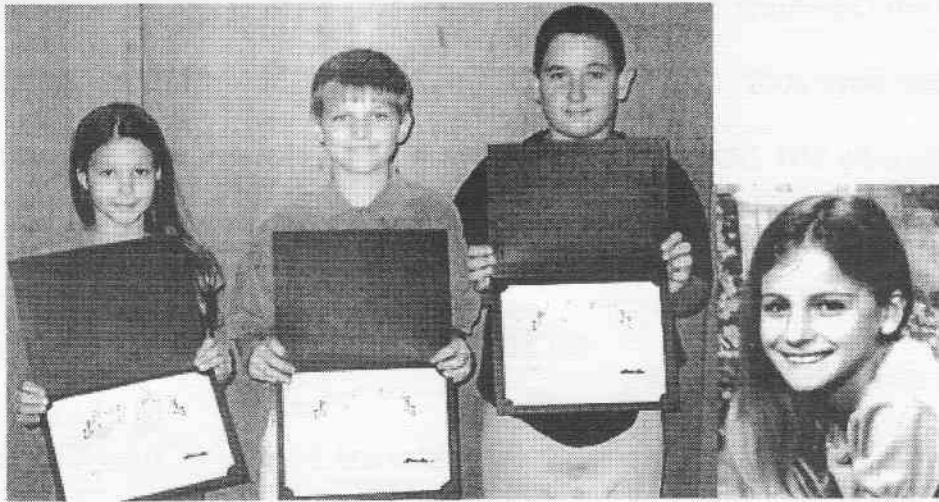


Vol. XLVII No. 3

Yuba City, California

July 2005



**Judith Barr Fairbanks Essay Award Winners**  
**Jennifer Johnson, Alex Burky, Riley Shill, Mariah Moulton**  
*Photo credit: Sharyl Simmons*



**OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY**

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\*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 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
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## President's Message

As I begin my term as President of the Sutter County Historical Society, I welcome all our members.

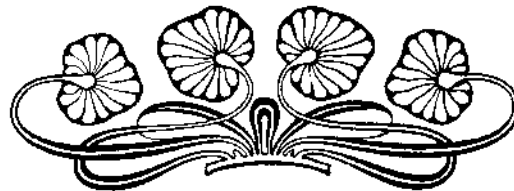
Thank you to our past president, Tom Crowhurst, for his term of service.

I hope that all Society members will actively participate as members in our quarterly meetings and in any projects we pursue.

I am looking forward to working with our newly elected Board of Directors and hoping we can complete goals and projects we set for the Society.

I invite you to attend the Picnic in the Park on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Bring your favorite potluck dish and listen to Cowboy Jack Bell play western music. The picnic will be in the Harter Memorial Park behind the museum, 1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City.

Audrey Breeding  
President



## Volunteers Needed

The Museum is looking for volunteers. If you like the idea of volunteering in a pleasant environment, meeting new people, and sharing our history with them, then the Museum is the place to be. For information call Rebecca Flower, volunteer coordinator, 674-7015 or the Museum at 822-7141. Better yet, drop by the Museum and talk to the volunteer on duty. You'll see it's a great place to be!

## Director's Report

The Museum has just completed a busy, bustling spring full of school tours and children. Our Assistant Curator Sharyl Simmons does a consummate job of guiding the children through an hour's tour. In that short hour, they receive a tremendous amount of historical information. Beginning with a vivid picture of the Nisenan Maidu way of life, through John Sutter and other settlers, 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic and family life, early agricultural history highlighted by the restored Yuba Ball Tractor, early transportation as evidenced by the doctor's buggy and the 1915 Model T Ford, the tour ends with a rousing tune played on the player piano. For most children, this is the *only* hour of local history instruction they will ever receive - the only time they will ever learn about the very special place they live! Kudos to Sharyl for a job always well done.

Children will again be the focus of the Children's Summer Vacation Program in July. Be thinking about the children you might invite to this extraordinary program. See the enclosed flyer for details. Reservations are required for the program, so please call the Museum to reserve a space.

August 7 will be the last day to see the *Structures of Utility* exhibit. Be sure to look, also, at the *Structures of Utility* book in the Museum store. It contains many more images than the exhibit, and most of them are our "next-door neighbors" - very familiar structures. The exhibit and the book help us to see them in a new way.

The *Sister Swing - Antique Autos* fun and fundraising event takes place on Sunday, August 14. Tickets are limited, so be sure to inquire about availability at the Museum.

The next exhibit, running mid-August through September, will be a group of local photographs that we think you will find quite fascinating. Looking forward to October and November, we will be showing the traveling exhibit *State of Emergency*. It deals with all of the natural disasters that occur within California - fires, floods, and earthquakes, and we will present a special local section on the 1955 flood, as we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that dire event.

The Museum received a generous gift of membership in the Chamber of Commerce from Anne Adams, a museum member from Sacramento. The Museum can now engage more fully in our community. Thank you, Anne!

Aside from the many activities, summer is a time for the Museum staff of two to attempt to catch up on registration of the many artifacts recently donated. We wish you a wonderful summer, and we hope you will find some time to spend in your Museum.

Julie Stark  
Director

## Memorials

In Memory of **Blanche Cope Allen**  
Robert & Dorothy Coats

In Memory of **Ann Biggs**  
John & Dorothea Reische  
Carol Ray Trexler

In Memory of **Jimmie "Burgie" Burgin**  
Tom & Marnee Crowhurst

In Memory of **Florence E. Coffman**  
Jim Staas

In Memory of **Donna Dempsey**  
Connie Cary

In Memory of **William A. Filter, Sr.**  
Louie & Betty Schmidl  
Russ & Rita Schmidl

In Memory of **Sue Gilpatric**  
Margaret Anderson  
Bob & Katie Bryant  
Robert & Dorothy Coats  
Tom & Marnee Crowhurst  
Gerald & Carmen Frye  
Norman & Loadel Piner  
George Post  
Cynthia Struckmeyer & Family  
Walter & Jane Ullrey

In Memory of **Jill Jacoby**  
Sam, Becky, Bard, Meg Anderson  
Julie Stark

In Memory of **Jean Kells**  
Norman & Loadel Piner  
Walter & Jane Ullrey

In Memory of **Henry Lamon**  
Norman & Loadel Piner

In Memory of **Dorothy Morgan**  
Louie & Betty Schmidl

In Memory of **Gary Morris**  
Julie Stark

In Memory of **John Platter**  
Jim Staas

In Memory of **Dottie K. Post**  
Tom & Marnee Crowhurst  
Gerald & Carmen Frye  
Bruce & Gini Harter  
Norman & Loadel Piner

In Memory of **Herb & Barbara Ralston**  
Bruce & Gini Harter

In Memory of **Ronald Rudge**  
Ed & Janet Baur  
Robert & Barbara Burrow  
Tosh & Tae Sano  
Bud & Jean Sykes

In Memory of **Silas A. Schellenger**  
Tom & Marnee Crowhurst

In Memory of **Albert M. Spangler**  
Jim Staas

In Memory of **Sharon Stenquist**  
Connie Cary  
Hardy & Ardis McFarland  
Ida Philpott  
Julie Stark

In Memory of **Virginia Stonkus**  
Bob & Katie Bryant

In Memory of **Tracey Vanderford**  
Bruce & Gini Harter

In Memory of **Bill Yank**  
Ray Frye

**Outright Gifts**  
Thomas J. Crowhurst  
Suzanne Miller

## Judith Barr Fairbanks Memorial Essay Contest Winners – 2005

*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.*

### **Riley Shill**

Pleasant Grove School

Teacher: Wendy Rosell

First Place

June 16, 1852

Dear Grandma and Grandpa,

As you know we came to California on a wagon train. It took about five months to get here. There was another family on the wagon with us. They were the Smiths. A tragedy struck when we were in the Salt Lake Desert. The Smith's youngest son, James, died of dehydration. We all went to the spot where he died to bury him. It was an extremely sad time for all of us, especially Mr. and Mrs. Smith. That was about six months ago and they still haven't gotten over it. But I don't blame them.

I'm glad we had enough money to go on the trip. We were almost broke having to buy all the supplies. We had to buy beans, flour, oxen, horses, etc.

California is extremely different than back home in Baltimore. In Baltimore the cities are way bigger. I don't know how it is in Scotland where you live. But I imagine that it's different than here in Marysville. They named it that just last year. The cities are small and there are not many permanent houses, though there are tons of tents of people just passing through. On top of that, the food here is disgusting. We have to eat a lot of the same food, mainly beans. Also, we can catch fish time to time. Pa will sometimes go out hunting to get deer or rabbit. Occasionally, Ma will make her delicious blueberry pie.

The Maidu Indian tribe are very friendly. Sometimes they will give our family some trout or deer. Ma will use the blueberries the Maidu pick in the pie. The Indians seldom scare me with all of the big sharp knives. I thought the Maidu would be the same as the ones I saw on the way here, with all the face paints and loud noises. But they weren't.

Gold was discovered about three years ago in 1848 by James Marshall. A large amount of miners came to look for gold, as I've been told. I've met some very interesting people. I even met a couple who were your neighbors. There isn't a whole lot of gold left, but some people still think they can find something.

Since there are a lot of miners, Ma opened a boarding house where the miners can stay and sleep. The miners never take a shower because they're all afraid that an Injun will come and scalp them. They say that one of the miners named Ryan got taken away and scalped. The miners keep me up all night. The only thing they do is drink whiskey and talk. I asked Ma if they could leave, but she says that she has to raise money so we can eat every night. Ma is telling me to go to supper. I hope to see you or write to you sometime soon!

Your loving Grandson,  
James Anthony  
1852

**Alex Burky**  
St. Isidore's Catholic School  
Teacher: Pam Woodcox  
Second Place

Dear Mom and Dad,

How are you doing in Denmark? I arrived in Sutter County about two weeks ago. It is very strange in Sutter County and I don't understand their language. How is father doing? Has he healed from his sickness yet? I hope he gets better soon. My wife Jessica and I have found a home and I have started to mine for gold.

Last Monday I got eleven gold nuggets and I hope that I will get more gold soon. The rush is very busy and Bill Hicket got hung for stealing some gold from the Morrison family. I am protecting my gold from robbers but it is very hard. A few days ago a robber went by me but I kept away from him. I was afraid he would rob me when he looked at me but he didn't. When I return to Denmark with Jessica in a few years we can be rich!

Living in Sutter County is very hard because lots of people don't like me because I talk differently. I have seen a few people get bossed around. I hope it

doesn't happen to me. I have also seen many people die from illness and many people are suffering. There have been many people coming to Sutter County but they are mostly from the United States. The land around here is like a valley but there are some mountains if you go a little farther out. There are some rivers in the area but all of the gold miners are there. Jessica and I have learned some of their holidays and customs and they are very fun. The land here is beautiful and it is very fun to just go around the town and look at its beauty.

I am sorry to say that I must close this letter soon because I must go to bed. I hope that when I return to Denmark we can have a good life.

Your son,  
Frank

**Jennifer Johnson**  
Faith Christian Elementary School  
Teacher: Paula McBride  
Third Place

Dear Grandma,

We finally arrived here in Sutter County today, what a journey! We went to Sutter County because we are going to grow grapes near the base of Los Tres Picos. We went by wagon train. From Boston, we went to Missouri, and joined up with others to form our wagon train. We left after the spring rains, May 5, 1848, and arrive at Sutter's Fort March 5, 1849. While we were traveling, our left tire broke, and we had to spend the night in an extra tent we had in the wagon. That night I could not sleep, because I kept on hearing a wolf, on the mountain behind us, and my friend was sick with the flu, so she kept on waking up in the middle of the night. We left Sutter's Fort and went to Marysville by a huge ship called a steamer. The steamer's name was "Linda," then after looking around the busy town, we ferried across the Feather River to a little town called Yuba City. We visited with the people on the boat and I learned that the river was named by explorer Luis Arguello when he saw feathers of wild birds floating on the water. It was an amazing sight of a mountain range in the middle of such flat land. But I'm not sure what to call it - maybe Los Picachos or Marysville Buttes. I also learned that it is the world's smallest mountain range and is left over from an active volcano. We hope it does not rain, because we heard that it floods and people have to go up into the mountains to escape the flooding. When the boat docks, I notice lots of grapes growing along the banks of the river. Someone told me that this is how Yuba City got its name; the Spanish word "uva" means grapes.



Later we found Sam Brannan at his store and bought one of his parcels of land. My father is working as a farmer growing grapes near the base of Los Tres Picos. I am enjoying life in California.

Love,  
Bonita

**Mariah Moulthrop**  
Luther Elementary School  
Teacher: Janine Kincaide  
Fourth Place

1/26/50

Dear Mother,

I am traveling on an expedition with John Sutter to look up information on Sutter County. So far I have found information on the Maidu Indians, Luis Arguello who named the Feather River, about John Sutter, and about the many beautiful buildings.

The Maidu Indians have lived in the Buttes for many years. They lived in villages that could be seen from the Buttes. They called the Buttes Histum Yani, which means the Spirit Mountain. They believe that their own spirits go there after they die.

Luis Arguello was the leader of an expedition in 1817 for an exploration of Northern California by water. He called the Sutter Buttes "Los Picachos" or just the peaks. He was the man to name the Feather River. He named it "El Rio del las Plumas," because he spotted lots of feathers of fowl (a type of bird) floating in the water.

Now in 1841, John Sutter bought a farm from the Spanish and named it "Hock Farm." That is also where Yuba City started. The Mexican government also gave John Sutter about 50,000 acres of land, and by 1844 he had nearly completed Sutter's Fort.

While on the expedition I got to visit beautiful buildings and museums. I got to visit the Memorial Museum and they had very interesting things there. I also got to visit the Sutter County Courthouse. It is not built all the way though, it should be finished somewhere around 1899. Well Mother, I must go, I'm about to go visit Marysville. I miss you and wish to see you soon.

Sincerely,  
Your daughter

# A History of Enterprise Lodge No. 70

by  
Don Burtis

*This year Enterprise Lodge No. 70, Free and Accepted Masons, celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As a collector of historical information, I was honored to be asked to present a history of the Lodge. It was my pleasure to do so. Much of the history is contained in the local Yuba City newspapers, which began in 1867. The minutes of the lodge were also available. Information collected by C. E. McQuaid was an important source. Another source was the writings of Anna Noyes Moncur, the wife of Hugh D. Moncur, who had served as Master of the Lodge in 1908. He was born in 1881 and died in 1959. C. E. McQuaid was born in 1861 and died in 1930. Both Moncur and McQuaid were born in Yuba City and both grew up in Yuba City. Even though there was a twenty-year difference in their ages, they both were members of the Masonic Lodge and together with their spouses enjoyed a friendly relationship for many years. The writings of Anna Moncur reflect much information that I'm sure came from Mr. McQuaid. It was from such sources that I was able to compose and present this history.*

## What is a Masonic Lodge?

A Mason is a man who has decided that he likes to feel good about himself and others. He cares about the future as well as the past, and does what he can, both alone and with others, to make the future good for everyone.

The formal organization began in 1717 when the first Grand Lodge was created in England. There are over 13,000 lodges in the United States.

There have been many famous men who became Masons. Benjamin Franklin joined the lodge in 1731. Other American Freemasons include George Washington, Paul Revere, Louis Armstrong, Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain), William "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Gerald R. Ford, Henry Ford, John H. Glenn, Ulysses S. Grant, Charles Lindbergh, Bob Hope, Robert E. Peary, J. C. Penny, John Philip Sousa, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, Roy

Rogers, Harry S. Truman, and Mel Tillis, along with thousands of others.

Masonry is deeply involved with helping people - Masons spend more than \$1.4 million dollars every day in the United States helping others, and the majority of that help goes to people who are not Masons. Masons support many charities like the Crippled Children's Hospitals and Burns Institutes built by the Shriners. Scottish Rite Masons maintain a nationwide network of over one hundred Childhood Language Disorders Clinics, Centers, and Programs. Each helps children afflicted by such conditions as aphasia, dyslexia, stuttering, and related learning or speech disorders. Some services are less noticeable, like helping a widow pay her electric bill or buying coats and shoes for disadvantaged children. With projects large and small, the Masons of a lodge try to help make the world a

better place. The lodge gives them a way to combine their talents with others to help their community. All Masons support these programs.

### **Setting the Stage - Yuba City in 1855**

There were no levees along the Feather River. When the river overflowed its bank the water moved in natural drainage channels to the west and the south into the tule areas. Water would fill up the Gilsizer Slough and the highest area, which was close to the river, would become a sort of peninsula with water on the north and west and the river making a boundary for the town. During the overflow periods when the slough was filled with water, anyone traveling west along what is now called Bridge Street might cross the slough by boat. Travel along this route was made easier when a bridge was constructed over the slough from Yolo Street to the west bank of the slough near the Yuba City Cemetery. Yuba City really started as a hamlet, then became a village and finally evolved into a town. The first stores developed along Second Street and around the corner onto Bridge Street. The ferry landing from Marysville was near the foot of B Street.

The earliest homes were built on Second Street and on streets running east and west from Second Street, A, B and Fairman Streets, connecting to Sutter Street and Yolo Street.

### **The Masons and the Yuba School use the Same Building**

In the spring of 1854, the third public school in Sutter County was started in Yuba City. This was located in Yuba School District.

In the latter part of 1854, thirteen Masons who had located in this

area from other parts of the United States gathered in the local schoolhouse where they all signed an application for a charter to establish a lodge in Yuba City. On January 4, 1855 permission to organize Enterprise Lodge was granted by the Grand Lodge of California, which was located in San Francisco.

In preparation, this group elected some of the first officers of the lodge and on Saturday, January 13, 1855, Worshipful Master C. E. Wilcoxon called the lodge to order at 7 o'clock in the evening. The dispensation, which authorized the brothers to meet and organize the lodge, was read. By-laws were also adopted. This meeting is recognized as the first official meeting of Enterprise Lodge.

The charter for the lodge was granted on May 4, 1855. It contains the following thirteen names: Caleb E. Wilcoxon, C. L. N. Vaughn, D. H. Apperson, C. C. McClure, G. M. Hanson, D. G. O'Donnell, J. W. Gaither, J. M. Fronk, I. Ramey, L. W. Taylor, G. W. Watson, A. S. Hightower and A. G. Jones.

### **Who were Some of These Early Pioneer Masons?**

Isaac Ramey married his wife Elizabeth in Virginia when she was 15. They moved to Missouri and in 1853 they came to California. Both purchased land. He farmed the 400 acres they owned, part of which today contains South Ridge Golf Course west of Sutter next to the Buttes. He died in 1863

C. L. N. Vaughn received a license on May 5, 1856 to operate a ferry across the Sacramento River at Colgroves Point, later given the name of Kirkville. He was elected in 1858 to

the State Assembly. He was twice elected to the County Board of Supervisors, first on November 4, 1856 and again September 2, 1857.

C. C. McClure was elected Treasurer of Sutter County on September 2, 1857.

J. W. Gaither was appointed as an Associate Justice of the Court of Sessions for the February term in 1858. He was the surveyor of the county from 1861 through 1863. In 1873 he provided land for a school in Gaither School District, which was named after him. This school joined with Central District and is now known as Central Gaither School. The name lives on.

J. M. Fronk owned a very successful saloon in Yuba City which was located along the river next to the bridge to Marysville.

Caleb Elisha Wilcoxon arrived in California in 1853. He affiliated with the Marysville Lodge and in 1854 was instrumental in gathering together Masons on the Sutter County side of the river to work toward establishing a lodge in Yuba City. For an in-depth look at his life, please see "The C. E. Wilcoxon Story," by Don Burtis, in the April 2002 issue of the Bulletin.

The list of charter members was completed by the addition of nine members, who were initiated and raised to the degree of Master Mason in the four months between issuance of the dispensation and receipt of the charter. These charter members included: M. Bassett, J. A. Brown, E. Burson, A. F. T. Colley, S. Z. Cross, J. P. Dillon, D. B. Goode, J. B. Keyler and J. Nichols.

The records show that most of the charter members, over time, moved from the jurisdiction and withdrew from the lodge.

The first official meeting was held in the schoolhouse. Most, if not all, of the earlier gatherings were in the same location since it was one of the few buildings in Yuba City that was suitable and available for the group to meet in. There wasn't much of a problem in gaining permission to use the building since Caleb Wilcoxon, who is easily recognized as the driving force in getting the lodge organized, was the first public school teacher in Yuba City and was also on the school board.

### **Sharing the Schoolhouse for Sixteen Years**

John Kupser, the owner of the schoolhouse property, made the building on the property available so the newly established school district had a schoolhouse. When the Masonic Lodge was organized, the school district allowed the lodge to use the schoolhouse as a meeting place. In July 1860 the Yuba School District and Enterprise Lodge jointly purchased the schoolhouse and the plot of ground upon which it stood from Kupser. The deed for this transaction shows that J. W. Gaither, E. J. O'Neille, and C. E. Wilcoxon represented the Yuba School District No. 1. Both Gaither and Wilcoxon were Masons. H. Clarke, James Richards and H. F. Shulte, Trustees of Enterprise Lodge No. 70 F. & A. M., represented the Lodge. The cost of the land and the building was \$100 paid to John Kupser, half from each group. The land description on the deed identifies it as being located on the northeast corner of C Street and Phipps Alley, which was later named McRae Way. The school was about two blocks west of the courthouse. Both the school and the lodge used this building until a new lodge hall was

completed in April 1870. A new school building was completed in 1872.

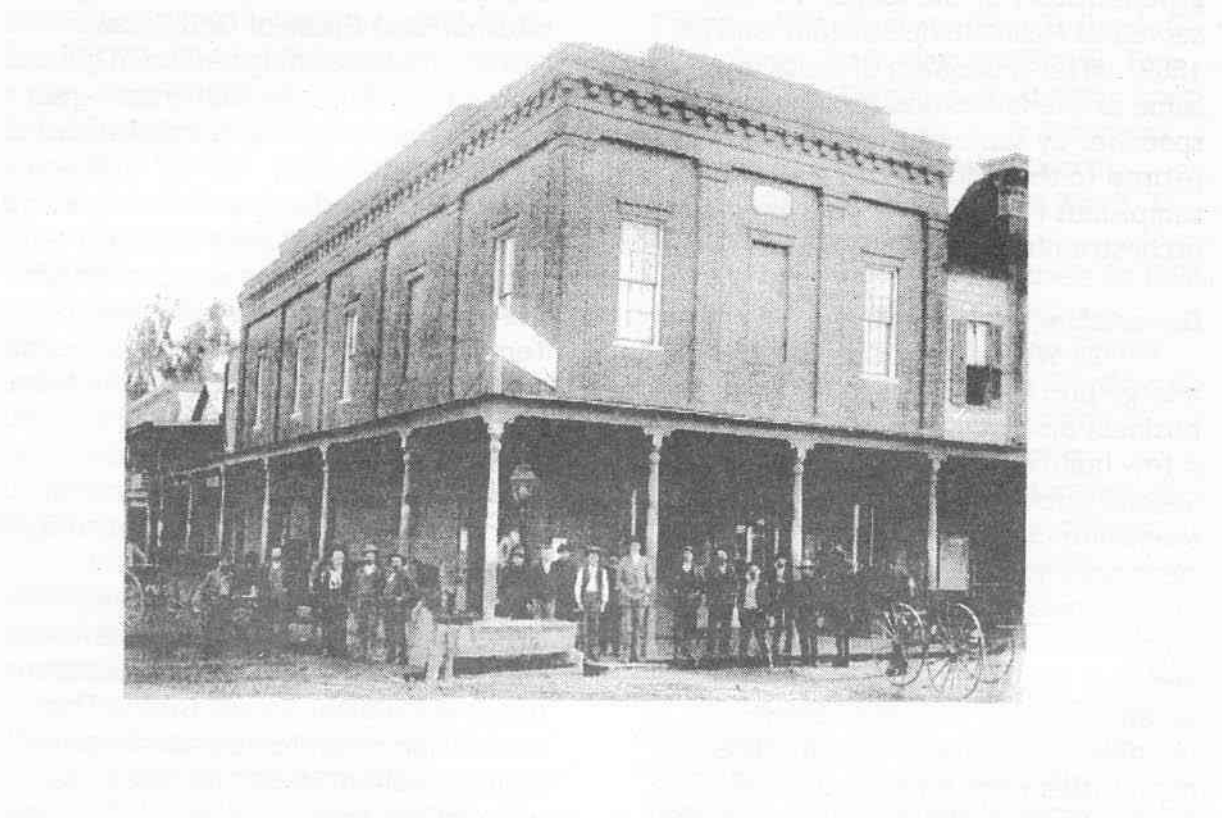
### **Building a New Masonic Hall**

In June, 1869, the board of trustees of Enterprise Lodge No. 70, F. & A. M., Caleb E. Wilcoxon, J. McIlmoil and R. D. Brown, were authorized to purchase a lot at the corner of Bridge and Second Streets for the purpose of building a Masonic hall. The lot was purchased from H. F. Schulte (also a Mason) for \$1,000. Work on the building commenced in October 1869.

A cellar was dug and work on the foundation started. The structure was to be 43 by 83 feet at the base and 45

feet in height. The building was completed in April 1870.

The building was planned so the lodge would use the upstairs and a mercantile store would be located on the lower floor. The lodge owned one-half the lot. An agreement was made with C. E. Wilcoxon and his partner, Thomas Boyd, who owned the other half of the lot, to construct the two-story brick building. The upstairs portion was owned and maintained by the lodge, including the roof. Wilcoxon and Boyd owned the first floor. The building required 256,000 bricks which were all burned in a kiln located on the Jacob Onstott ranch just west of Yuba City.



### **The Lodge Sells its Interest to the School District**

On June 7, 1872, the Trustees of Enterprise Lodge sold their one-half interest in the old schoolhouse property to the trustees of the Yuba School District for \$100. The lodge trustees at this time were F. Cooper, Samuel Hutchinson, and C. E. Wilcoxon. Trustees of the school board were J. M. Thomas, H. F. Schulte and J. H. Craddock. (Schulte and Craddock were both Masons.)

### **The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Lodge**

On January 13, 1905, Enterprise Lodge celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a Golden Jubilee. Over 150 were in attendance. Only one of the charter members was still alive, Mr. Gaither, who was last reported living in Texas. Charles E. McQuaid gave a history of the lodge. He had served as Master twice in 1887 and 1889. After a program of music by some of the ladies and remarks and speeches by some of the men, they all retired to the Odd Fellows Hall for a sumptuous banquet enjoyed while an orchestra played pleasing music.

### **Devastating Fire of 1907**

On Wednesday, October 2, 1907, a large portion of the Yuba City business district was destroyed by fire. A few buildings on Bridge Street near Second Street were saved by the Marysville Fire Department which responded to the call and ran their engines over to the riverbank. They pumped water from the Feather River and kept the flames under control and saved the lodge and other brick buildings along Bridge Street. The main losses were on both sides of Second Street. The north wind caused

the flames to jump from building to building and leap across the street. A wooden addition to the Masonic Lodge was destroyed at a loss of \$1,000. Total losses caused by the fire were between \$75,000 to \$100,000. The fire prompted the construction of a new temple.

It was announced in November 1907 that the Masonic Lodge in Yuba City had decided to sell the old hall and erect a new one on the Potter lot on the corner of Second and B Street. The Potter home had burned down during the 1907 fire.

An offer was made by a party to buy the entire building for around \$6,500, with the lodge's interest placed at \$2,500. This offer was accepted.

In the meantime, the hall would continue to be used by both the Masons and various other lodges including the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) whose building had been gutted by the fire. Plans for constructing a new hall got underway immediately.

### **A New Masonic Temple is Constructed**

During the second week of January, 1908, ground was broken for the construction of the new Masonic Temple to be located on the northeast corner of Second and B Streets in Yuba City diagonally across from the courthouse and Hall of Records.

The building is constructed of concrete reinforced by corrugated steel bars one-half inch square and set horizontally and perpendicularly, eighteen inches on centers. The lower walls are twelve inches thick and the upper walls eight inches thick. The foundation is reinforced concrete in a trench two feet deep and three feet wide on the bottom, with an offset of

16 inches which draws up to 12 inches where the lower walls begin. Under the concrete in the bottom of the trench are concrete piles, 12 inches in diameter, and sunk to gravel an average depth of 13 feet from the surface. These are set 4½ feet apart under the entire foundation. The front is elaborately ornamented by square towers 12x12 feet, one on each corner, with a metal mission tile roof and projecting eaves. These towers are two story and between them is the entrance vestibule. The entire roof of the main building was originally the same metal mission tile.

### **Enterprise Hall Association**

The ownership of the hall, lot and other improvements was vested in a corporation known as Enterprise Hall Association which was incorporated under the laws of the state on December 4, 1907, with a capital stock of \$20,000, divided into 400 shares with a par value of \$50 each. The Enterprise Lodge held stock to the amount of \$6,000. New subscriptions by lodge members were expected to raise the total subscription to about \$15,000.

The officers of the association included the three trustees of the Lodge: M. E. Sanborn, President and Director; D. O. Green, Secretary and Director; J. W. Ashley, Treasurer and Director; K. S. Mahon, Director; and L. H. Woodworth, Director.

The stockholders were mostly members of the lodge and their last names may be familiar to many as they are associated with roads and streets in Yuba City and throughout the county. The supporters who helped with the financial part of this new structure were: M. E. Sanborn, C. B. Harter, H.

W. Clark, A. Graffis, Geo. H. Pease, J. B. Wilkie, Loyd Wilbur, Mark A. Girdner, Wm. Gotwals, W. A. Coats, J. Rupert Foster, David Powell, James Littlejohn, K. S. Mahon, C. E. Williams, L. H. Woodworth, W. R. Carpenter, D. D. Green, W. G. McRoberts, R. N. Kells, C. G. Dick, A. G. Woodworth, J. A. Littlejohn, F. B. Noyes, R. C. Hull, H. W. Heiken, F. S. Walton, L. C. Ashley, J. W. Ashley, Lawrence Schillig, A. A. McRae, Jas. Haynes, E. B. Starr, Chas. M. Sheldon, L. A. Walton, Geo. McGruder, Albert D. Gray, G. W. Bailey, Conrad Schuler, M. J. Newkom, C. R. Boyd, Mark Pease, E. T. Barrett, E. T. Schellenger, F. G. Bremer, W. H. Allen, W. P. Smith, J. N. Branstatt, H. A. Walton Jr., F. M. Ensign, L. L. Freeman, C. D. O'Banion, E. W. Featherly, E. J. White, B. F. Walton, J. H. Brockman, R. T. Williams, J. H. Barr, Henry Best, Bennett Schilling, F. Cooper, J. H. Hansen, Geo. T. Boyd, C. E. McQuaid, E. G. Van Arsdale, R. E. Bevan, W. B. Ellington, L. Summy, Irwin Griffith, F. H. Graves, J. C. Alberton, F. J. Michel, Caroline Woodworth, Samuel Gray, P. Hauss, E. M. Boyd, T. F. Giblin, Guy McMurtry.

There were 156 members in 1908 and the officers were D. Moncur, Worshipful Master; W. F. Bird, Senior Warden; F. B. Noyes, Junior Warden; E. M. Boyd, Treasurer; D. D. Green, Secretary; Frank Bremer, Senior Deacon; R. D. Starr, Junior Deacon; W. R. Carpenter, Chaplain; W. H. Chism, Marshal; Albert Gray and Walter Barrett, Stewards; O. Moncur, Tyler; Trustees M. E. Sanborn, D. D. Green and L. H. Woodworth.

Ground was broken during the third week of January 1908 for the foundation of the new hall. The cornerstone of the new Masonic Temple

in Yuba City was laid with appropriate ceremony on the last Sunday in January under the auspices of Enterprise Lodge No 70, F. & A. M. A large number of members of the order both from the local lodge as well as lodges in adjoining counties were present, with about one hundred Masons in the line of march. Many others attended the ceremonies as well.

The Masons marched from the lodge room (at Second and Bridge Streets) to the Masonic Hall site under the direction of W. H. Chism as Marshal, where M. E. Sanborn as President of Enterprise Hall Association formally requested the officers of the lodge to take charge of the exercises. The regular ritual ceremony of the Grand Lodge of Masons followed.

The cornerstone, which was laid in the northeast corner of the structure, was two feet by one foot one inch. The receptacle in the stone is seven by four inches, in which was placed a sealed box of lead and the upper part of the stone cemented to the foundation. In the lead box were placed the following: copy of the Charter and Articles of Incorporation of Enterprise Hall Association; copy of Charter By-Laws; roster of members of Enterprise Lodge No. 70, F. & A. M.; copy of Sutter Independent of January 16th, 1908; copy of a list of articles; coins; and other items.

The construction of the new temple proceeded on a regular schedule and was completed within the year. A newspaper report in the December 25, 1908 edition of the Sutter County Farmer proclaimed that the first meeting of Enterprise Lodge No. 70 F. & A. M. was held in the new temple on Saturday evening, December 19, 1908. It proclaimed the hall one of

the finest in the state, heated by a hot air furnace (steam radiators) and lit with both gas and electricity. The cost of the building, lot, furnishing and improvement of the grounds was estimated at \$20,000.

### **Dedication of the New Temple**

The new Masonic Temple was dedicated on Tuesday, May 30, 1911, the date set for the official visit of Dana Reid Weller, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of California, to the Masonic Lodges in this district. With the Grand Master was T. J. Baker of Sacramento, who was Grand Lecturer. Lodges in this district included the Nicolaus Lodge at Wheatland, Rose Bar at Smartsville, Yuba and Corinthian Lodges of Marysville and Enterprise Lodge of Yuba City. Masters of these lodges were present along with other officers and representatives as well as visitors from Butte County and elsewhere. Albert Gray, Master of Enterprise Lodge, and his officers arranged for a proper reception and entertainment for the distinguished visitors.

The Grand Master, aware that the new structure had not yet been dedicated, was the one who suggested that it would be an opportune time to formally dedicate the Temple. The Temple had been completed about three and a half years earlier in 1908. It was agreed that this was a good time and under his direction, the Grand Lodge was formally opened in Yuba City and the dedication ceremonies carried out. This was one of those occasions when the Grand Lodge ritual has to be performed by the Grand Lodge officers. The Grand Master appointed Masters and Past Masters in attendance from the various Masonic lodges in the



district to the Grand Lodge offices needed for the purpose of assisting him in performing the Grand Lodge ritual. With but one or two exceptions those filling the offices were Masters or Past Masters of various Masonic Lodges in the district and as such members of the Grand Lodge of California.

### **The Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Lodge**

On Saturday, January 4, 1930, Enterprise Lodge celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Two hundred seventy five people were present in the Temple at the Diamond Jubilee. Charles E. McQuaid, the oldest Past Master in years of service, presented a history of the lodge from its earliest date. He had carefully preserved the history of the lodge. His father-in-law, Caleb E. Wilcoxon, was the first master of the lodge and McQuaid was obviously in a good position to acquire and record the early history of the lodge. He had also presented the lodge history at the Golden Jubilee 25 years earlier.

### **What Happened to the Old Building that was Used by the Lodge and the Yuba School?**

It was announced in a small article in the Sutter County Farmer in June 1933, unnoticed except by one or two old-timers, that one of the most historic buildings in Yuba City had been torn down. The building which was used as the first public schoolhouse in Yuba City in the spring of 1854 and also as a meeting hall for the Masons was demolished. The old building had been moved to the back of an adjoining lot when a new school building was constructed on the school lot on the corner of C Street and McRae Way. The old building, likely constructed by John

Kupser in the early 1850s, had been turned into a garage. It belonged to Mrs. Jean McFadyen and when she had it torn down in 1933, the materials were of such quality that the beams and stringers were used in the construction of some new garages.

### **The One Hundredth Anniversary**

On Tuesday, January 4, 1955, Enterprise Lodge celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A dinner with more than 100 Master Masons attending was held in the banquet hall. James H. Barr, Master of the Lodge, presented a history of the organization, reminding those present that the lodge had its beginning when Yuba City was only six years old and the schoolhouse served as their meeting place.

A highlight of this centennial evening was when some of the past masters of the lodge were called on for their recollections of some of the notable past events. Leonard A. Walton, the senior Past Master of the lodge, who was Master in 1897, told of some of the meetings held more than 50 years ago. Past Masters present for the anniversary who told something of their year in office were: Leonard A. Walton, 1897; Hugh D. Moncur, 1908; Ernest Briick, 1924; Louis K. Newfield, 1926; Frank N. McCollum, 1927; Desmond A. Winship, 1931; R. Verne McPherrin, 1934; Otis V. Sweetland, 1941; Alvin H. Pelton, 1942; Herbert E. Crowhurst, 1944; William George Boughton, 1947; Theodore D. Urbahns, 1948; Horace B. Patterson, 1950; P. Marion Heisch, 1951; and William Gerald Anderson, 1953.

### **The One-Hundred Fiftieth Year Anniversary**

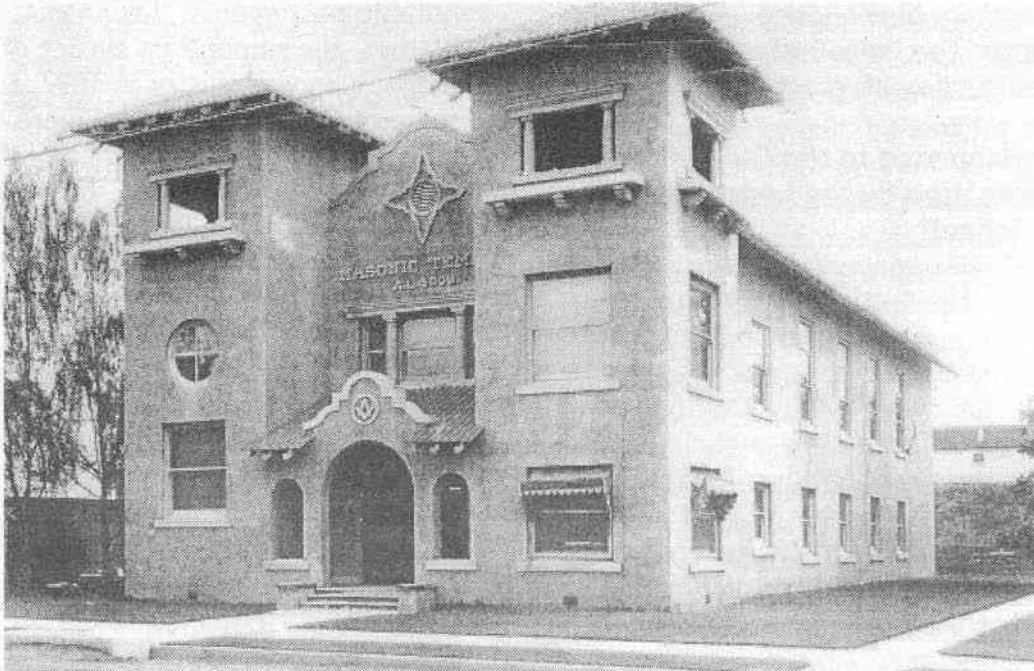
On Saturday, May 21, 2005, Enterprise Lodge No. 70 F. & A. M. in Yuba City celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This was an occasion where David R. Doan, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of California, was invited to attend the celebration. He was accompanied by a number of his Grand Officers. Also in attendance were many Masters and officers of surrounding lodges. Karen Cartoscelli, Mayor of Yuba City, and Jim Whiteaker, Chairman of the Sutter County Board of Supervisors, were both introduced and made presentations of plaques to commemorate this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

During the week prior to the celebration, the cornerstone that had

been placed in the building in 1908 was opened. The lead box that had been placed in the cornerstone was intact and the contents had been safely preserved during the passing time and were put on display for viewing by those attending the celebration. At this time plans are being made to place another time capsule in the cornerstone that will be opened on a future date.

The formal program ended with the presentation of a 150 year certificate presented to the Lodge by Grand Master Doan. It was received by Bill Peardon, Master of Enterprise Lodge.

The Lodge, which began with a membership of 22, now has 260 members.



# One Hundred Years of Nicolaus Lodge No. 129 F. & A.M.

by  
Philip O. Baltzell P.M.

*Reprinted from the April 1963 Sutter County Historical Society Bulletin.*

The early history of Nicolaus Lodge N. 129 F. & A.M. is meager owing to the loss of many of the records of the lodge in the fire which destroyed much of the town of Wheatland in 1898 and the passing of those who were closely associated with the lodge in its several locations up to that time. It is therefore difficult to know where legend leaves off and actual history begins. However what is known of the first hundred years of Nicolaus 129 is not without considerable color.

Acknowledgement for the information contained in this account is made to the following sources: Brother -Lloyd E. Wilson, Grand Secretary of Grand Lodge of California; Brother Charles Oakley of Nicolaus Lodge and his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth DeWayne, Past Matron of Wheatland Chapter, O.E.S.; Mrs. Thomas A. Gianella; Mrs. Amelia Tyler of Nicolaus; a set of books published by the Grand Lodge of California entitled "One Hundred Years of Free-masonry in California"; some records of the early history of Sutter County belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cornelius; Hall of Records of Yuba County; and a few old minute books

still in possession of the Lodge.

It seems that certain Masons of the area of the town of Nicolaus, desiring to organize a lodge there, met in a cabin owned by John Saul on the edge of town. The exact location is uncertain. These Masons, E. Crain, C.W.A. Arens, Timothy Wharton, M. Gray, J. Hart, R.D. Carlos, W.H. Beatty, and S.M. Clay, petitioned Grand Lodge for a charter. As Grand Lodge was doubtful of the advisability of issuing a charter to so small a group before they had proved their ability to carry on a lodge, a dispensation was issued instead on May 13, 1858, authorizing the group to hold meetings at what was known as Half-Way House, located about four miles from Nicolaus. Here Masonic work was done until the Grand Lodge issued a charter to Nicolaus Lodge No. 129 on May 13, 1859. At about that time the lodge moved into their new hall, a building owned by Mr. Wessing in Nicolaus. The lower floor of the building was occupied by a butcher shop operated by Charles Engasser, the lodge hall being upstairs with an outside covered stairway.

The lodge prospered until there were 29 members in 1864 and

then began to decline until there were but 12 members in 1870. In 1871 the lodge petitioned the Grand Lodge to move to Wheatland where it began to grow and has continued to do so up to the present time. The lodgers first returns to Grand Lodge after moving to Wheatland show a membership of 16 and by 1872 the number had nearly doubled, with 29 members. The lodge now has a total of 110 members.

The first meeting place in Wheatland was the Odd Fellows' Hall, a two-story frame building located on part of the same lot occupied by the present hall. According to Mrs. Elizabeth DeWayne, daughter of Amasa W. Oakley who was an early member of the lodge, entrance to the hall was gained by an outside stairway on the east and south side of the building. This building was destroyed by fire in 1876. Brother Charles Oakley and his sister, Mrs. DeWayne recall that Mrs. DeWayne, then a child, was sitting on the lap of her cousin, Mrs. Lizzie Mansfield, on the front porch of the old Oakley home that summer day. She said to her cousin, "That is a funny noise." Her cousin ran into the house calling Mrs. DeWayne's father. He ran out and said, "Fire! Just about where the hall is!" He ran to the barn, jumped on his horse bareback with only a halter and went up the road as fast as the horse would go. He came back the next morning and said that he was too late to save anything.

After the fire the lodge met in a hall over Neimeyer's store located across the street about where the Wheatland Food Market is now. Mrs. DeWayne says the lodge met there until they moved into the new building. She does not know how long that was but remembers that the date, 1885 was on the front of the hall.

On August 12, 1898 much of the town of Wheatland was destroyed by fire, including the building where the lodge met. The charter and much of the furniture and other property of the lodge was destroyed. It is said that Brother Fred Baun who was then secretary managed to save some of the records. The record book covering the period from October 4, 1889 to November 22, 1901 was partly damaged by the fire but the records in it were not destroyed. The lodge met in the home of John Frederick Baun for the stated meeting of August 26, 1898. At this meeting the Grand Lodge was informed of the loss of the meeting place and the charter to the lodge and was requested to grant a duplicate charter. In due time a duplicate charter was received. Later the Grand Lodge remitted the dues to the Nicolaus Lodge for that year.

The next meeting was held in the Tulilie School House which was located about where the present manual training shop for the Wheatland Elementary School now stands. The lodge met there until December 23, at which time they

met in the town hall of Wheatland. The lodge continued to meet in the town hall until the new Odd Fellows Hall was completed. The first meeting in the new hall was May 8, 1899. The lodge has continued to meet in this building until the present time.

Brother O.K. Roddan, P.M., recalls the building of the new building while he was a boy. A horse was used to hoist the brick for the wall. The horse was controlled with a cowbell. When the "skip" was loaded with brick a jangle of the cowbell would start and stop the horse.

The Masons had a share in the ownership of the Odd Fellows Hall Association which at one time the lodge offered to sell to the Odd Fellows at face value. The Odd Fellows offered to buy the share for seventy-five cents on the dollar. Members of Nicolaus Lodge turned down their offer. Finally in 1948 the Masons bought out the Odd Fellows and formed a new building association. Since that time many improvements have been made in the hall, kitchen and banquet room.

Perhaps the most notable of the early members of this lodge was Ansel Melen Bragg who is shown to be a Past Master in 1873 and withdrew in 1876. He was Master of Confidence Lodge No. 203 of Castorville before affiliating with Nicolaus 129. After withdrawing he went to Arizona where he became the first Grand Master of that jurisdiction when the Grand Lodge

of Arizona was organized in 1882. Later he returned to California and affiliated with Los Angeles Lodge No. 42 of which he was a member until his death in 1909.

Another notable member was William H. Beatty who was one of the eight who organized the lodge. He became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California.

Brother Amasa Wilder Oakley was also a person of some distinction. His son, George, also a Past Master of this lodge, used to relate that his father built the first house, first church, first saloon and another building in Grass Valley. He had 100 men in his crew. They worked with such teamwork that, including the making of all the doors, door frames and window frames by hand on the jobs he would take a contract to build a four or five room house, start on it in the morning and hand over the keys to the house at quitting time that same evening. It was finished!

James Hart, one of the charter members of the lodge, was Superintendent of Schools September 4, 1856 to November 9, 1857, at which time he resigned. He was also elected Coroner on June 3, 1857.

Crawford Holland, who was shown to have been a member of Nicolaus 129 in 1871 and was Master of this lodge, was the founder of the town of Wheatland. It is not certain whether he was raised in this lodge or came in by affiliation.

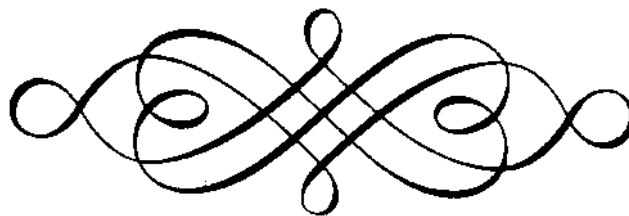
Tom Bevan, who is shown to

have become a member of this lodge by 1878 arrived at Nicolaus in 1858 at the age of five years. He came from New York to San Francisco on the ship Golden Gate, then up the river by steamer to Sacramento, then on to Nicolaus. When he was twelve years old his father was a blacksmith at Nicolaus. Tom had taken a job bucking straw for Peter Peters, a pioneer German rancher near Nicolaus. Peters didn't think much of banks and buried his money at the base of oak trees between the barn and the house. One Sunday when the horses had been tethered to the feed racks among the oaks Tom went out to tend them. His eyes bugged out when he saw one of the horses pawing up twenty dollar gold pieces. He ran and told John A. Peters, an old relation of Peter Peters. John Peters gathered up a hatful of the double eagles and carried them into the house. "Mein Gott, mein Gott!" Pete exclaimed. He hurried out and with a rake went over the ground and recovered the money. How much of it there was Tom didn't say, but when Peters sold his ranch some eight or ten years later, he dug up his "buried treasure," put it in sacks and hauled it, \$100,000 to the Marysville Savings Bank, taking a

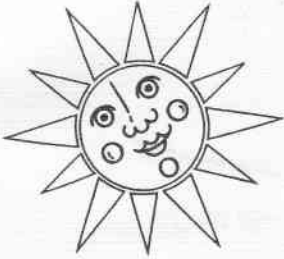
draft on a bank in Germany. He and his family returned to Germany where he died a few years later.

Another of our former secretaries, and Past Master, Henry Jasper, told of an incident that happened during the early days. A man was coming into the lodge who was somewhat of a pugnacious sort of fellow. Lodge members were telling him that he wouldn't be able to take it and he declared up and down that he would. Jasper said he bet that before the night was over he would back down. The candidate asked him how much he would bet. Jasper said, "A case of beer." About two weeks after the meeting a grocerman delivered a case of beer to Jasper.

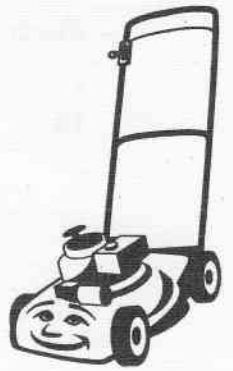
On May 14, 1958, Nicolaus Lodge 129 was host for the opening of Grand Lodge at the hall in Wheatland for the ceremony of laying the cornerstone for the new hail of Corinthian Lodge No. 9 in Marysville. Before opening lodge we were served a delicious dinner in Pioneer Hall in Wheatland. After the opening of lodge recess was called for the purpose of proceeding to Marysville for the laying of the cornerstone. Following that ceremony, Grand Lodge returned to Wheatland to close the lodge.



# Puzzle Page



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ALEX  
BOSTON  
CHARITABLE  
ENTERPRISE  
JENNIFER  
LODGE  
MARIAH  
MASONIC  
RILEY  
SCOTLAND

ARGUELLO  
BURTIS  
DENMARK  
GRAPES  
KUPSER  
MAIDU  
MARSHALL  
MEMBERSHIP  
SCHOOLHOUSE  
SUTTER



# Coming Events

## June

*Structures of Utility* exhibit continues at the Museum

## July

- 12 Historical Society **Potluck Picnic in the Park**, 5:30 p.m.  
Program: Cowboy Jack Bell's Western Music  
Howard Harter Memorial Park, behind the Museum  
Children's Summer Program at the Museum -  
check insert for details

## August

- 7 *Structures of Utility* exhibit ends
- 14 Sister Swing & Antique Autos at the Museum  
Autos at 6 p.m., *FREE* -- Sister Swing at 7 p.m., \$15 per person  
Tickets limited, available at the Museum or from any Museum  
Commissioner
- TBA Exhibit of local historic photos opens at the Museum  
(after the 14<sup>th</sup>)