

Vol. L No. 3

Yuba City, California

July 2008





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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 2008 dues are payable as of January 1, 2008. 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	\$ 20
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President's Message

Welcome Summer! And thanks to all of you who attended our summer picnic, in spite of the smoke. Fortunately, we had a pleasant breeze and the heat kept its distance. It's a far cry from two years ago when we had to cancel our July picnic because of so many 110+ degree days.

Our program was a presentation by Gennis Zeller of the Shady Creek (née Woodleaf) Outdoor Education Foundation. Gennis gave an entertaining talk about the history of outdoor education, the influence of Woodleaf on other outdoor education programs, and the future of the new Shady Creek organization.

Looking ahead, on **October 18** we'll be returning to Ruthy's for our annual luncheon. Our speaker will be Larry Harris of Yuba City, presenting "Sutter: The man, the county and the city." Look for information on securing your reservation in the next issue of the Bulletin.

We have a vacancy on our Board of Directors and are looking for someone energetic to step up and join us. And while there is no requirement that we have representatives from every part of the county, I have noticed lately that our board is made up of people from Yuba City and Live Oak. So while it would be nice to add a member from the west or south parts of the county, if you're from the north or east and have an interest in being on the board, don't be shy! Give me a call at 695-2965, or contact any of our board members.

Of course a common question about the board is, "What do you do, and if I join, what will be expected of me?" Well, our board has a quarterly luncheon meeting where we discuss Historical Society business. In addition, we ask that you attend, as much as possible, our membership meetings. We have projects, such as membership meeting preparation, the local Historical Faire, the spring bus trip and Buttes hike, and our survey of historical properties that always need a helping hand. There is no financial requirement other than membership in the Society and to buy your own lunch at the board meetings.

As a member, of course, you are always welcome to attend our board meetings just to see what's going on. Our board next meeting is Tuesday, September 16, at 11:30. If you're curious, feel free to attend. Please call any of our board members to let us know you're coming.

Audrey Breeding
President

Director's Report

A great favorite with men, women and whole families was the vintage motorcycle exhibit the Museum hosted several years ago. There has been an ongoing clamor to have the motorcycles come back, so, by popular demand and the gracious loan from their collector, we are pleased to say that you can see them at the Museum in July and August. Included are some very early 20th century models, plus some additions to the collection since it was shown here. Don't miss these legendary bikes coming to your Museum the second week of July.

At the end of September, we are looking forward to the traveling exhibit *Sing Me Your Stories*. This exhibit is a truly moving collection of California Native American art and poetry. There are so many wonderful things to learn about our very own native people, and this exhibit connects them heart and soul to the exhibit visitor.

Planning continues for the much-needed meeting room project behind the Museum. A team of talented and dedicated committee members is working hard to bring this project to fruition. If you would like to help or wish to donate toward the project, talk to the Museum staff.

I know, because many of you have inquired, that you are anxiously awaiting the debut of the Yuba City history book. I am pleased to finally be able to tell you that it will be available starting with a great kick-off event on September 4. On that Thursday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., the book *Yuba City, Our Hometown* will arrive and be available for sale. It sells for \$29.95 plus tax, and there may even be a few authors around to sign your copy! The delicious part is that the event involves an ice cream social, and you know what that means - our favorite creamy coldness topped with the yummy, goopy favorite topping of your choice with all the extras! The kickoff is a Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting event, so be at the Museum to get your copy of the centennial history and enjoy ice cream and all the festivities.

Although *Yuba City, Our Hometown* was written to commemorate the centennial of Yuba City's incorporation in 1908, Yuba City's history begins with our founding in July of 1849. Our book begins before the founding with prehistory and profiling of our native people. It weaves our story up to the present, with historic photos, vintage newspaper articles, and memories from the first settlers. You will learn why incorporating as a city was so important and what our challenges and joys were through the years. If you live in Yuba City or if you ever lived here, this is your story, our stories. We have never had our own history book before, so be sure to get your copy now.

I hope you are enjoying your summer, and remember that a very cool place to visit is your Museum - in every sense of the word!

Julie Stark
Director

Memorials

In Memory of **Neva Bohannan**
Louis & Betty Tarke

In Memory of **Barbara Burrow**
Jacqueline Lowe Clay
Dot & John Reische

In Memory of **Ron Carden**
W. C. McFarland

In Memory of **Mrs. Paul Chesini**
Sarah Pryor

In Memory of **Robert Coats**
Elaine Tarke & family

In Memory of **Jean Chandler Davies**
Dorothy Coats

In Memory of **Renzo A. Del Pero**
Dorothy Coats

In Memory of **Roberta Dudley**
Marie E. Fuller

In Memory of **Mary Corliss Dunning**
Deanna Schwartz

In Memory of **Kathryn Forderhase**
David & Elizabeth Beauchamp

In Memory of **Carolyn Garies**
J. Pieter Van Eckhardt

In Memory of **Leila Gillett**
Bud & Carmen Frye

In Memory of **Jean Gustin**
Norm & Loadel Piner
Jane Sarah Roberts

In Memory of **Elsie Jelavich**
Dorothy Coats

In Memory of **Doris J. Joaquin**
Tom & Suellen Teesdale
J. Pieter Van Eckhardt

In Memory of **Shirley King**
Ray & Shirley Anderson
Bob & Katie Bryant
Lois Cinnamond
Bud & Carmen Frye
Sharyl Simmons
Julie Stark
David & Gina Tarke
Elaine Tarke

In Memory of **Glenn Koball**
Joe Benatar

In Memory of **Paul Licari**
Joe Benatar
Connie Cary

In Memory of **Jane McPherrin**
Marnee Crowhurst
Sharyl Simmons

In Memory of **William Leonard Neal**
Bob & Sue Binse

In Memory of **Jacque MacLean Sexton**
Dorothy Redhair Coats

In Memory of **Randolph A. Schnabel**
Lane, Barbara & Jane Abbott
Mike & Helene Andrews
Howard & Ruth Anthony
John & Deanna Brierly
Nancy M. Bristow
Ken Calhoun
Jacqueline Lowe Clay
Dorothy Coats & Family
Babs Cotter
Marnee Crowhurst
Carmen Durso
Bob & Sandra Fremd

Memorials

In Memory of **R. A. Schnabel** (cont.)

Raona R. Hall
Susan & Robert Heath
Urban & Carol Kern
Tom & Norma Krull
Gene & Babs Lonon
Louise Miller
Rick & Jane Paskowitz
Norm & Loadel Piner
Sarah Pryor
Garron & Anita Reichers
John & Dorothea Reische
Joseph Roberts Family
John & Judy Schnabel
Orlin E. Schuler, Jr.
Ron & Laurie Schuler
Bob & Rosemary Shull
Mary Lou Samuelson Smith
Mary, Janet & Jim Spilman
Julie Stark
Cynthia Struckmeyer
Sutter Orchard Supply
Elaine Tarke & family
Louis & Betty Tarke
Burwell L. Ullrey

In Memory of **Aileen Stevens**

Marnee Crowhurst

In Memory of **Burwell W. Ullrey**

Jay Alexander
Ray & Shirley Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. David Arne
Joe & Rose Benatar
Nancy M. Bristow
Janna Brownstein
Butler Cleaners & Laundry
Elizabeth Campen
Paula Carder
Dorothy R. Coats
Marnee Crowhurst
Jennifer Daven
Al Davis Family

In Memory of **Burwell Ullrey** (cont.)

Joyce Dukes
George & Shyrlie Emery
Gene & Joan Erfle
Feather River Rod & Gun Club
Bob & Sandra Fremd
Gray Avenue Christian Church
Barbara Mosburg Green
Raona Hall
Joy Hammons
Joyce Mosburg Hansen
Larry & Min Harris
Bruce & Gini Harter
Eric & Teresa Hellberg
Max Hensen
Richard Jungas
Julie Large
Mr. & Mrs. Austin Lemenager
Mike Linteo
Louise Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Nelson
Kathryn O'Brien & Aurora Family
Norm & Loadel Piner
Albert Powell
Gordon & Paula Raub
Dorothea & John Reische
Shirley Schnabel & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Sebilian
Sharyl Simmons
Sutter Orchard Supply
David & Gina Tarke
Louis & Betty Tarke
Jane H. Ullrey
Albert & Mary Ulmer

In Memory of **Don Warren**

Connie Cary

In Memory of **Howard W. Woods**

Connie Cary
Tom & Suellent Teesdale

Judith Barr Fairbanks Memorial Essay Contest Winners – 2008

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.

Christina Hendricks, First Place
Teacher: Paula McBride, Faith Christian Elementary

Dear Kylie,

I miss you! Here are some things I have to tell you about coming to Sutter County. It was fun at first. You know, like sleeping outside every night hearing the birds sing. Then the trails became brutal. Ma gave me lumps of sugar to help my thirst go away. We also had no milk 'till we reached Sutter's Fort, north of Sutter County. Ma made me leave my dolls in the desert. I had worn the same clothes for days. I even wore the same petticoat every single day.

I was so caught up telling you things, that I forgot to tell you hi! Well, Ma and Pa miss you too. We all are anxious to hear from you. Everyone misses Kentucky, though Sutter County is nice.

When I first came here, I remember the beautiful flowers and the prairie grasses. Ma even sang for the first time since we left Kentucky. It was great knowing we were here in Sutter County.

When Pa started to build our house, a man walked up to him. He was telling him a story! Pa let us listen in, so I got to sit on his lap! I missed the first part, but here is what I remember. "Yuba was a native village near our county. A Spanish exploration named our rivers: Rio de Plumas, a river of feathers, Rio de Uvas, river of grapes, and Rio de Oso, Bear River." All of a sudden, I jumped in excitement and asked Ma, "Ma can I go gather feathers at Rio de Plumas?" Ma told me this, "Honey, let's finish our lovely story." The man whispered something into Pa's ear. Pa said the story was over. Then Ma and Pa took me to go gather feathers.

We are living on a nice grassy plain. Ma finally let me ride the paddle steamboat which we rode when we first got here. Pa is a farmer now. I have never seen so many animals before. Have you ever seen a quail before? Ma even loves the animals! Pa has been sick for a couple of weeks, so Ma and I have been taking care of the animals. Ma and I love to play tenpin alley. The weather hasn't been good so it is hard for Pa to get well. We are a state now. People are saying we have a flag, the

California Republic flag to be exact. The rain has just stopped and the sun is coming out! Pa's up again and he isn't sick anymore! Ma's gardening again! There is a rainbow! Ma and I are about to go pick berries! Pa's going to grab some corn and squash for dinner. John Sutter is riding away! I wonder why he is moving? We found out Hock Farm, John Sutter's home, burned down. John Sutter ended up moving to Pennsylvania.

Well got to go now!
Can't wait to see you!
Love, Your Friend, Lucy Green

Allyse Brewster, Second Place

Teacher: Connie Robinson, Nuestro Elementary School

Dear Family,

I'm finally here in Sutter. It was a long, grueling trip here! I was so flabbergasted at how many people died from scurvy and many, many more diseases that have turned fatal. I was very glad that my friend I met on the way here, Camille, did not get deathly ill, unlike the others. I sure hope everyone in France is okay! Oh, and mother do give my regards to Miss Sally in the old mart. I miss her delicious banana nut bread.

Sutter is such an amazing place. I wish I could share the view with all of you. There are these big, hill shaped pieces of land called the Sutter Buttes. I also have seen what felt like three hundred animals! I saw jack rabbits, frogs, deer and I even saw a porcupine! Oh, and I can't forget to tell you a very amusing story. I was unpacking my things in the cabin my friend Ella found up on two hills. I was done with mine so I went out for a walk. I saw this bench-looking seat so I sat down. Out of nowhere a Red-tailed hawk swoops down and sits right next to me! Then I turned to see what made the noise on the bench and there it was. I shrieked in surprise so loud that it flew away, but then something more appealing came and sat down next me, just like the hawk did.

It was a young man named John Peterson. We started talking about animals, nature, where we are staying, and where we came from. He came from Europe. After we were done he said he wanted to go on a walk and asked me to accompany him. I said okay and we went walking on a trail that he knew of. On the way I saw some beautiful flowers such as Baby Blue Eyes, Morning Glory, and Lupine. As the walk continued I figured out where we were going. He was taking me to see some Maidu Indians! Some of the women were weaving baskets and some men were building some new houses.

It was very exciting watching all of this. You'd think I'd be tired by now, but I'm really not!

So, since I was feeling adventurous, I wanted to pan for gold. I wasn't planning on doing this until I was really ready, but I wanted to go now! I mean that's why I came here right? Well, it didn't happen like I wanted it to. It is very hard work panning for gold! I didn't get anything, even if I did, I wouldn't have known it. I

really want to talk to John Sutter. He is such an inspiration! Well, I'll be sure to send you another letter.

Love, Audrina

Skye White, Third Place

Teacher: Mrs. Wendy Rosell, Pleasant Grove School

Dear Granma,

We arrived at our new home in New Helvetia today. I couldn't wait to tell you Granma, the trip has been so exciting. It was just three days ago we arrived at Sutter's Fort. Things have happened so fast I haven't had time to write. My head is spinning. I don't know if it's from the heat, the lack of food, or the long, long trip from Illinois or just all the excitement buzzing around me. We were at the fort but a day when Pa hooked up with a man named Samuel Gray and headed up the south part of the Feather River to a gold claim. Two days later, Ma and me sailed up the Sacramento River in a steamboat to the Feather to Sutter's Hock Farm. Ma got a job baking for the workers there and I get to help her.

The land is so strange and it's very hot sometimes in the afternoon, if we are hot and not so busy, they let me walk along the banks of the Feather River and pick buckets of berries and a strange, sweet, little round purple fruit that grows wild along the banks called grapes. They make such sweet pies, Granma, you don't even have to add sugar. Sometimes when Ma is baking, it reminds me of your warm, sweet Johnny cakes you baked every Sunday morn. I really miss you, Granma.

I hope soon we can get enough gold to send for you. Ma and I want to build a cabin up on Pa's claim when we save enough money.

The people are nice at Sutter's farm, and many of them are from other far away places. There are a couple of California workers that tend the animals, two Irish men that work on the boats that are mighty friendly and laugh all the time. Most of the grown men are gone in the gold fields so it's pretty much women and young-uns like me here. I hear Mr. Sutter is off on a buying trip so we are yet to know him. I also hear there's a town just west of here called Yuba City. It's west of the river and ma says Mr. Sutter sold some of his property land to a man named Sam Brannan and his men to start a trash center there on the river. When Pa comes back, this is where we will go and trade his gold for supplies like fabric and flowers. Ma and I really need new shoes, ours are all worn out and we are wearing Indian moccasins Pa got at the Fort.

Oh, I almost forgot. The most beautiful thing of this new land is when you look out across the flat valley to the north, right there sits a small mountain range. It just upped up all on its own. It sits against the night sky like a magic hideaway. I hope some day we can travel up there to see it some time. The local folks say it's mighty pretty in the summer with purple and white wild flowers.

I will write more later. I will miss your smile and warm hugs.

Love Always, Mary Beth

Sutter City

by
Clyde "Brud" Perry

I just read Mrs. Eunice Clark's story of Sutter City in her era. Mrs. Clark was a very nice lady and very understanding. Us noisy kids used to swim across the street from her house. No complaints. She was very active in Native Daughters and knew all four hundred people in town. Just guessing at the population. Sutter had two ends of town with five paved streets. California at Nelson and Acacia at South Butte House past the cemetery were also paved. The rest were dirt with lots of holes.

At the north end of town, a couple hundred feet north of Nelson on the east side of California was Fred Briggs' garage. Across the street was the Post Office. Going south was Johnny Carston's grocery store, the Winter Garden Dance Hall, later a skating rink, and on the corner, Scotty McLean's bar and candy store - pool and poker also. Scotty always gave us kids a couple extra jawbreakers when we got candy.

At the south end of town, Acacia and South Butte Road was the talk of the town - a huge oak tree in the middle of South Butte Road. On the northeast corner was the Methodist Church. Across Acacia was Milt Victor's bar and Archie Kimball's grocery store. Across the street past the huge oak in the middle of the road was Lundby's Garage and grocery store. Around the corner and down Acacia a ways was Al Lemenager's garage and Bill McFarland's eating joint. Farther down Acacia were the railroad tracks and Depot along with the Frank and Robert

Close Lumber Company which is still a family run business. The railroad tracks are gone, but the train used to run from Marysville to Colusa twice daily. We rode the train many times from Sutter.

Probably the biggest event in Sutter history was when the Native Sons and PG&E put lights on the grammar school field. Everyone from Marysville and Yuba City had teams. I forget all the teams but some were the Native Sons, State Water Resources, Meridian Mudhens, Harter's Cannery, and a couple of others. There was no television in those days so there were usually good crowds. The ladies also had a team and played before the men. My mom, Alice, was on the lady's team and my father, Tub, played on the men's team. I don't remember all the players, but some were Ed Haines, Chet Corell, Chet Lathrop, Pete Ippuchi, Mudhen Phillips and more. Harold Paxton and Ted Winship used to announce the games. Sometimes the lady's team opponents wouldn't show so Harold would have me get a team of kids together to play a couple innings before the men. I always thought that was a big deal for a twelve year old.

The Sutter Buttes are next. I couldn't talk about Sutter without mentioning the Buttes. As kids, we climbed to the top of every hill: North Butte, South Butte, West Butte, Lover's Leap, and any other hill. Us kids rolled rocks off of every hill. Finally they stopped us when one went through a fence. They still have early morning

Easter services at the cross - pretty big event.

Back to town and the big oak in the middle of the road where Alfred Burger would park while having a few beers at Milt Victor's bar. Alfred Burger was our hero. He was at the Pearl Harbor bombing. We also lost the Hunnington Brothers in the war. Most of us seventeen-year-old high school students enlisted in the service because we were going to be drafted anyway. Some were Milt DeGroot, Stan

Putman, Louis Tarke, Hardy McFarland, Art Rhodda. They were also drafting men around 40 years old.

The population in those days was around four hundred, dogs, cats and all. Just a guess, not many paved roads, but all paved now and guessing about four thousand people.

My era in Sutter City ended around 1945. Mrs. Clark's era and mine cover Sutter City from about 1900 to 1945. One of you younger - after 1945 - residents will have to take it from here.

Frederick Faust – A Yuba City Connection

by

Carol Withington

The marriage of Dorothy Schillig to Frederick Faust on May 29, 1917 was a simple one. It was a Tuesday morning ceremony at the home of the bride's parents at 222 C Street in Yuba City. The Rev. Mark Rifenbark, pastor of the Episcopal Church in Marysville, officiated. The bride wore her mother's white silk crepe wedding dress. Only close friends and relatives were present.

Following the ceremony, the couple left on the eleven o'clock train for San Francisco where they would then proceed on their journey to New York, by way of New Orleans. It appears that Dorothy's father, Lawrence Schillig, a prominent Yuba City attorney, was not very pleased with the marriage. The couple had little in common. Dorothy was a graduate of the University of Berkeley

and a former president of the Marysville High School student body. She was described as a genteel, intelligent and beautiful young woman.

Belle Schillig, Dorothy's mother, liked Faust from the onset. She saw something promising in this young man. Perhaps she sensed he was a survivor who had surmounted many obstacles throughout his young life. Perhaps it was his tragic background that had given Faust an inner peace.

Frederick Faust was a large, unpolished young man who had been raised in poverty in the San Joaquin Valley. He was an orphan by the time he was thirteen years old. He then lived with various relatives, working on farms and ranches. He found refuge in books at an early age and wrote poems and stories every spare minute. A turning point in his life occurred when

his high school principal, Thomas Downey, a distant relative, took Faust into his home where the young man was introduced to a new world of classic literature.

Encouraged by Downey, Faust set off for the University of Berkeley, where he worked nights to pay his way and often slept during his classes. Although a star of the campus literary magazine and considered a genius by some, Faust was denied graduation on grounds of unexcused absences from class, although the real reason was more personal.

Benjamin Wheeler, the University's president, took Faust's past remarks such as "Ideals are bunk" and "Why should I worry about ideals as long as I have ideas" as an affront to the ideals embodied by the University and denied Faust his diploma to serve as an example to the rest of the student body. Failure to graduate would haunt Faust for the remainder of his life. When offered an honorary degree from the University of California years later, he refused it.

Faust first met Dorothy during her sophomore year at an English Club dance at the Hotel Oakland. It was love at first sight and a whirlwind romance ensued. The couple became secretly engaged and during the Easter holidays in 1915, Faust accompanied Dorothy to Yuba City to meet her family. Their marriage plans were not revealed, however.

Without his college degree, Faust now found it impossible to suggest an immediate marriage. He decided instead to go to Hawaii, make money, achieve status and come back in a few years and marry Dorothy, who would have finished college by then.

The long distance romance continued via letters. "I see in you my perfect woman. Guinevere, the queen Sappho, the poetess, Aspasia, the mistress, and Mary Smith - healthy wholesome mother, U. S. A." Their engagement was announced in Berkeley and Oakland newspapers.

At one point, Faust proposed they break off their engagement on grounds of incompatibility, but Dorothy asked him to forgive her selfishness for trying to interpose her love between him and his career. Dorothy graduated, moved back to Yuba City and waited. Faust, on the other hand, failed to keep her aware of his plans for them. This time Dorothy decided to break the engagement and by mid-May, 1917, began making plans to marry a young lawyer. But Faust persevered and after selling the motion picture rights for one of his stories, ironically called *Fate's Honeymoon*, he and Dorothy wed on his 25th birthday.

The Fausts' first home was a studio on Gramercy Park South in New York. The premises were too large for their needs, however, so they found a three-room apartment at 49 East 10th Street. Faust also retained his bachelor quarters on East 63rd Street and Dorothy's first visit was something of a shock. She had fantasized that the "old world charm" Faust had described to her consisted of a wine-colored velvet carpet, brass at a fireplace and chintz draperies. Instead she saw a cracked ceiling, a white iron bedstead and stained and yellowing wallpaper.

On March 29, 1918, Dorothy gave birth to their first child, a daughter, whom they named Jane. They had hoped for a son and had even named him Jim, planning his career up until the time he became a classical scholar

and budding epic poet, Faust's lifelong dream. Somewhat disappointed that it was a girl, Dorothy announced, "Dear, maybe a girl is better now, because a boy has to have his father with him all the time, and you must go to war before long."

However, when Faust presented himself to the draft board, he was rejected initially and later assigned to the Army Engineers at Camp Humphreys, Virginia. It was a bitter disappointment for Faust.

Following his discharge after the Armistice, Faust began writing western stories. Some critics believed that Faust introduced old world myth in the new world west. *The Untamed*, his first western, sold about a million copies and was made into a motion picture at least three times.

With a successful first western, Frederick Faust focused his attention on the publication *Western Story*, where he received five cents a word. He needed the money. A son, John, was born on November 7, 1919 and Dorothy's health was failing. Faust began work at once and in one thirteen-day period in October 1920, turned out two long serials and a novelette - 190,000 publishable words and three complete books. He managed this fete in a downtown office completely engulfed in noise. He drowned out the noise with the banging of his typewriter as he hunted and pecked his way page after page.

Dorothy, however, was under severe strain. She suffered a nervous breakdown followed by a separation from Faust who went on a "working trip" to Europe. Within a few months, Faust returned to the States. Then his health gave way and he was diagnosed as having fibrillation or "fluttering" of

the heart. Fibrillation was a little understood condition and was widely regarded as disastrous. Faust was warned to lead a "quiet life." He defied the medical experts, however, and began to exercise in order to get his strength back. He believed instinctively that it was the only way he would survive.

Soon Faust was back to his old pace. He was fast becoming the King of Pulp Writers. He wrote so much that he used twenty different pen names on the advice of editors who told him that the public would not accept so many stories from one writer.

Max Brand was his best known pen name, and he created many fictitious characters such as Dr. Kildare and Destry. Dr. Kildare became an immensely successful series of movies in the 1940s. The fictional Dr. Kildare was based on Faust's best friend, Dr. George "Dixie" Fish. Lew Ayres starred as Dr. Kildare with Lionel Barrymore as the cantankerous Dr. Gillespie. During 1961-66, television audiences enjoyed the Dr. Kildare series once again with Richard Chamberlain as Dr. Kildare and Raymond Massey as Dr. Gillespie.

Faust created Destry as a reluctant western hero. Although *Destry Rides Again* has reportedly been filmed five times, it was captured best in the 1939 Hollywood classic starring James Stewart as Destry and Marlene Dietrich as Frenchie. *Destry* also opened as a play at the Imperial Theatre in New York on April 23, 1959 with Andy Griffith as Destry and Dolores Gray as Frenchie. The play closed after 472 performances.

Over the years Faust wrote in almost every genre - detective, western, sports, romance, history, adventure and science fiction. His

scope seemed unlimited. Once he said to a friend as they were observing the sky from his rooftop, "The boundaries of men's minds are as limitless as those of the universe."

Dorothy's life was as demanding as her husband's as she devoted herself to Faust as companion, secretary, nurse and wife. Their third child, Judy, was born in 1927. The demands of another baby plus the knowledge that Faust was having an affair caused Dorothy to suffer another nervous breakdown.

In 1931 Dorothy left Faust, who remained at their villa in Florence, Italy. A year later while she was visiting in Yuba City, Faust wrote Dorothy: "This is too damned ridiculous. I mean to say, after a man has been married fifteen years, he ought to be able to navigate quite well with his woman out of sight." He apparently could not and Faust convinced Dorothy to come back to him.

When the U. S. entered World War II, Faust focused his life on getting

into the war so he could "write stories of individuals in action." Although his family and friends opposed the idea because of his age and health problems, Faust eventually became a correspondent for *The Infantry Journal* and *Harper's Magazine*.

Faust boarded the train in California for New York in February 1944. He was assigned as a combat correspondent in Italy. When learning his company was to spearhead a major attack in May, Faust insisted he be a part of it. He was killed in the battle of Santa Maria Infante along with a large percentage of his Division.

The night he was killed, Dorothy had a dream in which she heard him say her name very clearly, as if he were nearby and needed her. The next morning she told her daughter, Jane, what had happened. That afternoon they heard Faust had been wounded. The family was notified of his death the following day. He died 17 days short of his 52nd birthday.

Something for kids of every age at the museum

Little kids and their parents are invited to meet the Sierra Muzzleloaders in their camp behind the museum in the Howard Harter Park **July 16, 2008 at 10 a.m.** Watch a flint knapper practice his art; learn the secrets of the mountain men and a way of life that disappeared long ago. Refreshments will be served at the end of the program.

For the big kids, and their little kids, the current exhibit at the museum is a display of Antique Motorcycles. Due to popular demand and interest, the motorcycles are on display through August.

For more information, call the Museum at 822-7141.

As always, admission is free!

Fifty Years of Baseball

by

Harold J. (Sam) Sperbeck

(A member requested we reprint the following article from the October 1977 Bulletin. It's baseball season and while folks are watching the Gold Sox play in what many still remember as Bryant Field, it's a good time to reflect on baseball's history in our community. In the following article the author recalled baseball as it was played from the late 1920s to the 1970s. Sam Sperbeck served as Mayor of Marysville and as a Yuba County supervisor. He represented the third generation of a Yuba County pioneer family and graduated from Marysville High School in 1928.)

With the coming of TV, better roads and highways, major league baseball is familiar to the Northern California area. While there are several little league programs, semi-pro baseball is dead in the Yuba-Sutter area. The Marysville city dads, not too long ago, saw fit to tear down the not-too-old Bryant field grandstand and facilities and now use it for little league games and other recreational uses. Many of the real baseball fans remember when the park, stands, etc. were dedicated to the late and long-time Mayor Dan Bryant. It was built in the Roosevelt days under WPA. It was a beautiful park and a real asset to the community. However, with no semi-pro teams and the high schools and Yuba College having their own facilities, there was really no use to continue its existence. Yuba City, too, had a good field and facilities but it is no longer used for baseball. There were many local diamonds throughout the bi-county area as most every community had a ball club which they supported well.

The town of Hammonton, which had quite a few residents and business houses, had one of the better local fields. This was largely due to and with cooperation of neighbors of the late

Emmett Schofield (a former pro player and a true lover of the game). He managed and coached the team which produced many well-known names in baseball both as semi-pro and professionals. They include Gene Brocker, later with the San Francisco Seals; Harold "Goldie" McFarland, who went to the San Francisco Missions. Ray Brocker was also in line for a pro contract but a war injury cut his career short as a pro.

Others who made the name well respected in Valley League play included "Wild Bill" Monahan, Vint Spencer, Elmer and Frank Newman, Joe Colt, Bill McFarland, Bill O'Brien, Al Goss, Jr., Garland Bachman and no doubt more that do not come to mind for the moment.

Hammonton played in the Foothill League with such competitors as Wheatland, Linda, Browns Valley, Dobbins, District Ten, Rackerby, Smartsville and usually a team from Marysville including the Marysville Foresters. This was managed by the late Elmer Arnoldy, who later umpired in the Valley League and Beach Brothers. All these were not in the league at the same time. The fields for play were not all in the same class as Hammonton. Some often needed a

detail to clear the cow-paddies off the diamond prior to game time. Anyway, some real baseball was played and the spirits ran high. Usually there was a fight or two among the fans before the game ended.

Just about the same situation existed in the old Peach League with teams such as Sutter, Barry, Live Oak, Nicolaus, Gridley and a Yuba City entry. The Peach League was fortunate in that most of its team had level ground to train and play on. Some greats were developed in the Sutter County League. Remember Lefty Gomez of the Yanks? He pitched at one time for Barry. Then there was the fiery, umpire-baiting Dick Griffith from Sutter, Red Graham from Sutter, Andy Schmidt from the Barry area, Red Adam from Yuba City, "Dazzleball" Scotten from Yuba City, and Fireman Flynn, who was associated with several clubs at different times. There was Chub Ohleyer and the beloved late Clyde "Tub" Perry, and Bobby Gallagher from the Nicolaus-Rio Oso area, who caught at one time for the St. Marys College varsity. Perry, after pitching for the great Sutter High teams, played a short period of semi-pro ball then went with the San Francisco Seals but for personal reasons quit pro ball and came home to pitch for the Marysville Giants in the Valley League. "Butter" Cole, who ran a good Gridley team as a player-manager, later made his name well known in Sacramento semi-pro ball.

Speaking of the Sutter High team, it was usually a play-off for the area title between Marysville High and Sutter. Those days high school ball had much more support from students and fans than nowadays.

I recall my dad bringing me down from the gold acres of the foothills,

Browns Valley, to watch the Sutter-Marysville game at the old Third Street baseball park. The game matched Clifford Gottwals, a truly great chucker, against "Tub" Perry, of Sutter. It was Dick Griffith catching for Sutter and Logan Franklin catching for Marysville. It was a whale of a game with the Indians winning, as I recall, by a single run. The winners played Sacramento High but lost in a tight game at Sacramento.

Gottwals later pitched for Santa Clara University. His backup man, and a great one, who took over the starting role on the mound for the Marysville Indians was Edgar "Nuts" Brown, a truly great lefthander. Brown, impeded due to the unfortunate and never-should-have-been "color rule," was a sure shot for the majors. His favorite catcher was Sandy Hatton, also black and a colorful performer on the diamond.

There were several good ball clubs in the local area in the early days. The first was probably Mack's Colored Giants, an independent club, which was not afraid of any club, anywhere at any time. Just to mention a few were the Brown Boys, the Churchill Brothers and Clarence Pogue. The late Henry "Bunk" Logan was one of the leaders of this club and later for many years was the main grounds-keeper for the Marysville Giants in the old Trolley and Valley Leagues. Bunk never missed a game and all agreed that nobody, not even Jack Dooley, could "fix" an infield like Henry.

Then there was the Marysville Japanese Community team. It, too, was an independent but one of the better playing outfits ever to be developed in the bi-county area. They had their own field in the thirties in East Marysville. It is now covered by

homes. I had the honor, and the chance to make a buck, to umpire their home games. Having done a bit of umpiring in the area this was the finest club or school I ever worked for. No umpire baiting and the "ump" was the boss. Speaking of umpiring, I was working a game for the local Negro team one Sunday afternoon and my good friend, Clarence Pogue, now deceased, gave me too much lip over a call and I sent him to the showers. He never forgot it, over the many later years and during our long friendship.

As my editor wanted early baseball history of our community, we may as well start in 1908 when the Hub City team played under the name of the Hub City Merchants. Included on this squad were Elmer Booth, "Tuffy" Spillman, Jack Wallace, Lou Harris, George Saunders, Frank M. Booth, Sr., father of Frank Jr., who made his mark in later years as a basketball star at Marysville High and Santa Clara University, and is now a prominent local businessman and civic leader; Russ Kane, Bill Spillman, Manager, Jim Russell and Clarence Hopkins. This was a good team according to Hedley "Pot" Hall, who was crooning in big-time show business as well as attempting to keep up with his brothers, Francis, Mick, Bob and Edwin. The latter two have since passed on.

After this team carried the hub banner for several years, the Trolley League was organized in 1913. The league was named after the old Sacramento Northern Railroad which operated passenger service between Marysville, Yuba City, Woodland, Colusa, Chico and Oroville. The fans would charter a car on Sundays to travel to the games. The late Andy Galligan is reported to have been the

MC on the Marysville delegation and is said to have been a real showman in those days. The latter information was given by the late Phil Divver, Jr.

Teams comprising the first Trolley League were Woodland, Willows, Oroville, Chico, Marysville, and Colusa. The late beloved and brilliant Marysville attorney, Richard Belcher, was the first president. Others who served as head of the league were Jack Dooley, "Mr. Baseball" for years in Northern California, Jack Kelly, and W. P. Rich.

Included in the men who performed in this circuit were Harry Hooper, Boston team, who won a world series with two home runs and was later inducted into the baseball hall of fame. Hooper was a member of the famous Boston outfield of Hooper, Speaker and Lewis. Dewitt Lebroueau went with the Philadelphia team.

One of the greats in this league was Francis "Hira" Hall, who is now a local real estate broker. Hall, a hub native, played local ball and then went to Santa Clara University where he played varsity ball as a catcher. Francis had a season's batting average in 1916 of .385. His brother Mick, also a local businessman, beat out Hira in home runs but could not match the latter's batting average. Francis later played a hitch with the San Francisco Seals of the Coast League. Mick also played pro ball with Salt Lake, of the same league.

The Trolley League folded in 1917 when the President went to serve in World War I. That was Major Jack Dooley.

In 1941 the Valley League was formed with almost the same clubs with some changes during its existence including teams from Sacramento and

Gridley for several years. Some of the players were Charley Clark of Sacramento, Attorney Albert Sheets also of Sacramento, and the late Felix Daoust of Marysville. This league also was responsible for several boys going to pro ball including Gene Bocker, a Marysville civic leader; Ken Brock, also a catcher, to Sacramento for a brief period; Clyde "Tub" Perry, to San Francisco; Hank Demaree, an outfielder from Marysville went to the Sacramento Scions and soon after to the Chicago Cubs, where he was a standout for several years. Harold "Goldie" McFarland, from Hammonton, played pro ball for the old San Francisco Missions. This team, during its period of operations, trained in Marysville at the old Third Street park.

Getting back to the Trolley League for a moment, the late Charley Hust was enticed to come to Marysville to catch for the Giants. He was employed by the J. R. Garrett Company and later became the founder of Hust Bros. auto equipment store and built it into one of the largest of its kind in Northern California. Charley was a true civic leader and was mayor of the city at one time.

A number of players of the Valley League either became or were ex-law enforcement people. They included Dick Hoskins, later Sheriff of Nevada County; Percy Gassoway, Police Chief of North Sacramento; Joe Rooney, later Chief of Police of Sacramento; "Fat" Anfinson, later Chief of Police of Colusa; Larry Gillick, later, still is, and probably will be as long as he wants to, Sheriff of Butte County; Arch Yelle, Woodland Police Chief; Art Kohler, who managed Redding and also caught, later became Chief of Police in Redding; John Couch,

Marysville pitcher, became a member of the California Highway Patrol; and Ed Anthony later became a Marysville Fire Department Captain. Chauncey Tramutolo, who Marysville brought up from Santa Clara University, later became U.S. Attorney in San Francisco.

The official scorer for Marysville was the late Charley Redman, who had the record of never missing a game. He was later succeeded by the late Ed Burt, a Marysville sports writer and Bill Conlin, now with the Bee, was Burt's alternate. Other well-known names who helped make the league a success were Warren Davidson, Wick Straub, Joe Sauer, Arch Davidson, Jack Fredricks, the late Harry Hughes, Lou Anthony, a great ball player, and later "king of the umpires," the immortal Sam Stassi, Sr. and no doubt many more and too numerous to mention in this brief story covering a great era in the hearts of old timers of the Yuba-Sutter community.

Getting back to pros who performed in the two leagues, the names of Big Bill James, Sailor Stroud and Bill Wright should have been included as well as Merlyn Anthony, who later became an American League umpire as did the late Dick Lamb, who worked in the Coast League. And now we have Jim Quick of Yuba City, working in the American League.

At different times in the Valley League, Grass Valley and Yuba City were members. The Bears from Yuba City were managed by the colorful, energetic and very vocal Fred "Stormy" Briggs, a Sutter businessman. Fred would make Charley Finley, of Oakland, sound like a very mild man who seldom changes his mind. He personally financed high-paid ball players to the Bear camp. Needless to say the

Marysville-Yuba City game was challenged only by the rivalry of the two high schools. Fred's theory was win or get out. Stanley "Scotty" McLean was the field boss of the Bears.

In 1927 the Babe Ruth-Lou Gehrig barnstorming combination came to Marysville and played an all-star group of players. I remember it well because our good principal, the late Curtis Warren, dismissed school for the game.

As I recall Glenn Potter, the Hall Brothers, Sam Betty, Babe Burdick, Tub Perry, Sam Stassi, Sr., Ted Zackney, Wiz Pappa, the colorful and lovable Stanley "Scotty" McLean, the pride of Sutter, all took part in the contest which was a real treat to ball fans of this area. This game was arranged and made possible by Joe Sauer, Wick Straub, Jack Dooley and local businessmen.

Speaking of Dooley, who came to Marysville from Oroville, he ran the Giants when they were in the league for years and also when they played independent ball. Dooley and Bunk Logan would get to the park early to fix the diamond and often to clean up glass, etc. after a carnival. Dooley no doubt has contributed more to the success of the national past-time than any other person in Northern California.

One of the longest games in old-time history was the Marysville-Hammonton game played some 40 years ago that went to 21 innings with Marysville finally winning. Jim Wiggs pitched for Hammonton and Fred Mariot for the Miners.

Two men who assisted Dooley and others with the Giants were Bert and Harry Collins. Vince Fasano was Jack's batboy and years later was one

of the best infielders in the Valley. He gave Dooley all of the credit for his success.

Fred Basano of Lincoln pitched for the Marysville Giants in 1942 and went from here to Oakland, of the Coast League, and did quite well. His son, Fred Jr., will play quarterback at U.C. Berkeley this fall.

I might include that Marysville was represented for a short period in the Far West Class D League in 1947. The team, the Chiefs, played good ball but the "gate" did not justify them to continue.

At the start of World War II, the Valley circuit folded and the Giants played independent ball before overflowing crowds. Vic Pitts was the team manager, Harold W. Keeley, secretary-treasurer and yours truly was the business manager. Later the team was run by John Patrick McGowan, the sage of Linda, and following McGowan, Earl Yortin directed for a year or two and then it folded. But that is not "old times" so we will not elaborate on those activities at this time.

No doubt many names and happenings are being omitted but it covers a long period and quite a number of years. One great baseball series created in Marysville was the annual East-West old timers' game. Funds received raised around \$5,000 for Boy Scout uses such as camp improvement and sending needy and deserving boys to scout camp. Nick Scandalis, long time Marysville political boss, was the commissioner of the game and sold most of the tickets. The West team was headed by Jim Barrett, Sr. and Tom Ryan while the East team was run by Jack Barrett, Sr. and the long-time levee boss Carl T. "Red" Syvertsen. D Street was supposed to

have been the dividing line but they came from as far away as Sutter and Wheatland.

It was a lot of fun and for a good cause. The game started in 1930 and ran for about 10 years.

The writer wishes to thank the following nice people for providing some information on this subject: namely, Jack Dooley and his wife, Dora, for her patience; Vic Pitts, who spent all the time allocated talking about his batting average (life time) .184; Hira Hall, who did not forget his 1916 season's average of .385; Gene Brocker, who wanted to say more about his trip with the San Francisco Seals to Japan, but he was warned this concerned the Yuba-Sutter area only.

More About the Author

While in high school H. J. Sam Sperbeck assisted Glenn Potter, the fine Marysville coach, who turned out those great teams of the late twenties. Sam was the student team manager. He almost lost that job when he did not have a supply of shoestrings in his equipment kit and Charley Baird, now retired from the Internal Revenue Department, broke his shoestring in a title playoff game. Potter cooled off and retained the student manager. At the next game for the Northern California title there was an ample supply of shoestrings for the Marysville Indians!

Sperbeck later organized the Browns Valley Cubs baseball team which won the Yuba County Foothill league title and played the Sutter City team. This team had won the Peach league title in the "Little World Series" played on a neutral diamond at Barry. Fred "Stormy" Briggs managed the Sutter Team. That was back in 1928.

Sperbeck later was president of the Foothill League following the several terms of the late Harvey D. Eich, who did a good job. Eich was treasurer-tax collector of Yuba County and Fred Heiken, also now deceased, held the same job in Sutter County and was president of the Peach League. Linda and Wheatland had teams for a short while too.

Drafted by the late Joe Sauer, top man with the Marysville Giants, the author served as vice chairman of the Foothill Club. Quite a few years later, while serving as the sports editor of the Marysville Appeal-Democrat, he joined up with Vic Pitts and Harold Keeley and took over the Giants when the league folded at the start of World War II. The team played to standing room only at the old Bryant Field. The club played independent ball.

Sperbeck managed the Pi Delta Koppa basketball team which had the top record in Northern California in non-scholastic competition. The team played tough independent clubs and also teams including St. Mary's College, University of Santa Clara, Oakland Athens Club, Chico State, Yuba College and many more.

Later Sperbeck managed Company F, Marysville baseball unit of the California National Guard to the State championship which the "hub" team won in the final series with Los Angeles in that City.

Sperbeck is a past president of the Northern California old timer baseball association and last fall was voted into the association's hall of fame for his contribution to athletics and sports, through his efforts as a "team manager, promoter and sports writer."

The author has been active and

still is in many civic and public affairs of his home community. A few include past president local Chamber of Commerce, past president Marysville Exchange Club, Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, past president of Northern California League of Cities, and past president of Sacramento-Mother Lode 14-county supervisors'

Association. He first went on the Yuba County Board of Supervisors in 1949 and has served as chairman a number of times. Sperbeck and his wife Betty have eight children and 15 grandchildren. Under former Governor Edmund G. Brown, he served as civil defense and disaster coordinator in Northern California.



Yuba City Bears circa 1930
Courtesy of Community Memorial Museum

Meridian Memories

by
France Peters

This story is excerpted from an interview conducted by Linda Leone in March, 1997.

I was born France Emilienne Garmire. My mother was born in France, and I've often said I am grateful she wasn't born in Czechoslovakia. I was a World War I baby, conceived in France and delivered in Sacramento.

My father, Frank Elva ("elvy") Garmire was the son of Luther Garmire and the nephew of Preston Garmire. Luther and Preston came west, and Luther settled in the Imperial Valley, Preston in Meridian. Dad came to work for Uncle Press, which is how my family ended up in Meridian.

One morning we got up to find the area covered with ash. "Somewhere there's a terrible forest fire," they said. Aunt Mattie had a phone, and she got a call from Colusa and heard that Mount Lassen had exploded. She also heard that at night they would be able to see the mountain on fire.

And it was true. By getting up on the levee, everyone could see first just a glow, and later, maybe the next night, the fire on the mountain.

I wish I had a picture of Aunt Mattie's phone. She was the operator. The phone had a whole bunch of holes and little jacks sticking up. There were all these wires underneath where she kept it and one time I got in trouble by braiding the wires. Aunt Mattie would put the plug in the right jack and crank the phone the number of times to get another person on the line.

The telephone wire ran on the fence line. Uncle Press maintained the

phone line, which went on the fence to Colusa. The ranch was outside of Meridian, about a half mile from Lovey's Landing on the Colusa side.

Out at the ranch, my mother and daddy could call anybody in the whole ranch area without going through the operator. One bell was the operator.

People wanting to call someone didn't always know the number, they would just tell Aunt Mattie, "well, I need to talk to so and so," and she'd put two in two jacks at one time and they could talk.

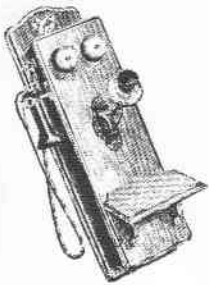
Uncle Press died about 1932. Aunt Mattie gave up the phone, but I don't know if that's when she did so. The moved into Meridian and a cousin Albertson and also Sylvia Garmire Mayfield manned the phone in town.

I also remember the barges, which used to come up the river and Uncle Press' warehouse had a slip over the river and he could put the sacks of grain the would "woosh" onto the barge. I can remember standing there watching the barge go down and down and one time I said, "Uncle Press, you're going to sink that boat!"

I can also remember - you're going to think this is terrible - the outhouse was over the river and it had three holes, two big ones and one little one. Of course, I used the little one and I used to hang on for ear life 'cause you'd see that water going under and I figured I didn't want to fall into the river. But can you imagine having an outhouse over the river now days?

Puzzle Page

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Christina	Destry
Fairbanks	Faust
France	Hammonton
Kildare	Meridian
Muzzleloaders	Perry
Pogue	Schillig
Sierra	Skye
Sperbeck	Trolley



Coming Events

July

- 16 Children's Program at the Museum, 10:00 a.m.
Sierra Muzzleloaders' Camp
- 8 *Antique Motorcycles* exhibit opens at the Museum

August

Antique Motorcycles exhibit continues at the Museum

September

- 4 *Yuba City, Our Home Town* reception, book signing and
Ice cream social at the Museum, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- 5 *Antique Motorcycles* exhibit closes
- 21 *Sing Me Your Stories* exhibit opens at the museum

October

- 18 Historical Society Annual Membership meeting
11:30 social time, 12:00 luncheon
Ruthy's, 229 Clark Avenue, Yuba City