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Ettl Hall

Photo by Sharyl Simmons



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The 2012 dues are payable as of January 1, 2012. Mail your check to the Community Memorial Museum at 1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City, 95993-2301 530-822-7141

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President's Message

2012! When I was a child, I never thought I would see the year 2000. Now twelve years have flown by since then.

I have been reading my Thompson and West's *History of Sutter County, California with Illustrations, 1879*. Over 160 years ago the two main settlements in the soon-to-be Sutter County were at the Hock Farm and Nicolaus. This book, which we sell at the Community Memorial Museum, is a reproduction of the original book. Randy Schnabel, a past president of the Sutter County Historical Society, spearheaded the project to get this book reproduced in 1974. That version sold out, so in 2008 the Historical Society had the book reprinted again. It a large book with 127 pages, 40 chapters, and over 87 illustrations. It is a wonderful resource for the history of Sutter County. If you own this book I encourage you to get it out and read it. If you do not have the book go the museum and purchase your own copy. It's \$45 plus tax, and there is a 10% discount for Historical Society members. I appreciate all the work our Board members and Museum staff put into making this resource available to everyone.

This year the Museum is facing a severe budget shortfall. There's an easy, painless way you can help out. When you shop at Staples, the cashier will ask if you have a rewards account. All you have to do is give the Museum phone number (822-7141) and when the cashier asks, "Julie?" you nod your head, even though you may not look anything like a Julie. The Museum accumulates points that provide discounts on future purchases.

Our next Historical Society meeting is **Saturday, January 21st at 2:00 pm** at the newly opened Ettl Hall behind the Museum. People who attended "Trees and Traditions" at the Museum in December were able to walk over to Ettl Hall and have dessert. For our program, I will be showing the best slides of Dorothy Ettl. Franklin Tarke of Sutter Buttes 4-H will present us with his design of the new Sutter County flag. We'll follow our program with home-made desserts. It would be wonderful to see a huge turnout for our meeting. Everyone is welcome.

Sarah Pryor, President

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Director's Report

My mother's small, weathered, cracked school slate with its worn wood border sits on a shelf in my office-sewing room at home. I wonder how many school years it served her, carried along to school on her Morgan horse with her dog David trotting along beside. It might have been new in 1915 or maybe handed down from my grandmother who was a schoolteacher all her life. The beginning of a new year is a gift we are given — like a new slate. It is such a luxurious feeling to contemplate what we will write on this blank slate. Some things may already be written on it, but we ourselves can fill in the blanks. At the Museum, as we plan the year ahead, we are trying to fill the blanks with interesting, fun, and educational experiences for our museum community. We hope that you will like some of the choices we are making. As always, we are open to suggestions from you too.

The Museum's exhibit schedule this year includes, in January and February, a local collection of automobile hood ornaments. Objects of beauty themselves, their stories are remarkable and as varied as the ornaments. The long-time collector will share his knowledge about them and show us many different examples of these vintage miniature works of art.

Spring speaks to us of baseball, so the Museum is putting together an exhibit spurred by a local resident who has a unique baseball perspective, dating from his birth. His story involves the letters and autographs from 1930s baseball greats that his grandfather collected to honor his own birth. Together with some local baseball history (and there is plenty), this will be an exhibit not-to-miss, at the Museum during May, June, and July.

In fall, the staff, working with our photography consultant Allan Lamb, will produce a photograph exhibit called *Then & Now*, looking at local buildings and structures still standing and how they looked about 100 years ago. There are historic photos depicting buildings that no longer exist, and modern views that show those sites now. Included will be a look at how our area has fared with historic preservation, demolitions, redevelopment and other changes in the built landscape of Sutter and Yuba Counties.

Trees & Traditions was a great success. Many guests enjoyed desserts and coffee in the new meeting room, Ettl Hall. It provided a pleasant, roomy space to sit down, relax and visit plus giving visitors a first look at the new room on its debut occasion.

Museum county budget worries continue, as the Museum shoulders a larger portion of the total budget. Still reeling from 20% cuts in the current fiscal year, we may be directed to cut as much as 15% in addition to that for the 2012-13 fiscal year. We are attempting to increase all areas of income by 20% this year, including membership, donations, fundraising, and the Museum Store. Thanks to you, we are making progress, but we still have a long way to go to meet our budget commitments to Sutter County. Please consider a gift to the Museum, and we encourage you to patronize the Museum Store for your book and gift needs.

Happy New Year,
Julie Stark, Director

Memorials

In Memory of **Joan Doty**
Bob & Katie Bryant
Dorothea Reische

In Memory of **Shawn Frye**
Alice Chesini
Ann Chesini
Sandra & Bob Fremd
Min & Larry Harris
Marilyn B. Lonon
Andra Munson

In Memory of **Joeann Henderson**
Gerald & Carmen Frye
Marilyn B. Lonon
Ida J. Philpott
Norman & Loadel Piner
Tom & Suellen Teesdale

In Memory of **Austin Lemenager**
Marnee Crowhurst
Tom & Suellen Teesdale

In Memory of **Don Lueningberg**
Robert & Eleanor Mackensen

In Memory of **Dean Munson**
Robert & Eleanor Mackensen

In Memory of **Lee Olsen**
Robert & Eleanor Mackensen

In Memory of **Jerry Pomeroy**
Norman & Loadel Piner

In Memory of **John Reische**
Connie Cary
Delores Giffin
Bruce & Gini Harter
Doris Mitchell
Norman & Loadel Piner
Elaine Tarke

In Memory of **Les Ricketts**
George & Shyrlie Emery

In Memory of **Alice Russell**
Marnee Crowhurst
Sharyl Simmons
Julie Stark
Elaine Tarke

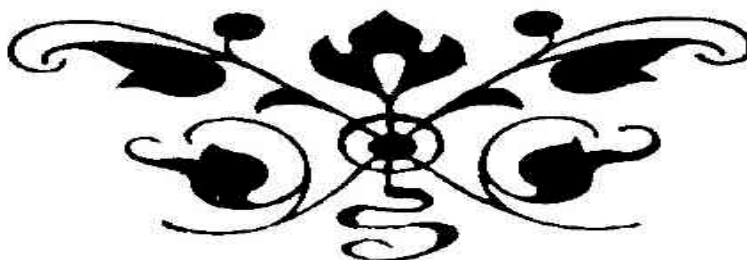
In Memory of **Shirley Deal Schnabel**
Robert H. Edgar

In Memory of **Alberta Warnock Sullivan**
Gwenie LeBaron Barber
Ed & June Watson

In Memory of **Charlie Summers**
In Memory of **Marjorie Wisner**
Norman & Loadel Piner

In Memory of **Andy Zografos**
George & Shyrlie Emery

Outright gift
Anna Belle Brown
Barbara Moberly



**Farming in Transition:
Augustus Lemuel Chandler
and the Fight for Agricultural Rights
over Mining Interests in
Late Nineteenth Century California.**

by

Tina E. Anderson

Presented to The Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County

6 July 2011

This research paper was written by a local college student under the direction of the Brandstatt Family History Project. The purpose of the Brandstatt Family History Project is to produce histories of longtime Sutter and Yuba County families involved in agriculture, pre-1925, in order to preserve the history of local agricultural families in our area and make it available to researchers and visitors at the Community Memorial Museum. James Uren, husband of the late Irma Brandstatt Uren, made a gift to the Community Memorial Museum to honor his wife and her father, peach farmer Frank Brandstatt, and family and from this gift a stipend is awarded to the participating student.

For most people, a discussion of California in the mid to late nineteenth century will invariably invoke images of the Gold Rush. However, for many, the wealth of California was found, not in gold, but in the rich brown soil and fertile lands of the Sacramento Valley. Many of the people living within the valley region derived their incomes from the land, whether directly as farmers and ranchers, or indirectly as inhabitants of farming communities. Even some miners, who came to California driven by gold fever, eventually chose to put down their gold pans and take up the plow as the agriculture industry began to overtake the mining industry towards the end of the nineteenth century. Not only did these people benefit from their relationship with the earth, but they also had a strong interest in protecting farming rights against conflicting mining rights.

Augustus Lemuel Chandler of Nicolaus, California took this

responsibility very seriously. As a successful farmer and one of the most prominent people in south Sutter County, Chandler derived much of his wealth and status from his large farm in the Nicolaus-Pleasant Grove area. However, his work protecting the rights of farmers, both in the nascent granges and farming associations of Sutter County and as an opponent of hydraulic mining in the California Senate, made Chandler a well-known and respected name throughout Northern California in the second half of the nineteenth century.

A brief sketch of Chandler's early life is perhaps best given by somebody who knew him well — his nephew Charles Noyes, who provided the biographical information for Chandler's profile in Hubert Howe Bancroft's *Chronicles of the Builders of the Commonwealth*. On July 26, 1831, Chandler was born in Johnson, Vermont to a family who could trace their American roots to 1637. Chandler's

mother, Electa, died when he was two years old, and his farmer father, Lemuel, was unable to raise the eight children in the family, even with the oldest daughter taking on the household responsibilities. Therefore, Chandler and his twin sister, Electa Augusta, went to live with an aunt shortly after their mother died.¹

At the age of six, Chandler was placed in the household of Freeman Walker, a farmer in Strafford, Vermont who was a distant relative of the family. Beginning in approximately 1839, when Chandler was eight years old, he was apprenticed to Justin Smith Morrill in Vermont, who was a merchant in Strafford. Morrill, who had worked as a junior partner for Judge Jedediah H. Harris's four stores in Strafford, began his own business, Morrill, Young, and Company, in 1840. Besides retail stores, the partnership had an interests in banks, railroads, and manufacturing.² Chandler lived with Morrill until he purchased his own apprenticeship in approximately 1850, the year before Morrill married Ruth Swan and two years after Morrill retired from business in order to concentrate on farming.³

Although no records exist that explain exactly why Chandler left Vermont for California, it is possible that Morrill's retirement and marriage precipitated Chandler's desire to seek his fortunes elsewhere. Morrill eventually went on to become a Congressman and a United States Senator for Vermont, where he was best known for his work on the 1862 Land-Grant College Acts, which provided for the creation of public universities funded through the sale of public lands. Through this Act, over seventeen million acres of land were

allocated for colleges, which was eventually used by university systems in every state, including the University of California system.⁴

Chandler and Morrill, both Republicans, remained in contact, according to Noyes, who related that Morrill visited his former protégé before Chandler died to congratulate him on his political success.⁵ Although Chandler had likely attained a wealth of business knowledge during his apprenticeship with Morrill, his academic education was not extensive and came primarily from the common schools in Vermont. After Chandler purchased his apprenticeship from Morrill, he worked as a farmer in the summer and a schoolteacher in the winter. Even though his education was lacking, these skills that he had learned, both during and after his time with Morrill, served him well when he moved to California and supported his agricultural aspirations making hay along the Bear River and teaching in Sutter County schools.⁶

After Chandler purchased his apprenticeship from Morrill, he began to take steps to move to California. Bancroft asserted that Chandler was "seized with the fever that carried away so many younger and older men to seek their fortunes in the land of gold," but there is no record that Chandler actually worked in gold mining.⁷ Chandler may have dreamed of striking it rich during the early days of the Gold Rush, but he did not make concrete plans for moving westward until 1851. In that year, he walked seventeen miles in a snowstorm to get a life insurance policy, which he used to raise a loan to cover the expenses that moving to California would entail.⁸

In the 1850s there were three ways to travel from the East Coast of America to the West Coast. The trans-continental railroad had not been built yet, and the overland route took six months and covered some of the roughest terrain in the country. There were two sea routes available for westward travellers. The longer route was to sail around the South American continent, which covered 15,000 miles and took five to eight months. The shorter route by sea was to sail from the East Coast to Panama, walk overland sixty miles to the Pacific Ocean, and take a boat northward to one of the Pacific ports. Although the time spent was much shorter, emigrants were faced with difficult terrain and rampant tropical diseases. After travellers made it to the Pacific Ocean, they sometimes had to wait for months for a ship to take them to their western destination.⁹ Despite the difficulties of the Panama route, this was the route that Chandler chose.

In February 1852, Chandler bought passage to Panama, thus embarking on his westward journey. The trip to Panama was uneventful, and he remained in Panama for several weeks before booking passage, along with 180 other passengers, on a whaling brig to San Francisco. The trip from Panama to San Francisco ran into serious trouble when lack of winds becalmed the ship for 55 days. The passengers on the ship were only allowed a ration of half a pint of water a day, even though the tropical heat was unbearable. During this time, there was only one rain shower, and the passengers took anything that could hold water, including dishes, shallow pans, and umbrellas, up on the deck to catch the falling rain. Even though the

water that was captured in umbrellas turned black from the dye, the passengers drank it.¹⁰

Chandler eventually arrived in San Francisco in May or July of 1852, when he was 21 years old. Chandler's brother Charles had already come to California in 1849, and it is not known if Chandler came to California at the urging of his brother. His brother Horace came the same year as Chandler, possibly on the same boat.¹¹ The three brothers went into business together, although Charles eventually returned to Vermont and Horace died by suicide in 1861.¹²

Chandler spent his first eight years in California establishing himself in Sutter County. According to Bancroft, Chandler's first job was haymaking along the Bear River. Afterwards, he worked in the transport business, carrying grain and foodstuffs from the valley to the mining camps. Calling on the experiences he had attained in Vermont, he also worked as a schoolteacher in the area around Kempton Crossing, in south Sutter County.¹³ Chandler was interested in education throughout his life. He later allowed a school to be built on his property as well as serving as a School Trustee for the Marcum District.¹⁴

Almost immediately upon his arrival in California, Chandler began his career in public service by serving on the jury for the Washington Rideout trial. Washington Rideout was an African-American man who lived in Marysville, possibly a former slave of the Rideout banking family in Yuba County. In May of 1852, Rideout approached the Bellevue House, which was five miles south of Nicolaus. Upon discovering that they did not have the type of liquor he wanted, Rideout

pulled out a gun and shot Rufus Bellevue dead. He was immediately captured and taken to Nicolaus, which was the county seat at the time. An angry mob descended upon the courthouse, demanding for Rideout's lynching. Cooler heads persuaded the mob to allow justice to take its course and a grand jury was quickly summoned to indict Rideout for murder. The case eventually proceeded to trial, and Chandler and his brother Horace sat on the jury. Rideout pled "not guilty" of the murder charge, evidence was heard, and the jury left to deliberate. Meanwhile, the mob became impatient at the delay and forcibly removed Rideout from the courthouse. They took Rideout to the nearest tree, which happened to be in the front yard of a man named Jacob Vahle, and hanged him until he was dead. The execution was witnessed by the entire court, including the jury, as well as Rideout's wife.¹⁵ During his time in California, Chandler served on several more juries, but this first experience was likely the most sensational, as there were very few lynchings in Sutter County.

In 1855 or 1856, Chandler and his brother Charles bought 540 acres in Pleasant Grove, near Nicolaus, where Chandler began his career as a landowner and farmer by raising wheat.¹⁶ During the Gold Rush, many boomtowns spread up along the Feather River providing transportation and supplies to the mining industry. Nicolaus was one of these towns.¹⁷ By the time Chandler bought his property, Nicolaus had transitioned into an agricultural town. Chandler had by then recognized California's potential in agriculture, and his farm grew to 900 acres by 1870. He grew wheat, barley, hay, and fruit, and raised cattle, swine,

and dairy cows. Chandler made enough money to support himself, his growing family and extended relatives, and his farmhands whom he paid \$3,000 in wages in 1870.¹⁸ By 1879, Chandler owned 1,100 acres in Sutter County and 320 acres in Placer County.¹⁹ By the time of his death, he also owned a house in Oakland.

In 1860, Chandler returned home to Vermont to visit his family. While there, he married Caroline Jane Noyes before returning to California in June. Caroline and Chandler had six children who were living in 1892: Carrie, Annie, Ida, Lizzie, Mary, and Harry.²⁰ Five children, Wilbur, Hattie, Frank, Henry, and Ernest, were either stillborn or died in childhood.²¹ His eldest daughter, Carrie Augusta, married Albert J. Gladding of Gladding, McBean, and company.²² Carrie and Albert resided in Lincoln, California and had several children. Their grandson, also Albert J. Gladding, son of Augustus L. Gladding, passed away last year. The Gladdings are buried in the Lincoln cemetery.

Not much is known about Chandler's other daughters. His daughter Annie married a man by the name of Hatch and moved to Vermont. His daughter Mamie married a gentleman named Barrie and lived in San Francisco. His daughter Lizzie married George Atwood of Sacramento, but the couple were residing in Oakland at the time of Caroline Chandler's death in 1919.²³ Chandler's son, Harry, married a woman named Adelaide in 1903, and the couple moved to Marysville in 1904. In September of 1904, Adelaide asked her husband to step into the hallway while she prepared a surprise for him in the bedroom. After Harry left the room,

Adelaide committed suicide by shooting herself in the chest. It is not known why she took her life, and I have been unable to find any records pertaining to Harry Chandler after Adelaide's burial.²⁴

Chandler also opened his large home to extended family members. His nephew, Fred B. Noyes, lived on the Chandler farm from 1865-1888. Noyes served as both under-sheriff and sheriff of Sutter County before his election to the Assembly of the State Legislature, where he served four terms.²⁵

Chandler cared as deeply about his community as he did about his family. He personally helped out members of the community in need. During the Gold Rush, land speculation was rampant in Nicolaus and in other towns that aspired to become mining entrepôts.

In 1850, Nicolaus' position on the Feather River provided the low-water destination for steamers coming to and from San Francisco. Steamers going north often became damaged in the snags and sandbars upstream from Nicolaus. Also, Nicolaus captured the traffic of both emigrants going to Sacramento and prospectors going to the mines. During this time, land tracts in Nicolaus sold for as much as \$800. By 1852, land prices began to drop after it became clear that Nicolaus was not the head of navigation on the Feather River, and because Marysville merchants taxed themselves to remove sandbars from the river so that ships could make it to Marysville during low water. Lots that had sold for hundreds of dollars began to sell for less than fifty dollars.²⁶ An anonymous friend of Chandler's lost value in his property when the speculation bubble burst. An unwise investment in a

sawmill further reduced his financial condition. Chandler loaned his friend money and the friend later became quite wealthy due to Chandler's timely assistance.²⁷

Noyes remembers Chandler as "a man that would be foremost in everything, in the building of schools, churches, public improvements of every description, roads and bridges. He was always the first." Chandler spent hundreds of dollars on improvements that should have been implemented by the county, using money from his own pocket and taking his chances on whether or not the county would pay him back. One example of this was a bridge that Chandler built near his property that, while it improved access to his property, fell under the purview of the county and was used by other citizens of Nicolaus.²⁸ Chandler also financially supported community endeavors such as the newspaper *The Sutter County Farmer*, the Nicolaus Warehouse Company and the Sutter Canning Packing Company.²⁹ Chandler was also a supporter of the Grange-owned *California Patron* Publishing Company, not only serving as director, but also helping to raise funds when the company was in debt.³⁰

Although neither Chandler nor his wife publicly professed any religion, Chandler supported building a new church in Nicolaus when the community expressed a desire for one. Chandler joined the building committee, bought many of the supplies, and hired the labor to have the church built.³¹ Two Deacons, Frank Morehead and Cornelius Stolp, served on the building committee with Chandler, and many of the towns' citizens provided material, services, and hauling.

The church was in debt upon completion and Chandler, along with Morehead and Stolp, organized a subscription drive so that the church could be debt-free by the time it was dedicated in October, 1883. Chandler also donated money for the adjoining cemetery before his death.³² The church was Fairview Community Christian Church, which currently stands at the intersection of Pacific and Cornelius in Nicolaus.

Chandler and his wife never joined the church, but his daughters Lizzie and Mamie were original members.³³ All of the Chandler daughters were active in church activities, participating in a variety of events, musicals, socials, and societies. For instance, an undated photo taken between 1888 and 1894 shows Lizzie and Ida Chandler participating in a program consisting of Peak Sisters and Blunt Brothers. The program was remembered for the large, cone-shaped hats that the girls wore, as well as the peaked decorations on their dresses.³⁴ The Peak Sisters was a reference to a series of plays written by Mary Barnard Home between the 1870s and the 1920s. During this period, groups of young women would dress up in outlandish outfits and put on comical performances for churches and communities.³⁵ Just as Chandler figured prominently in the social activities of Nicolaus and the broader Sutter County, so did his daughters actively participate in the primary outlet that was available to women at the time — the local church.

During his thirty years in California, Chandler also actively worked to improve the farming industry in Sutter County. Chandler was a member of the Granger movement,

which originated in 1867 in response to increasing industrial urbanism after the Civil War.³⁶ Granges were fraternal organizations that attempted to unite the agricultural class to support political and economic measures that would better the conditions of farmers in America.³⁷

On September 9, 1873, Chandler and his wife were among the thirty-nine people who organized Yuba City Grange, number 65.³⁸ In the spring of 1873, Chandler attended the state farmer's convention, where he took an active part in the proceedings. Out of the convention came the realization for the need to incorporate the various farming clubs in order to put forth a united front. In this vein, Chandler helped establish the Farmers' Cooperative Union of Sutter County in 1873.³⁹ Chandler initially served as Treasurer, but also served a term as President and held a position as Director until the end of his life.⁴⁰ The Union came into being because speculators were working to keep prices paid to farmers low while increasing transportation costs of farm products. By banding together within the Union, the farmers were able to negotiate better prices and lower transportation costs.⁴¹

Also in 1873, Chandler helped form the Nicolaus Farmer's Grain Warehouse for the same reason, serving as the first President.⁴² Chandler's deep concern for the farmers of Sutter County not only came from his role as an elected official, but also from his personal status as a farmer. His dedication to farmers is evident through his long history of service to the agricultural community.

Chandler carried his defense of the agricultural community into his

political career. Between 1873 and 1880, Chandler was elected into the lower house of the California Legislature three times, serving for three terms and one extra session. As an Assemblyman, Chandler began his work on the issue of mining debris in the 1877 trial of James H. Keyes against the Little York Gold Washing and Water Company and others. Keyes, who owned 1,000 acres of land near the Bear River, filed a complaint against approximately 20 mining companies for damage done to his property by the discharge of debris through hydraulic mining. Chandler testified on behalf of Keyes, stating that he was at Keyes' house in 1875 and there was two feet of mud in front of the house, almost up to the door of the house. He further testified that the fertility of Keyes' soil was affected by the debris and that Keyes' barley output was significantly less after the flooding.⁴³ Keyes won the case, one of the earliest cases against hydraulic mining in Sutter County, and Chandler took his fight against mining debris to the State Senate.

In 1882, he was elected to represent Yuba and Sutter counties, the twelfth Senatorial District, in the State Senate. He is best known for his work in the Senate, where his vast experience caused his colleagues to give him the title "Father of the Senate."⁴⁴ By the time that Chandler reached the State Senate, hydraulic mining was a topic of utmost importance to the people of Yuba and Sutter counties. By using concentrated jets of water to remove impacted soil from hillsides, hydraulic mining rejuvenated the mining industry by making it easier to extract gold from sediment. However, the excess

sediment that was removed during the mining process made its way into the waterways, which had a devastating effect on the farmers who lived alongside the rivers that were becoming clogged with mining debris. Not only did the excess sediment raise the river beds and cause massive flooding, but it also made the water supply unsuitable for drinking and irrigation due to the introduction of fine sediment.⁴⁵

Like many people in the Yuba-Sutter area, Chandler was opposed to the effects that hydraulic mining had on farmers. In the State Senate, he worked to combat hydraulic mining and improve the quality of the rivers in his district. By 1874, hydraulic mining had effectively been banned in California due to two court cases. *People v. Gold Run Ditch and Mining Company* halted the practice of placing coarse debris in streams, and *Woodruff v. North Bloomfield* prevented the introduction of mining debris in both the San Joaquin and Sacramento River systems.⁴⁶

Although those two cases ended hydraulic mining in California, they also severely crippled the mining industry. Therefore, mining interests were interested in reviving the practice of hydraulic mining. In subsequent years, several different bills were introduced in California legislative sessions that attempted to restart hydraulic mining. In the 1887 Senate session, Senator Austin Walrath, a former miner from Nevada County, introduced Senate Bill 51.⁴⁷ The bill, which would allow for dams to be built to capture debris from hydraulic mining, was immediately referred to the committee for Mines, Drainage, and Mining Debris, a committee on which Chandler sat.⁴⁸

In February and March of 1887, Chandler gave several speeches on the floor of the State Senate opposing the bill. In one speech, Chandler argued that the dams would not hold back the tons of rock and debris that would gather behind them. Should the dams hold, Chandler stipulated, they would only hold back 70 percent of the debris, leaving 30 percent to overflow into the rivers and streams of the valley. That 30 percent would deteriorate the quality of the water, thus rendering it unsuitable for agriculture.⁴⁹

Of the devastation caused by hydraulic mining, Chandler argued that, "the water is absolutely destroyed for all practical purposes in the Bear and Yuba Rivers. It is so muddy at times as to be unfit for watering stock. You could not use it for irrigation, it is absolutely worthless to the people below."⁵⁰ Entreating the senate to consider the agricultural interests over the mining interests, Chandler stated:

Now I do not threaten; I do not browbeat; I do not ask you to do that which you think is wrong; but I do ask you to do what you think would be statesmanlike; and I ask you whether you think that the great agricultural interests of this country must be destroyed, and this valley submerged under a coating of slickens for the sake of a few hydraulic miners?⁵¹

As an advocate for farmer's rights over the rights of the mining industry, Chandler was correct to be concerned about the possible resumption of hydraulic mining. After Chandler's death, economic concerns prompted the California legislature to pass the 1893 Caminetti Act, which was

orchestrated by Congressman Anthony Caminetti who had served on the senate with Chandler. The Caminetti Act allowed for the resumption of hydraulic mining in conjunction with strict governmental regulation and oversight of debris management, including the building of dams to contain mining debris.⁵² However, the hydraulic mining industry in California never picked up again after the long hiatus.

During his time as Senator, Chandler served on another sensational trial as a witness to a murder. This trial is interesting because it illustrates how contentious the issue of hydraulic mining was during the 1880s.

During late 1886 and early 1887, the *Sacramento Daily Record Union* published numerous stories following the trial of Milton McWhorter, the Editor of the *Marysville Appeal*, a forerunner of the *Appeal-Democrat*. McWhorter was on trial for the murder of T. G. Robinson, a Deputy United States Marshal. The case was popular both due to the prominence of the players and the connection that Robinson had to hydraulic mining.⁵³

The Prosecutor, General A. L. Hart, attempted to frame the case within the larger context of hydraulic mining. He asserted that Robinson was employed by the Sacramento Anti-Debris association and was an officer of the law enforcing anti-hydraulic mining decrees. For some reason, according to Hart, McWhorter took a dislike to Robinson and proceeded to libel him in the *Marysville Appeal*, accusing him of, among other things, taking bribes from hydraulic miners.⁵⁴

One witness, Marysville resident D. B. Lowrey, testified that the argument that led to the murder was

about an article McWhorter published stating that Robinson was seen leaving a burning brothel in Nevada City.⁵⁵ According to witness testimony, Robinson approached McWhorter outside of the State House Hotel in August of 1886. Also outside were Smartsville resident James O'Brien and Chandler. Chandler testified that he had a slight acquaintance with both victims. After having a short conversation with McWhorter and O'Brien, Chandler got up to get his supper. He was approached in the doorway by Robinson who asked him if the man that he was with was McWhorter. Chandler answered in the affirmative and Robinson moved towards McWhorter. Chandler turned to see why Robinson wanted to see McWhorter, but was not near enough to overhear the argument that ensued.

O'Brien testified that Robinson had a newspaper in his hand when he confronted McWhorter. Robinson pointed to the article and asked McWhorter if he had written it. When McWhorter said that he had, Robinson smacked McWhorter on the cheek. Both O'Brien and Chandler witnessed the slap and resulting scuffle between the two men. McWhorter, who was much smaller than Robinson, asked for help. At that point, Chandler noticed that there was a pistol that the men were struggling over, which was pointed in Chandler's direction. Chandler stepped inside the hotel. During the scuffle, McWhorter shot Robinson, wounding him in the side and causing his death a day later.⁵⁶

Although the fight occurred over accusations of Robinson's visit to a brothel, much of the testimony in the case had to do with Robinson's activities as a Deputy United States

Marshal. Robinson's job was to serve legal papers to miners, which would close the mines. One witness, a Mr. Hobson, testified that he paid Robinson \$200 per month to avoid having his mine enjoined. Another witness, Samuel Peck, admitted to paying money to Robinson, but declined to say the amount or give details of the agreement based on the fear of self-incrimination.⁵⁷

McWhorter testified in his own defense, stating that he felt it was his duty as a citizen and a journalist to expose anti-hydraulic agents who accepted wages from the county but did not do their duty. He also testified that he had visited the mountains and seen for himself that the mines were still running.⁵⁸

The jury ultimately found McWhorter innocent of charges, but the case provides an interesting illustration of the tension surrounding the issue of hydraulic mining in California in the 1880s. What began as a simple case about murder and self-defense contained a lengthy discussion about motives and mining issues.

Chandler did not live to see the conclusion of the debates over hydraulic mining. He passed away on November 5, 1888, after a bout of pneumonia. His passing was noted in almost every newspaper in the Sacramento valley. The Directors of the Farmer's Co-operative Union, who were holding a monthly meeting when they heard of Chandler's demise, adjourned early "feeling that a heavy loss had been sustained."⁵⁹ The Sutter Grange draped its hall in mourning for thirty days, and grange Brother Francis Gibson wrote the following poem for Chandler:

I've known this Brother many years,
And know of what I write:
His death caused hosts to shed sad
tears -
The Grange has lost a shining light.

When we do the Grange attend
We'll fondly on his memory dwell
All feel proud to call him friend;
To know him was to love him well.

When we to yon graveyard go,
On his resting place we scan,
'Twill cause us each a pang of woe-
There he rests, 'an honest man!'

Who can fill this Brother's place?
Surely he will dwell on high.
Time cannot his deeds efface;
It is grand thus to die!⁶⁰

Chandler's funeral services were presided over by the Pleasant Grove Lodge of Odd Fellows, and were conducted at Fairview Church in Nicolaus. The procession from the church to the nearby Fairview Cemetery was a mile long and contained over 150 carriages.⁶¹ When Chandler came to California, he immediately understood the agricultural potential of the Sacramento Valley, and he worked tirelessly throughout his career to realize the fruition of this potential. His legacy is one of agrarianism over industrialism, small farmers over large mining operations, and ordinary people over enormous corporations. Because of this legacy, Chandler deserves to be remembered as a fierce protector of agricultural interests and a foremost citizen of Sutter County in the late 19th century.

Notes

¹ George Chandler, *The Chandler Family: The Descendants of William and Annis Chandler in Roxbury, Mass.* (Worcester, 1884), 902.

² Coy F. Cross II, *Justin Smith Morrill: Father of the Land Grant Colleges* (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1999), 3-10.

³ *Ibid.*, 12-14.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 77-90.

⁵ Hubert Howe Bancroft, *Chronicles of the Builders of the Commonwealth: Historical Character Study, Volume III* (San Francisco: The History Company, 1892), 388; Charles Noyes, notes about Chandler by Charles Noyes, furnished to H. H. Bancroft, January 4, 1890, "Biographical Materials Relating to Augustus Lemuel Chandler: Sutter County," H. H. Bancroft Collection, Special Collections, Bancroft Library, University of California Berkeley.

⁶ *Ibid.*

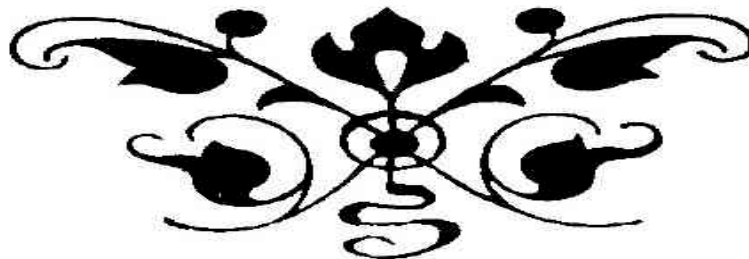
⁷ Bancroft, 389.

⁸ Noyes.

⁹ Alan Taylor, Class Lecture, University of California Davis, 27 May 2011.

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- ¹⁰ H. H. Bancroft papers, *Builders of the Commonwealth*, early drafts and source material, “Biographical Materials Relating to Augustus Lemuel Chandler: Sutter County,” H. H. Bancroft Collection, Special Collections, Bancroft Library, University of California Berkeley.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*
- ¹² Chandler, 902.
- ¹³ Bancroft, 390.
- ¹⁴ H. H. Bancroft Papers; Harry Laurenz Wells and William Henry Chamberlain, *Reproduction of Thompson and West’s History of Sutter County, California with Illustrations, 1879* (Berkeley: Howell-North Books, 1974), 53.
- ¹⁵ Wells and Chamberlain, 79-80.
- ¹⁶ H. H. Bancroft Papers.
- ¹⁷ Barbara Melitta Stengel, “A California River Town: The Early History of Nicolaus, 1840-1900” (MA Thesis, California State University, Chico, 2004), 65-114.
- ¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 133.
- ¹⁹ Wells and Chamberlain, 111.
- ²⁰ Bancroft, 391.
- ²¹ Chandler, 1219.
- ²² Bancroft, 391.
- ²³ Fairview Community Christian Church archives, undated obituary for Caroline Noyes Chandler.
- ²⁴ “Wife Ends Life with a revolver – Bullet Pierces Heart of a Bride of Few Months – Fatal Shot is Fired While the Young Husband is Standing Near – Beautiful Placer County Girl, Recently Married to Son of Ex-Senator Chandler Commits Suicide,” *San Francisco Call*, 24 September 1904, 3.
- ²⁵ Kathy Sedler, “Yuba County Biographies: Fred B. Noyes,” Yuba Roots. <http://www.yubaroots.com/bios/noye.htm> (accessed 26 June 2011).
- ²⁶ Stengel, 80-88.
- ²⁷ H. H. Bancroft Papers.
- ²⁸ *Ibid.*
- ²⁹ Bancroft, 393.
- ³⁰ “Miscellaneous Mention,” *Pacific Rural Press*, 16 October 1886.
- ³¹ *Ibid.*
- ³² Fairview Community Christian Church Archives, historical notes written in 1953 by Dorothy Reeves.
- ³³ *Ibid.*, original membership ledger.
- ³⁴ *Ibid.*, undated photo.
- ³⁵ Charles J. Jordan, *Tales Told in the Shadows of the White Mountains* (Lebanon: University Press of New England, 2003), 136-137,
- ³⁶ D. Sven Nordin, *Rich Harvest: A History of the Grange: 1867-1900* (Baton Rouge: University Press of Mississippi, 1974), 3.
- ³⁷ James Dabney McCabe, *History of the Grange Movement* (San Francisco: A. L. Bancroft and Company, 1874), 1-8.
- ³⁸ Wells and Chamberlain, 47.
- ³⁹ H. H. Bancroft Papers.

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- ⁴⁰ Wells and Chamberlain, 85; H. H. Bancroft Papers.
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<http://ceres.ca.gov/planning/genplan/sutter/cultural.html>. Accessed 26 June 2011.
- ⁴² *Thompson and West*, 85.
- ⁴³ "The Mining Debris Trial," *Pacific Rural Press*, 10 August 1978.
- ⁴⁴ H. H. Bancroft Papers.
- ⁴⁵ Stengel, 174-176.
- ⁴⁶ Martin D. Mitchell, "Land and Water Policies in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta," *American Geographical Society*, Vol. 84, No. 4 (October 1994), 417.
- ⁴⁷ Leigh Hadley Irvine, *A History of the New California: Its Resources and People* (New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1905), 965; State of California, *The Journal of the Senate During the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Legislature of the State of California, 1887* (Sacramento: State Office, 1887), 47.
- ⁴⁸ "California Legislature," *Sacramento Daily Record-Union*, 11 January 1887.
- ⁴⁹ "California Legislature," *Sacramento Daily Record-Union*, 26 February 1887.
- ⁵⁰ H. H. Bancroft Papers.
- ⁵¹ *Ibid.*
- ⁵² Miller, 417.
- ⁵³ "Local Intelligence. The McWhorter-Robinson Case," *Sacramento Daily Record Union*, 29 January 1887, 5.
- ⁵⁴ "Manslaughter. Evidence Taken Today at the Trial of Milton McWhorter," *Sacramento Daily Record Union*, 1 February 1887, 2.
- ⁵⁵ "The Late Tragedy. Continuation of the Examination of McWhorter. For the Shooting of T. G. Robinson – Testimony of Witnesses – Robinson's Threats," *Sacramento Daily Record Union*, 18 August 1886, 2.
- ⁵⁶ "The Late Tragedy. Testimony of Eye-Witnesses – Verdict of the Coroner's Jury," *Sacramento Daily Record Union*, 13 August 1886.
- ⁵⁷ "The McWhorter Case. The Defense Entering Testimony of a Sensational Character," *Sacramento Daily Record Union*, 4 February 1887, 2.
- ⁵⁸ "The McWhorter Case. The Defendant Relates His Own Story – Rebuttal Testimony," *Sacramento Daily Record Union*, 5 February 1887, 8.
- ⁵⁹ H. H. Bancroft Papers, clipping from the *Sutter Farmer*.
- ⁶⁰ *Ibid.*
- ⁶¹ Bancroft, 401.



Jesse Craddock, Early-day Sutter County Judge

by
Carol Withington

Early on a Wednesday morning in December of 1871, the Sutter County Courthouse was discovered on fire. The structure, built in 1858 and the first permanent courthouse in Yuba City, was soon entirely consumed.

According to local newspapers, the fire originated in the clerk's office. The cause was unknown, although many people conceded that it might have been the work of an incendiary. Others believed it was from an accidental cause, either from a stove or pipe.

Some of the officers succeeded in saving the valuable contents of their offices. The safes and heavy vaults preserved their contents, although in some cases, items were reported "somewhat injured."

That same month a group of masked men cut a levee in two places, washing away 500 feet of the structure. This incident, along with the fire, soon resulted into "idle talk" about relocating the county seat to Nicolaus.

A "numerously signed petition" by Nicolaus residents was sent to the Legislature, but Yuba City immediately retaliated with its own petition.

As the struggle continued, one "patriotic individual" offered to donate an acre of land near Wadsworth's School on which to build a courthouse. It was even suggested that the top of the Buttes would be "the only safe and eligible site upon which to permanently locate the county seat."

Since the Legislature took no action on the petitions presented by Nicolaus, a second structure was built in Yuba City. By February of 1873, the

courthouse was ready for landscaping.

Appointed by a committee to procure some trees and superintend the placing of them were W.W. Perdue and J.H. Craddock, the County Judge.

Jesse H. Craddock was born in Kentucky on October 8, 1836. He moved to Illinois in 1853 and also lived in the states of Indiana and Ohio until 1860, when he came to California.

Craddock first settled in Yuba County where he was employed with the Western Union Telegraph Company.

In 1865, he married Nannie F. Trego, a native of Indiana. Two years later they moved to Sutter County.

In 1869, Craddock was appointed by Gov. Henry Haight to serve as county judge. He was later elected to this office in 1871 and also served a second term.

Among his many duties were to hold the County Court, to serve as chief justice of the Court of Sessions, and to serve as judge of the Probate Court.

During his term of office, Craddock and his family occupied a home on Second Street within a short walking distance of the courthouse. This residence was regarded as being "one of the finest in Yuba City."

In 1879 a new Constitution, adopted by the voters, changed the whole judiciary system and the office of county judge was abolished. The Supreme Court was now to consist of a chief justice and six associate justices, elected by the people.

Shortly after the abolishment of his judgeship, Craddock and his family moved to Oakland. They only stayed

for a brief period of time, however, returning to Marysville where Craddock resumed his law practice.

In 1888 he was appointed receiver of the Marysville Land Office, a position in which he served for four years. In 1896 he ran for the office of judge of the Superior Court of Yuba and Sutter counties. He was defeated, however, by Judge Edwin A. Davis.

A few years later, Craddock left the area and spent his remaining days in Fresno, where he was prominently engaged in the raisin industry. During these years, Nannie, one of his four daughters, was beginning to make her mark in the theatrical world.

According to an 1890 news article, she was regarded as "one of the reigning favorites on the Eastern

Stage." The article further noted that "at the time she occupied a recognized position in the social world, and when she launched out in the theatrical profession, her friends predicted the brilliant success she had made."

That year, "that pretty little California girl who for several seasons was a member of E. J. Wifiard's company slipped out of her apartments and married Fred Tyler, a member of the Haymarket Theater Co."

On Jan. 11, 1901, a telegram from Fresno was sent to the Yuba-Sutter area announcing the death of Judge Craddock. He was well-remembered locally not only as an honorable man, but also as one of the oldest representatives of the legal profession of Sutter County.

Samuel Chandler, Champion of Levees and Bridges

by
Carol Withington

Editors' note: This article is about Dr. Chandler, who lived near Yuba City, and who is unrelated to Augustus Chandler.

In the year 1853, the first bridge across the Feather River was built between Marysville and Yuba City. The bridge, completed in the month of September, was described as a "cheap truss bridge, about 350 feet in length and costing \$20,000.

The following year, one span broke down due to the weight of a herd of cattle. It was soon repaired, however, and remained in service until November of 1860 when it collapsed while two teams were crossing at once.

According to accounts in a local newspaper, the bridge collapsed while a couple of loaded wagons were passing on the central section of the structure.

It was noted that the teams, wagons and drivers were thrown into the river, falling some forty feet. The men and horses escaped and a number of people reportedly witnessed this accident.

Earlier, a bill was introduced by the Honorable W.F. Parks, senate representative for both Sutter and Yuba counties, which would authorize the construction of a bridge across the Feather River by Sutter County.

All tolls collected would be applied to the cost of construction and as soon as the needed revenues were received, tolls would only take place when repairs became necessary.

Despite a great deal of

opposition by many area residents, the structure known as Park's Free Bridge was completed in 1861.

Before its final completion, however, another bridge replacing the fallen one was built within 500 feet of the Park's Bridge, which placed a toll at ten cents a team.

The competitors made their crossings free, but this was short-lived.

In mid-December of 1861, the bridge was carried away by the flood and the Sutter County span remained. Ten years later, travel became so great that the original indebtedness was discharged and the county bridge was declared a toll-free bridge.

Serving as secretary-treasurer of the bridge committee was Dr. S. R. Chandler, a Sutter County pioneer who was to become one of the prime movers in urging the importance of building bridges and levees in the area.

Samuel R. Chandler was born in Ohio in 1814 and remained in that state until 1849. He graduated from Ohio Medical College but only practiced medicine for a short period of time.

Chandler began his journey west in 1852, later occupying bottom land near Yuba City on a ranch on the slough commonly known as Boisdiarc Farm.

Chandler built and operated a flume on the Feather River in 1856, '58 and '59. In these fluming operations, the river was literally lifted from its bed and carried for miles in order that the gold contained in its gravel could be wrested from the stream bed.

Flume mining along the Feather River reached its height in 1856-57. At one location, known as Randolph Point, a portion of the river bed not over 1,000 feet in length was reported to have yielded over \$2,000,000 in gold during these fluming operations.

During the ensuing years, Chandler became one of the early horticulturists in the area. In 1857 he had a small orchard planted with peaches, pears and other fruits. With growing concern for a more substantial levee system, Dr. Chandler, as chairman of the Slough and Feather River Levee Committee, submitted a bill to the State Legislature in 1868. The entire context was printed in the *Banner* newspaper so that any residents having objections could leave suggestions with the county treasurer.

Within two months it was decided by election to levy a tax, and Levee District Number One was formed. An immense levee was built costing around \$30,000.

Despite various damages by floods which necessitated expensive repairs, the system was considered successful. By 1879, the Levee District had more than 13 miles of levees.

Chandler continued to play an active role in many area endeavors. He helped in forming the Sutter County Publishing Company in 1881 and was included among many who actively fought against hydraulic mining.

In 1883, Chandler was selected chairman pro-tem of the Sutter Canning and Packing Company, which was organized by a group of growers.

Three years later, during the month of July, the area received news of Chandler's death. The funeral took place at the Chandler residence and the Yuba City Methodist-Episcopal Church.

A large number of representatives of the Marysville Pioneer Society were present to bid farewell to their fellow member who had left such a valuable legacy to the residents of Sutter County.

Sutter County Historical Society Articles of Incorporation

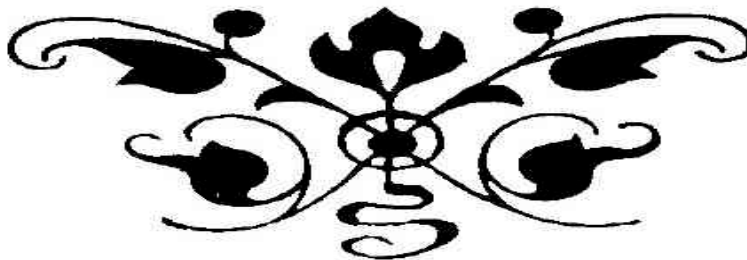
The Historical Society was founded in 1954 and Articles of Incorporation were executed at that time. We have recently discovered a need to amend our Articles of Incorporation to comply with the current California Corporations Code. A previous attempt to amend our Articles of Incorporation (in October, 2011) was rejected by the California Secretary of State and that office made a specific suggestion for improving our amendment. The new wording is in italics, and the suggestion made by the Secretary of State is underlined.

The amendment must be adopted by a majority of Historical Society members present when the issue is voted upon, which will be at our membership meeting on **Saturday, January 21 at 2 pm at Ettl Hall.**

The Board of Directors of the Sutter County Historical Society recommends Article VIII of the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation be amended to read as follows:

~~Each member is an equal owner with all other members in the assets of the corporation. Each member shall receive an equal share of the assets of the corporation in case of a dissolution.~~ *In case of dissolution, all assets shall be distributed to the Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County. To the fullest extent provided under California Law,* neither members or directors shall be personally liable for the debts or obligations of the corporation, but no assets shall be distributed upon dissolution until all debts have been paid or adequate provision made for the payment thereof.

Thank you for your patience while we find our way through this labyrinth of legal requirements.



Coming Events

January

Hood Ornaments as Automobile Art exhibit opens at the Museum

- 21 Historical Society Membership meeting
2:00 p.m.
Ettl Hall (at the Museum)
Program: Sarah Ettl presents the Best of Dorothy Ettl
Presentation of Sutter County Flag
Dessert follows the program

February

- 19 *Hood Ornaments as Automobile Art* exhibit closes
- 24 River Valley High School Art Exhibit opens at the Museum

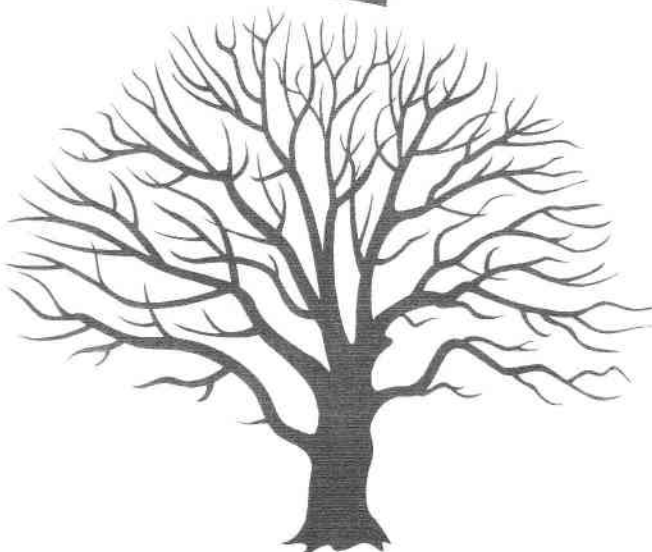
March

- 16 River Valley High School Art Exhibit closes
- 30 Yuba City High School Art Exhibit opens at the Museum

April

- 13 Yuba City High School Art Exhibit closes
- 14 Historical Society membership meeting
2:00 p.m.
Ettl Hall
Program: Ann Scheuring, author of *Valley Empires*
Judith Barr Fairbanks Essay Award Contest Winners

Puzzle Page



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Anderson	Augustus
Bloomfield	Brandstatt
Caminetti	Caroline
Chandler	Debris
Ettl	Fairview
Grange	Incorporation
Kempton	Lemuel
Mining	Panama
PleasantGrove	Nicolaus
Noyes	Senator



General Membership Meeting

Saturday, January 21 at 2:00 p.m.

at Ettl Hall

behind the Museum

1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City

Program: The Best of Dorothy Ettl

by Sarah Pryor

Dessert follows the program

No charge – all are welcome!