court house when viewed at a distance, but upon a near approach you lose that idea in considering the irregular mass of clay rock which raises to near the height of 175 feet above the surrounding prairie. The ascent is not very difficult, though steep in places. From the summit you obtain an excellent view of the surrounding country, including the Platte River. Got back to camp tired, but think it paid. Teams traveled 20 miles. Saturday, May 28 - Day hot. Traveled 22 miles. Passed Chimney rock, about 10 miles from road. It has the appearance of a tall round chimney, built in a high pyramid-like mound. In all it is perhaps over 200 feet above the surrounding level. Can ascend but little over half the distance. Sunday, May 29 - Are camped within three or four miles of Scotts Bluffs. It

Sunday, May 29 - Are camped within three or four miles of Scotts Bluffs. It seems quite refreshing to have time to call our thoughts together and think of past scenes and absent friends and anticipate the future which we regard as commencing when this trip ends. This is the suspension bridge between the past and future.

Monday, May 30 - Passed Scotts Bluffs, high ridges or points or rock and clay with some pine and cedar trees on

sides. Returned to and continued up the Platte. Day's travel 21 miles. Tuesday, May 31 - Continued up the valley as usual; distance 20 miles. Wednesday, June 1 - Reached Laramie, a considerable stream, sandy and low banks like the Platte. Crossed the bridge (too deep to ford) toll \$2.50. Camped on north side one mile below the fort. Distance traveled 19 miles. *Thursday, June 2* - Passed Fort Laramie, a small pleasantly situated on north bank of river, which has quite a civilized appearance. There are two to three hundred souls quartered here at present, but will probably be removed soon. Sold some flour at \$10.00 per sack and dry apples at 25 cents per pound. Two stores and the post office in town. Camped n the Platte. Day's travel 15 miles.

Friday, June 3 - Went 21 miles. Road very hilly. Camped on Horseshoe creek, a stream (as well as several others crossed) taking its rise toward Laramie's peak and emptying in to the Platte. The peak appears in view to the south of the road some 30 or 40 miles, although apparently not half that distance. The entire country, with a few exceptions, is broken and hilly and dotted over with pine and cedar trees of a stunted growth.

Saturday, June 4 - Traveled 23 miles; hilly road. Crossed several small streams flowing from the mountains. Camped at Labontey creek. Grass, wood and water very plentiful.

Sunday, June 5 - Are resting today. This is a beautiful stream and place. Several companies camped here. An Indian or western trader lives here with a few Indians. The weather for the past week has been fine. Today it is very warm.

Monday, June 6 - Traveled 18 miles; camped on a beautiful creek. Wood and grass abundant.

Tuesday, June 7 - Crossed several beautiful mountain streams and reached our old friend, the Platte. Camped at Deer creek, having driven 18 miles.

Wednesday, June 8 - Crossed the Platte river in a ferry boat, paying \$2.00. Ferry is near the mouth of Deer creek. Went 16 miles and camped on north side of it for the first time. Thursday, June 9 - Continued up the Platte, pulling over or rather through some awful sand ridges. Passed the Platte bridge, 20 miles above the ferry, a very good one (for the country). Toll from \$3 to \$5 per team. Day's travel 18 miles.

Friday, June 10 - Went 12 miles and camped for the remaining part of the day. Lost one of our oxen and bought another at a trading post nearby to fill the vacancy.

Saturday, June 11 - Moved forward 15 miles without seeing any water fit for cattle to drink, but at that distance found the branch issuing from Willow springs two miles further on. Arrived at the springs, found excellent water and nearly sufficient snow to snowball with. Camped on Fish creek, a small clear rivulet. Day's travel 25 miles. Sunday, June 12 - Drove 15 miles to Sweetwater, which we crossed on a bridge, toll \$2. Camped a few hundred yards south of Independence rock, which is a huge mass of granite rock covering an area of perhaps eight or ten acres and rising to a height of probably 150 feet and standing separate and independent from the adjacent mountains. From its summit an extensive view of the surrounding country may be had, including the

saleratus lakes and basins east of Sweetwater. This saleratus seems equally as pure as that of commerce. The rock has somewhat the appearance of a huge, irregular loaf of bread. *Monday, June 13* - Passed near the Devil's gate in the forenoon. It is a remarkable canyon through which the river (Sweetwater) rushes with maddening fury. Day's journey 20 miles.

Tuesday, June 14 - Are laying by resting teams and airing provisions, etc. Grass fair. The weather for the past 10 days has been fair, except that the wind has blown unpleasantly hard at times.

Wednesday, June 15 - Continued up Sweetwater. Saw sage hens for the first time. They are larger than a prairie chicken and have longer feathers. Fly in the same manner. Day's work 24 miles.

Thursday, June 16 - Twelve miles without water to near Warm Springs. These springs, two in number, uniting form a beautiful rivulet. One of these is perhaps 12 feet in diameter, being circular, and near two feet deep with the water bubbling up as though it were over a furnace. The other spring is not so large nor emphatic. The water at the springs is about the right temperature for a social cup of tea, but it does not run far until it becomes cool. Camped at small stream among the hills or ridges. Day's travel 25 miles.

Friday, June 17 - To Sweetwater again, without water for 12 miles. To Sweetwater for the last time, 10 miles ... 1122 miles in all. Excellent drinking water obtained from a hole dug in the snow bank nearby.

Saturday, **June 18** - Reached Pacific springs, camped two miles below - 13

miles. This day's drive took us through the often heard of South pass, which is an undulating plain of about three miles long on the dividing ridge of the Rocky mountains. On the north and east, the water eventually finds its way to the Atlantic ocean, while on the southward and westward it seeks the peaceful bosom of the Pacific. Southward of the pass there is guite a high ridge extending nearly east and west, and on the north in the distance appears a range of broken-like mountains whose snowcapped (at this date) summits appeared in view over a hundred miles distant. The general surface of the country is sandy or gravelly, covered with wild sage and in places, a little grass. The mountains along Sweetwater are for the most part huge masses of granite rock with occasionally a pine or cedar tree growing in the gaps or crevices. The bald and weather work appearances of these mountains impresses one with the idea that the name Rocky mountains is very aptly applied to them. The entire trip from St. Louis to this place has been against the current, i.e., up the different streams. Sunday, June 19 - Grass very poor at Pacific Springs, therefore we moved forward, 21 miles without grass or water, to Little Sandy creek. Very hard drive on the teams. Camped two miles below crossing Little Sandy: 23 miles. Monday, June 20 - Seven miles to crossing Big Sandy. Traveled down stream 11 miles. Day's travel 18 miles. Tuesday, June 21 - Crossed Big Sandy again in 10 miles travel. Twelve miles further reached Green River. This is quite a stream, being about 25 yards wide and having a very swift current. 22 miles.

Wednesday, June 22 - Crossed the river at the middle ferry (three of them). Good ferry boat though small. Runs by force of current, there being a rope stretched across the stream and the boat fastened to it by ropes with pulleys. Paid for ferrying wagon and three yoke of cattle \$3.00. Fourteen miles without water to Black Fork Green River. Day's work 18 miles. Thursday, June 23 - Crossed Hams Fork; are camped at Muddy Creek; 18 miles. The mosquitoes are awful bad, almost impossible to write.

Friday, June 24 - Crossed another sage desert without water, 15 miles. Camped at Black's fork, three miles from Bridger. Grass fair.

Saturday, June 25 - Passed Fort Bridger, which appears to be in better repair than either of the other forts passed on the trip. Pleasantly situated on an island of Black Fork. Camped on Muddy Creek again. Mosquitoes surpassed anything before heard of. Grass fine; 16 miles.

Sunday, June 26 - Struck tent, believing it to be a profanation of the "Day of Rest" to remain and battle with the enemies of repose (the mosquitoes). Traveled 13 miles to small creek.

Monday, June 27 - Crossed Bear River, a considerable creek with a strong current as all streams in this country are. There is a bridge over this stream about which there is considerable dispute, it being reported that it was built by government and consequently should be free of toll. But we found men here demanding \$2 per wagon for crossing. We refused to pay until convinced of their right to collect toll. It was referred to Salt Lake City for settlement. Camped in Echo Canyon. Day's work 25 miles.

Tuesday, June 28 - Continued down the canyon to Weber River, 18 miles. Passed near its mouth numerous evidence of the defenses erected by the Mormons against U. S. troops in the winter of 1857-58. There are several redoubts - walls, ditches, etc., advantageously placed in the narrow canyon. Day's journey 22 miles; grass splendid.

Wednesday, June 29 - Very rough roads through canyon; went 14 miles. Thursday, June 30 - Crossed Big Mountain, which is almost 10 miles over. Roads and hills awful; 18 miles. Friday, July 1 - Crossed the Little Mountain, road rough. At noon the city of the Latter Day Saints appeared in view. Upon first sight, a new created chord seems to vibrate joyfully at viewing again and so suddenly the works of art amidst the absolute reign of the works of nature. The city appears a great deal larger at first view than it really is, as it is thickly planted with trees which at a distance appear to be houses. It has been inclosed with stone and gravel wall at one time, but the wall is partly fallen down now. The town is laid off in a roomy, handsome style - streets wide, lots 1-1/4 acre apiece, affording a little farm to every dwelling house. The water arrangements are seldom equalled, there being a small stream made to run through each street, thus affording the means of irrigating all the vegetation in the city. Without this, nothing will grow effectually in the valley.

Brigham Young's "harem" and the tabernacle with the inclosures speak well for the architectural skill of the Mormons, being large handsome buildings surrounded with walls about 12 feet high of rock cemented together. Over the portico of Brigham's establishment is a lifelike representation of a lion, said to be hewn from stone obtained from some of the surrounding mountains, although it has very much the appearance of plaster paris.

Over a gateway nearby is an image of an eagle guarding the entrance. The business part of town presents quite a lively trading aspect with the usual amount of anxiety and competition. The buildings are mostly made of sun dried brick, but there are some frame buildings. Altogether the city presents quite a cleanly, live-athome appearance.

Saturday, July 2 - Moved out from camp in south part of city, where we paid 37-1/2 cents per head for pasturage for cattle 24 hours; pasture very poor at that. Passed the spring, which is quite a creek of very warm sulphur water gushing from under a ledge of rock and forming a considerable lake nearby. Camped at Willow Springs, six miles north of city. Water scarce, tough good, and feed not handy.

Sunday, July 3 - Continued north through the settlements. At noon paid 75 cents for pasture. Passed through Farmington, a handsome village. Camped nearby; 16 miles. Monday, July 4 - Saw nothing to remind us of the "Day of Independence," yet we regaled ourselves with reminiscences of bygone Fourths. Crossed Weber River toll bridge, 50 cents, yet good ford through rocky nearby small village here. Stopped for the night at small mountain stream. Grass fair: 17 miles. Tuesday, July 5 - Passed through Ogden City, a considerable village. Crossed Ogden River on bridge, toll 50 cents. Two miles from this village we

heard from the Bear River Bridge Co (mentioned above) in the form of an attachment for our teams, served by the sheriff. They demanded \$5 and costs or would have a law suit. Their excuse for not meeting s at Salt Lake City was a flimsy one, showing that they had delayed on purpose until we were at a distance from the U.S. officers. After considerable parleying and expressing ourselves freely upon their character and calling (without flattery) we (three wagons) paid their demands, which amounted to \$8.75 per wagon, costs and all. From all we could learn, they had no right to a single cent, but we did not think we could get justice in an Ogden City Mormon court. Camped not far from Warm Salt Springs, water quite warm; some cool water but not very good. Grass short: 16 miles.

Wednesday, July 6 - Drove six miles. One of company (Bob) being quite sick with the cholera morbus, we camped. Feed very good. Perhaps there is no place so unpleasant for sickness as is this traveling camp life, at least so it seemed to us.

Thursday, July 7 - Bob still quite sick. Mormon M. D. in attendance but doesn't know much and has no medicines. In the evening got an emigrant doctor who left some medicine.

Friday, July 8 - Bob better, moved out. The weather while in the valley up to this time has been very hot, but here had very heavy rain; roads muddy. Passed the utmost bounds of Mormonism and camped on Bear River. Day's drive 17 miles. From G.S.L. City to this place we have been in Salt Lake valley. The lake appears to be of considerable size, and probably 80 miles long. In sight most of the way,

sometimes only about six miles distant. The road is from the eastern side of the valley close to the mountains, which are steep and rocky with some snow on summits.

Saturday, July 9 - Morning rainy. Ferried our wagons (\$3.25 apiece) and swam our cattle over Bear River, quite a deep stream at this place. Continued raining. Camped near Warm Springs, nine miles. This is on the side of the mountains on north of Valley. The farming products of the valley appear to be a small affair as they can only farm the spots of land that are capable of irrigation, yet the farmers manage somehow to support themselves with from one to six wives each and children ad infinitum. A large part of the Latter Day Saints are foreigners. Intellectual standards are not very high. Consider themselves to have been greatly persecuted by the "Gentiles." Sunday, July 10 - Grass and water poor, therefore moved forward. Very heavy rain and roads deep with mud. So much rain in this country at this season of the year is said to be most unprecedented. Road winds through the mountains. Put up at Blue Springs, recent rainwater the only kind fit to use. The springs are warm. Day's travel 16 miles.

Monday, July 11 - 12 miles without water to Hensell's spring. 1/2 mile west of road, thence to deep creek 6 miles. Water good, feed fair; 18 miles. Tuesday, July 12 - Moved to Pilot springs; no grass; 12 miles. Sage desert from Deer Creek sink to said springs; 14 miles further to Small springs with fair grass. Day's travel 30 miles. Passed through some cedar groves; seems quite refreshing to see the shadow of trees.

Wednesday, July 13 - Reached DeCasner Creek, good camping; 19 miles.

miles. Thursday, July 14 - in six miles' travel reached the junction of Fort Hall and Salt Lake roads at City rocks (a number of cone shaped rocks, some of them of large size). Our course from G.S.L. City to this place has been about N.N.W. Here we turned nearly west. it is probable that the Salt Lake road is from 80 to 100 miles longer than the other. Day's travel 20 miles to a small mountain stream. Last six miles of road very hilly and rough. While upon the higher hills here the country presents the most mountainous appearance I have yet viewed. The Goose Creek mountains seem to rise above each other in the distance until the mind becomes almost confused in considering the multiplicity of hills and hollows, shapes and shadows. Friday, July 15 - Reached Good creek in two miles. A considerable creek with a valley about 1/4 of a mile wide; fine grass all along, bordering hills partly covered with a stunted growth of cedar. Have come about eight miles this morning and have turned our cattle out to graze. The day is tolerably warm. We here find plenty of wild currants. Some of the boys are fishing, but don't hardly make it play. Moved forward about four miles and pitched

our tent for the night; 12 miles. Saturday, July 16 - Continued up the creek eight miles and turned out for the day. Grass and road very good all the way up the creek.

Sunday, July 17 - Cattle being somewhat rested, it was thought best to drive. Went up small creek and through canyon about three miles. Thence without water and over steep and rocky hills to Rock Springs, 12

miles. Good water, though not cold; no grass. Here we reached Thousand Spring valley, thence to springs of very cold water, six miles. Grass short; 21 miles.

Monday, July 18 - Up the valley 14 miles without good water; passed several alkali springs. At this place the wells, fine water and grass. There are quite a number of natural springs or wells here which are very deep and contain numerous small fish. There are some 14 wagons camped here tonight, together with a drove of cattle. The scene is quite Abrahamic, I conceive. Men, women and children, tents and cattles and horses. Evening pleasant; 14 miles.

Tuesday, July 19 - Seven miles to Warm Springs Creek, thence nine miles to end of valley. About two miles from here the road forks, the right-hand road leaving through a canyon and to the north side of the river, not much traveled lately. We took left road to deep springs and creek; day's journey 25 miles.

Wednesday, July 20 - Went 20 miles to mountain stream bordering on Humboldt valley, the river being to the northwest.

Thursday, July 21 - Road skirting the

mountains, very rocky. Crossed a swift running stream nearly every mile. Plenty of Indians of Shoshone tribe; looked rather hard. Have come 15 miles today; road very dusty. *Friday, July 22* - Slight shower of rain about noon. Clouds seemed to follow the mountain range, sometimes hiding the snow-spotted summits from sight and descending very reluctantly toward the base. Beautiful mountain streams with clear rocky bottoms and nimble trout sporting in the crystal liquid. Day's travel 25 miles.

Saturday, July 23 - Another shower of rain; weather pleasant for traveling. Company are enquiring with some interest of each other when we shall arrive at the Humboldt river, but "each other" don't know. Camped on a considerable creek; good fare; 22 miles.

Sunday, July 24 - Are having a Sunday once more; four wagons in company. Some employ the time in sleeping (to which camp life bewitchingly invites) some in reading, some in cooking, washing, eating, talking, etc. The day is pleasant and the scene peaceful. A few "red men" around desiring bread. More emigrants arriving and camping for the night. The end of our journey is now a subject of general conversation, much being said of what each shall make and how long stay. Most all see themselves returning home as men of "means" in two years or less.

Monday, July 25 - "Again we renew and our journey pursue" over hills and through hollows extra rough. Camped in canyon; 25 miles.

Tuesday, July 26 - Road mountainous in the extreme. When upon the highest point of the mountain ridge, the long looked for Humboldt River appeared in view in all its serpentine dignity. Reached it in the evening. Found it a considerable stream with swift current, considerable willows upon its banks, but no timber whatever. Day's travel 20 miles.

Wednesday, July 27 - Came down the river about three miles and, being satisfied with our present knowledge of the south road, crossed over to the north side at Gravelly ford; crossing very good. Many teams that intended to cross at said ford passed it (the crossroad being rather obscure) six miles to mail station at junction of

middle of mail route before they were aware of their mistake. Some returned to ford while others went on, hoping to find other places to cross. Not been near so much travel this season on north side as on the south side. Good camping 14 miles.

Thursday, July 28 - Traveled the river road, being nearer and better than the other. Reached Stony point about usual camping time. Fare being poor, traveled ahead, although the road left the river from this place. Yet we expected it would strike it soon again. Continued to travel on until about 9 o'clock p.m., when myself and another of the company left the wagons in search of the river. After continuing in the direction we supposed it to be for about five miles, but failing to accomplish our purpose, we returned to the road, expecting to find the wagons. Hearing nothing of them, concluded they were ahead and followed on expecting every mile to reach a camp fire, which appeared in the direction of the road ahead. The road being sandy and we supperless and thirsty, the time as well as ourselves moved heavily along. About 1 o'clock a.m. we reached the long-sought fire and found, not our teams but those of some traveling acquaintances who gave up room and blankets in their tents, where we slept the remainder of the night. Late in the morning our teams came in, having camped without grass, water or supper about eight miles behind us. The distance without grass or water here is about 18 miles, of which the guide makes no mention. Day and night's travel for the teams, 30 miles. Friday, July 29 - Wagons came seven miles before feeding, grass and water being strongly aklalied. Drove forward after breakfast about six miles and

rested till noon. No water away from the river along here that is fit to use and the river water is very muddy and unpleasant. Day's travel 19 miles. Saturday, July 30 - The General course of the river for the past two days has been nearly north, but today it turns west. Roads somewhat sandy. A short distance from the river all along there is nothing growing but sage and greasewood. Soil either sand or yellow clay. Day's journey 18 miles. The mosquito bills are present ad-infinitum and seriously disturbed our peace of mind and body.

Sunday, July 31 - Company moved forward escorted by the "Humboldt band" (i.e., mosquitoes). The mountains are not so steep nor rugged here as those back were; 18 miles. *Monday, August 1 -* Road very heavy with mud. The weather is very pleasant; we can't help contrasting it with the scorching meadows of the east side of the mountains; 17 miles. Tuesday, August 2 - Considerable sand on the roads. At noon two of us swam over the river to get information at a trading post concerning the road ahead. Accomplished our object. In the afternoon four miles of very dusty road without water. Camped on the river. 21 miles.

Wednesday, August 3 - Came eight miles to Dawson's meadows (swamps). Swam our cattle over the river to get feed. Alkali grass and water in abundance and has been so ever since passing Stony point. Even the river water is quite unpleasant to drink. From this place we took the right-hand or Honey Lake road and bid farewell to the Humboldt's muddy water. Came 12 miles to Antelope spring. Splendid water, dry feed. Eight miles in the mountain ridge; day's travel 20 miles.

Thursday, August 4 - Came over low mountain ridges; sage desert to Rabbit Hole springs; not much water and no grass. Went out on the hills and gathered about two bushels of bunch grass and fed it to cattle. 18 miles. Thursday night after supper moved forward over a level sage desert. Three or four miles of it; however, a perfect desert. After night it presents much the same appearance as a pond frozen over and covered with snow. Traveled all night, rested about an hour at daylight; reached the Hot springs about 7 o'clock a.m. Warm water and saltish. Cattle drink it, though not first rate. Night's drive 22 miles. Friday, August 5 - Still no feed. Took breakfast and started across the desert, a distance of 15 miles. The desert here is almost a perfectly level plain, bounded on either side (N.W. & S.E.) by moderately high mountains, much the same in its situation as is Great Salt Lake. The surface might be described as baked yellowish clay with a little sand and gravel mixed. Not a single particle of vegetation of any kind. Altogether it has very much the appearance of having been the bottom of an extensive lake which leaked out or dried up. About 11 o'clock a.m. the wind blew almost a perfect gale, causing almost a perfect snow storm on the Sahara. Got to water and grass about 3 o'clock p.m. Cattle very much jaded; not without reason. They were

Saturday, August 6 - Are laying in camp recruiting our cattle. Wagons coming in all the time. Think the teams look better that crossed in the night than in the daytime.

without feed for 36 hours. Water and

on and near the desert. Near 40

grass fair. A great many cattle give out

Sunday, August 7 - Traveled along the edge of the desert, passing some hot springs. Camped at Deep Hole springs. Good water and plenty of it. Cisternlike springs with fish in them. Grass fair. Distance from Granite Creek (last camping) 14 miles. While here a company of packers arrived from Marysville, Calif., with a small stock of groceries, provisions and liquors, and in less than two hours after unpacking their mules they had established a trading post and the accommodating clerk was ready to supply the wants of his welcome customers. The did not even spread a tent.

Monday, August 8 - Left the "Trading Post" and took the right-hand road to Wall springs (a huge reservoir of water) seven miles. Fed and moved 12 miles to near Buffalo springs. Fair grass, no water; 19 miles.

Tuesday, August 9 - Started at 2 a.m., still skirting the desert which pursues a very irregular course. After crossing a sandy ridge and passing through a rough canyon, reached Smoke Creek trading post. Here the wagons seemed as plentiful as at camp meeting. Water and grass pretty good. Quite a number of horses and cattle and even mules dying along the road and at the different camping places. "Stopping to recruit" is the watchword now. Wednesday, August 10 - Over an undulating county to Mud springs. Water and grass fair. 10 miles. Thursday, August 11 - Road over low ridges where the rocks have been sown broadcast with a liberal hand. Camped at the first ranch n Honey Lake valley; splendid water and grass. The valley is perhaps near 30 miles long and 10 or 12 broad. The lake is at the lower or southeast end of the valley where Susans river "runs in the ground." On

wagons in camp.

the southwest the Sierra Nevada mountains appear in view, apparently covered with a heavy growth of timber. Some spots of snow still left to represent winter. Day's travel 18 miles.

Friday, August 12 - Up the valley to store. On south side of valley appears to be some improvements, but little on the north side. Susan river (a small stream) runs through the center of the valley bearing a little south of east; 15 miles.

Saturday, August 13 - Are lying in camp this a.m. Some of the company are gone in search of provisions, meat, potatoes, etc. which they expect to find at a store two or three miles south of this. Moved forward three miles to the head of the valley in the evening. It is expected there will be a town spring up here which they have christened in advance "Susanville." Contains a store, blacksmith shop and one or two shanties. There is considerable dispute as to whether this valley is in California or Utah. It is most likely the former; three miles. Sunday, August 14 - Commenced ascending the Sierra Nevada mountains, passing through the finest pine forest I ever saw. Three miles from the valley the road forks, the right leading to Shasta, Yreka, etc. and the left to Marysville, Sacramento, and so on. We took the latter. Road somewhat rocky and hilly, though not so bad as those east of the Humboldt River. Crossed the head of Susan river in the mountains; beautiful stream. Camped at two sink springs; water and grass fair, wood very plentiful. Here we saw the first of California partridge, a bird similar to the pheasant of the east; 13 miles.

Monday, August 15 - In three miles travel reached the head on Mountain Meads, which is a valley of from one to five miles wide and about eight long, with a splendid stream of water meandering through the treeless plain. Road leads along the valley. Are camped at the lower end of the meadows. Several lots of cattle are herding here which have crossed the plains this season. Have come 11 miles today.

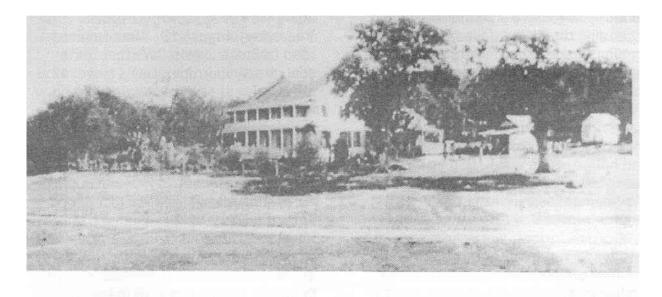
Tuesday, August 16 - Crossed over to Big Meadows, nine miles. A few houses here. Thence down the meadows to the crossing of Feather river, a beautiful stream of moderate size; good fording. Camped on southwest side of the stream; 16 miles. here we got some fine trout from the Indians. Wednesday, August 17 - Traveling, the company left the main road; started for Butte Valley, distance eight miles, to try their luck mining. Came over very hilly and rough roads to Humbug valley, where we are located for the night. The valley is a small affair containing less than 300 acres. Has a few settlers and a (so-called) town; 12 miles. *Thursday, August 18* - Mountainous road to Butte creek. Weather quite cool, frosty morning. Day's travel 12 miles.

Friday, August 19 - Tremendous, awful roads to Inshkip, a small mining town with hopes of future growth but little doing at mining, water being scarce. Day's work 16 miles. No grass for cattle. Hay at four cents a pound. Saturday, August 20 - Passed through Havelock where our cook (Aaron) stopped, intending to work at a sawmill at \$40 a month. Camped near Dogtown, having come 16 miles. Sunday, August 21 - Traveled a part of the day in the Sacramento valley which

at this season of the year has much the appearance of a brickyard, being completely dried up, which is in fact the condition of the whole country except in the mountains. Yet the numerous herds of cattle appear to do well on the hay like grass which has been without rain for two or three months. Camped at the Cottonwood Ranch; 18 miles.

Monday, August 22 - Crossed Feather river at Oroville, a considerable town surrounded by mining works of various kinds. Camped at the Prairie house six miles southwest of Oroville; 12 miles.

Tuesday, August 23 - In eight miles reached the Piatt Ranch and at the same time the terminus of the trip. Here the valley has much the appearance of a gently rolling prairie and the dried-up grass makes it seem like some grand wheat stubble field. Now, having carried out my original plan, though imperfectly, of keeping a journal of the trip "Across the Plains," I feel myself as liberty to "close the books" on this dull record of a summer's tramp across Columbia's western plains and mountain ridges.



Bryden ranch house in Loma Rica, Fruitland Road in the foreground

Photo provided by Bob Bryden

PUZZLE PAGE



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H Y T M W B R E T X K M S E

antelope Bridger Bryden Buttes cattle crowhurst fortkearney ferry luncheon mercury ogden mosquitoes pikespeak oxen shafer scouts sweetwater susanville weather wood



Coming Events

March	
24	Discover, Devastation, Survival: The California Indians and the Gold Rush exhibit opens at the Museum
29	Children's Spring Vacation Program, 10:30 a.m., at the Museum
April	
9	Annual Luncheon, 11:30 am social, 12:00 noon luncheon West Sutter Veterans Building, Meridian Program: Judith Barr Fairbanks Essay Awards
	Miles and Hope Shafer, "Woods House on the Sacramento River" See reservation form inside
16–17	Wear and Remembrance Vintage Apparel Fair, at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds
May	
3	Program for <i>Discover, Devastation, Survival</i> , 7:30 p.m., speaker David Rubiales at the Museum
15	Discovery, Devastation, Survival closes at the Museum
June	
1	Structures for Utility exhibit opens at the museum Program at 7:30 p.m., speaker David Stark Wilson at the Museum