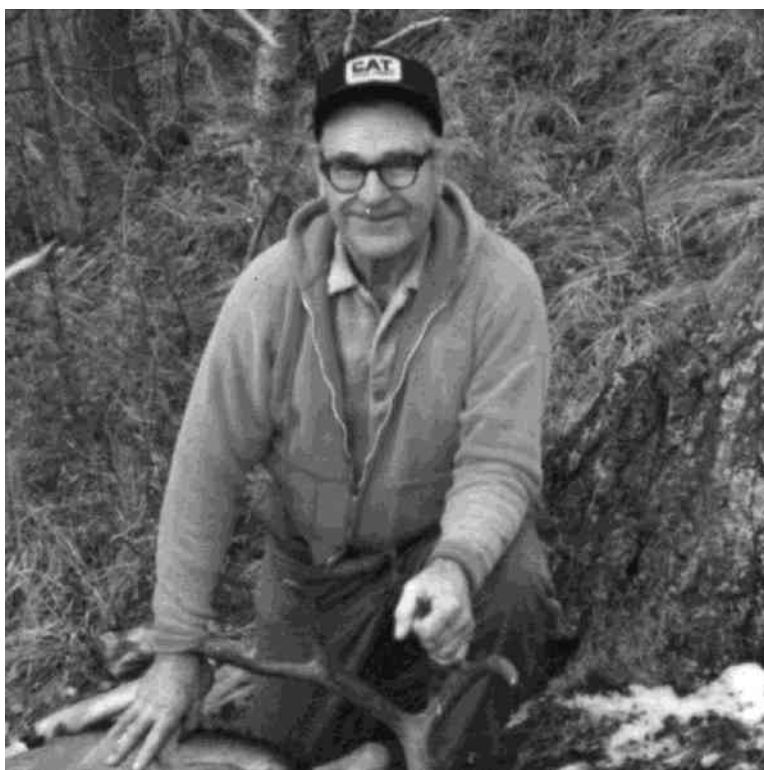




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Yuba City, California

October 2012



**Ray Alexander Frye,
Honorary Member**
(photo courtesy of Ray Frye)



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Sarah Pryor, President

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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 Phyllis Smith, Sharyl Simmons and Vicki Rorke. 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 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

Student (under 18)/Senior Citizen/Library	\$ 20
Individual	\$ 25
Organizations/Clubs	\$ 35
Family	\$ 40
Business/Sponsor.....	\$ 100
Corporate/Benefactor.....	\$1000

President's Message

This is an election year. I just read in the *Territorial Dispatch* that our 44 U.S. Presidents gathered in Nevada City on Sunday, September 9th to march in their 46th Annual Constitution Day Parade. The night before President Abraham Lincoln had a "Whistle-Stop" in Nevada City. What wonderful history and how much fun for everyone who attended. Next year I will attend the 47th Annual Constitution Day Parade. It will not be as cold in Nevada City in September as it is in December for their Victorian Christmas. Constitution Day – what an important day to celebrate! Maybe we could arrange a bus trip for this event. Then two days later it is time to reflect on 9/11. The Oswald-Tudor Fire Department will be placing a memorial of 9/11 at our museum in the near future.

I am so thankful to be a U.S. Citizen. To celebrate the freedom that our ancestors fought to provide for us. I hope everyone will be voting in our Nov. 6, Presidential Election. When you vote you are being a part of history. I would be curious to know how many of our members, 300+ of us, have heard a President-Elect speak from a train traveling through their town.

In July 1979 it was announced that 6,652 people visited our Community Memorial Museum that year alone. In the four years it had been opened 27,955 visitors coming from all the 50 states had visited. What a treasure our museum is for our community. It would be nice if we could get six more directors to help share in the important work of the Historical Society, supporting the Museum and the history of Sutter County. Please think about becoming active with the Sutter County Historical Society and volunteering at the Museum. Your help would be greatly appreciated now and by future generations.

May you have a wonderful harvest season and a joyous holiday this year.

Sarah Pryor
President

Would you like to receive special notices via email?
Just send your address to SutterCoHistory@aol.com
and we'll add you to our distribution list.

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Director's Report

The Museum Staff is trying its best to develop a rhythm to successfully accomplish five days' work in just four. Considering the size of the workload that was daunting in five days, it is a good-sized challenge. We hope you won't mind if we have to return your phone call or if we ask you to call ahead if you would like an appointment to speak with us. The volunteers are helping out by answering calls to help us maximize our time. Thanks for your patience as we adjust.

I hope you will see the fall exhibit *Then & Now* before it ends on November 24th. Comparing our contemporary local landscape to identical scenes 100 years ago or more is truly intriguing. I know you will enjoy it.

Be sure to visit the two new permanent exhibits in the Multi-Cultural wing. The Hmong American exhibit was installed in August as Phillip Alvarado's Eagle Scout project, and we can all be very proud of it. It is the first time we have told the dramatic and poignant stories of the Hmong immigrants in our community.

The Chinese exhibit tells another American story that is not widely known, that of Chinese farmers in Sutter County. While a large Chinatown was thriving in Marysville, in Sutter County, bachelor tenant farmers reclaimed formerly rich farmland along the Feather River that had been damaged badly by debris from hydraulic mining in the mountains. Skilled, knowledgeable and industrious, they brought new life to the ruined orchards and farmlands. Perhaps they lived in a small room like the one in our exhibit.

The holidays are on the way, and our museum events provide plenty for everyone. Please plan to help out with the Ornament Workshops on October 30th and November 15th at 10:00 a.m. Your help is again needed on Decoration Day, November 29th at 9:00 a.m. and the Hors d'oeuvres Workshop on November 30th at 1:00 p.m., all to get ready for the *Trees & Traditions* gala on Saturday, December 1st from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets for *Trees & Traditions* are available at the Museum or from any Museum Commissioner for \$45. The entire family will enjoy the Children's Program and Open House on Sunday, December 16th at 1:00 p.m. when Aondreaa the Storytailor and musician John Carter will perform.

Here's a reminder that volunteers are needed at the Museum. If you or anyone you know might like a very pleasant and interesting place to volunteer a few hours, the Museum will welcome you. And if you like history, you'll be in the right place. It's as easy as calling the Museum at 822-7141.

Happy Autumn,
Julie Stark, Director

Memorials

In memory of **Mohinder Bains**
David Rai & Family

In memory of **Teruko Matsumura**
Tom & Suellen Teesdale

In memory of **Esther Fortna**
Ray & Shirley Anderson
Marnee Crowhurst
Meriel Davis & family
Jim Staas

In memory of **Cheryl Tarke Peacock**
Tom & Suellen Teesdale

In memory of **Melvin Schuler**
Kathrin Burleson
Janeth Hunt

In memory of **Joaquina Calvo Johnson**
Marnee Crowhurst

In memory of **John Henry Stevenson**
Tom & Suellen Teesdale

In memory of **Edith Love**
Sharyl Simmons
Phyllis Smith

In memory of **Merry Yonce**
Marjorie Trafford

Calendar of Events

September

28 Chinese American Exhibit Opening, 6 - 8 p.m., at the Museum

October

13 Membership Luncheon, 11:30 am, Ruthy's, 229 Clark Avenue, Yuba City
Program: Roberta D'Arcy on her book, Browns Valley
\$16 in advance
Reservations required - see insert in bulletin

16 Volunteer Appreciation Tea, 10 a.m., at the Museum

30 Ornament Workshop, 10 a.m., at the Museum

November

15 Ornament Workshop, 10 a.m., at the Museum

24 Then and Now Exhibit closes

29 Decoration Day, 9 a.m., at the Museum

December

1 Trees and Traditions Gala, 5 - 8 p.m., at the Museum, \$45 per person

16 Children's Program and Open House, 1 - 3 p.m., at the Museum

RAY ALEXANDER FRYE

Honorary Member of the
Sutter County Historical Society
by
Marnee Crowhurst

*"I will try to remember past events
And put them into rhyme.
I was conceived some years ago,
And born in another time."*

Ray Alexander Frye was born March 7, 1910 at home in District 70 at the west end of long bridge in Sutter County between the towns of Sutter City and Meridian. He was told that Doctor Jacobs of Meridian "officiated" at the birth and he recalls that none of his siblings were born in a hospital.

His mother's name was Wilhelmina (maiden name Koeneman, originally from Nashville, Illinois) and his father was Hiram Thomas Frye, also born in District 70. Ray, named so because he was told he was a ray of sunshine, was the youngest of five children, Ulyssis Elmo, Gerald William, Gladys Wilhelmina, and Thomas Emmet. Ray says, "It was an honor to be the last of such a motley crew."

Though there was quite an age difference between Ray and his two older brothers, nearly 15 years, he was impressed with their every deed and even as a toddler waited for them to "make his day." They learned to work hard from their father and their business success too. He says his sister, Gladys, was an excellent student and attended the University of California and became a teacher. Her early years of teaching were at Sutter High School where she and her brothers had attended and graduated. She even taught Ray for a short time. The closest in age and interests was his

brother, Emmet, who gave Ray in the early years "fits" but as years went on, "I learned a lot from him and we became hunting and fishing partners. We had many good times together."

Ray graduated from Sutter High with the class of 1928 and attended University of California, Davis, that fall. He participated in track and joined the Alpha Sigma Beta fraternity. He is very proud of his block letter sweater for track and induction into the Block Letter Society. His graduation ceremony was held in Berkeley, where at that time, 1932, all the rest of the schools of the University of California graduates participated in the same ceremony.

After college, Ray went back to the home ranch which at that time was located in the area of the former South Ridge Golf Course and continued to farm grains, almonds and other orchard crops, and grapes, which he and his brothers had been doing since his father had died in 1924 at the age of 54 of cancer. Ray was 14 at the time of his father's death.

Though the farm work was hard and time consuming, he did take time to socialize and date a bit. He met Lena Claramae Yank at the local socials and dances held in Sutter. She was a teacher at the High School. He writes, "... it wasn't exactly a whirlwind courtship but it was steady. After four years, I got up the courage to make the step, it was my life's best decision." They were wed in the present family home on South Butte, June 9, 1939.

They were married for more than 60 years. When asked the question about what kept them together, he answered, "Love, Trust, Fidelity, Family, and True Grit."

They were blessed with four children, Elizabeth Anne (Austin), Carol Rae (Hoffman), John Raymond Frye, and Harriett Jeanne (English). All are Sutter High School graduates. Ray has 10 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Though a busy, diligent farming businessman, Ray enjoyed contributing to the community whenever and wherever the need arose. He writes in his memory book that he helped start the Sutter Volunteer Fire Department and was their first fire chief. He also helped organize the annual striper derby originally as a fund raiser for the fire department then later for the Sutter Lions Club in which he was a charter member. He and Lena helped with the organizing of the Sutter Youth Organization, she as the secretary and later he as the treasurer. He still serves as one of the S.Y.O. trustees.

After the children were grown and began their families, Ray and Lena decided to see the world and they nearly did. Ray called it "every place" which included nearly all of the 50 states, Mexico, Canada, England, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, China and Hong Kong. As he said, "There's not enough space to list them all." They had many friends who joined them but Ray loved the times with Lena and his family the best, especially the fishing and hunting trips.

Lena died of cancer August 6, 1999 but her presence is everywhere in the family home and "Mama" is still a part of Ray's life every day.

Ray enjoys company especially if

they play dominoes. Be prepared to lose, he is a tough competitor. While playing, Ray may give a few of his witticisms while taking your last quarter, such as, "My brothers and I became very successful under the tutelage of our father who started his married life with a 5 dollar gold piece which he then lost while hoeing beans." This writer doesn't know exactly what was meant by that story but perhaps this excerpt from one of Ray's poems may tell you about Ray.

*"I came from the horse and buggy days,
The automobile and airplane came soon,
And then with our modern technology
We landed on the moon.
Things have changed a lot since then
In this land of milk and honey.
It is very obvious to me
That we can't handle money."*

Ray's biography was one of the most challenging and enjoyable stories I have ever written. Challenging because it was very difficult to condense his most entertaining way of speaking and writing into a few pages, and so enjoyable for the same reason, his words.

*Honorary Membership is offered to anyone who was born in Sutter County at least 90 years ago. If you know someone you'd like to honor, please contact Phyllis Smith at 530-671-3261 or SutterCoHistory@aol.com, or send information about the person to Sutter County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1004
Yuba City, CA 95992-1004.*

Timing is Everything

by
Mary Walker

In summer of 1955 Mary and Bill Walker moved with their teen-aged daughter Rose from Los Angeles to Grass Valley. Bill had a job waiting for him there. But Bill's job didn't work out, so the family moved down to Yuba City where Mary's daughter Barbara Ahmann lived on Bandy Way with her husband Ray, who was stationed at Camp Beale. The Walkers moved into a house on McCune Avenue in November, 1955.

Bill's mother Cecilia Schimmerhorn and his brother Chuck (Charlie) Walker came to Yuba City to visit for Christmas. They arrived December 23. Most readers know what happened the next day.

A month later Mary wrote a long letter to her sister Barbara Syverson in De Soto, Wisconsin, detailing all that had happened since then. The letter was written on 7x11" stationery, folded crosswise. Think of a greeting card with writing on the front (page one), then opened and turned 90 degrees clockwise with writing covering the inside (page two), and more writing on the back (page three). In this way Mary wrote 14 pages to her sister.

Following is her letter. To aid in reading, the editors have taken the liberty of breaking the letter into paragraphs, as the original is one long narrative. For clarity, note that Mary also had a son named Bill, whom she sometimes called Billy.

Thursday morn January 26-56

Dear Sister,

Rec'd your welcome letter a short time ago and always glad to hear from you. It has been raining here for the past 2 days & it doesn't look like it will quit for a while. I washed clothes Monday, they got dry, but there wasn't any sunshine. We live about 6 blocks west of where we used to live on Arlington Ave and only a few steps to the main Blvd & business. You just have to reach out & its there haha.

Well we are comfortably situated again in Los Angeles, but I left my heart up North. I am making the best of it down here, because there was no other choice left, when Bill [husband] couldn't find the kind of work he had been doing we almost decided to go to San Francisco, and gave it up & came down here. Bill is night boss at the

aircraft plant where he used to work before. His Boss wrote & told him that his job was open to him if he wanted to come back. So here we are, back where we left off.

There is only one good thing came out of all this move and that is that I am not living under my mother-in-laws roof. The Lord works in mysterious way and I guess it took this to be to our selves. I prayed & cried enough to get out from under it so here I am.

We found this furnished apt the day we arrived in Los Angeles on Jan 7. That was a streak of luck too. That Saturday of Jan 7 we left Bill [brother] & Dorothy's place at 6:30 AM and got here at 4 PM. We drove on down to Charlies Station [Chuck Walker] & seen him awhile, then as we drove on we passed this place where a for rent sign was out & we stoped & looked it over.

So we paid the rent on it & then went back & told Charlie about it & he was happy. The landlady got the Electrician & Gas man to come out that night & turn the lights & gas on. Then before supper I went out & got groceries. Charlie had us go out and eat supper with him after he closed the station & he bought us a real good supper.

Then we came back here to the apt & unloaded the car & put things away. We had the trunk & back seat of the car loaded down with blankets, pillows, suitcases, boxes. We sure had it loaded. We made the 525 mile trip in 10 hours. Later on in the evening, we drove over on Arlington Ave & the old lady had a sour look on her face & asked us right away why we didn't come over there & stay & Bill told her that we found a place. She said how could you rent a place when you haven't got any money. Well we got help from the Red Cross in Yuba City & they were very kind. They paid 125.00 to ship our salvaged household goods to Los Angeles. Then they gave us enough to pay rent & buy gas for the car.

Then as soon as we moved in, a dear friend of mine came over & seen us & she got in touch with the priest at the church & he came over & seen us. He gave us 50.00 for groceries and he gave me a check for 20.00 to buy me a pr of shoes, a hat & purse. Most all my clothes, were ruined & I lost my purse, hat & had only a pr of old white sandals. I wore them on Christmas morning to church when we lived at the evacuation center in a town 100 miles West of Yuba City [Maxwell] for 2 days. We all looked awfull. We didn't take time to get any clothes, only what was on our backs. So we were able to carry on, here untill Bill got his first pay check. Billy & Charlie helped us too, so

we weren't so bad off. What was so hard & tragic for us was that Bill had only 3 weeks work in all the five months we were up North & then the flood came & destroyed half our furniture & clothes.

I never want to go thru that again what I did when we were told to get out of Yuba City & get out quick. I was scared so bad that I was tense & I started to ach all over. I am still sore & lame & haven't went out much only to the store & church.

I live one block from the church we used to go to. Rose Marie is back in Catholic Girls Hi and the Father Principal & sisters were so kind to her. The priest made it possible for her to get her uniforms, books & tuition paid. He felt so sorry for her & introduced her to the faculty & class & told them that Rose was a new student who had floated down from Yuba City haha.

We never dreamed that Yuba City was going to be flooded, because on a Friday of Dec 23, the levee on the Marysville side (twin city) was breaking & all citizens were told to leave & take warm clothes, blankets & canned food along. We had the radio on all the time and kept in touch of what was happening. The people were told where to go to, such as high schools, churchs, and schools, air bases, such as Beale air force field near Grass valley.

Then of course Charlie & my mother-in-law were coming up for Christmas & they got to our place about 10:30 Friday Jan [sic, should be December] 23. They were surprised to hear about the flooded areas, but we weren't worried because we thought Yuba City was safe. Well I made dinner at noon, and then we sat & talked & listened to the radio. Then Charlie had Rose Marie [wrap] some gifts he

brought along & then him & Rose set up the tree & trimmed it so pretty. Our many Christmas cards we pinned on my curtains & put them here & there. After the tree was trimmed, Rose & Charlie went shopping in Yuba City for some gifts & got back about 5:30. I made supper while they wrapped gifts & piled them under the tree. It was a pretty sight. The house was all nice & clean & shiny & we made up 2 extra beds, all clean sheets.

Then after supper we drove over to Barbara's [Ahmann] house and she seemed all upset. She had 2 families at her place who fled Marysville. One was a hi school teacher & his 2 little girls (his wife died 6 months ago) then there was a news paper man & his 3 kids. They had their blankets, clothes & food along & were going to stay there until the flood scare was over. Well we sat down at Barbara's & talked & Barbara said to me, "Say Mom I have a feeling Yuba City is going to get flooded." Ray laughed at her & said it was all bunk.

Then at 8 o'clock PM Friday eve a call came over the radio that all men should come to the levee & help sand bag to save Yuba City. So Charlie, Ray & the other men went & us women were there. Bill stayed as he wasn't able to lift 100 lb sand bags. In about 2 hours Charlie & the newspaper guy & the teacher came back all wet. They looked all in & said the levee started to break & they run the 2 miles back to Barbara's place [on Bandy Way]. Ray didn't come back & stayed. Barbara was so upset that she cried & carried on fearing that something happened to Ray.

It was late & the news was getting bad so we went on back to our place about 1 AM Sat morning, because we heard that all people in our district

should evacuate. So Charlie & Bill each drove back & when we got in the house we turned the radio on & Radio Station or Ham Radio told everyone to get out & get out quick. Charlie & Rose grabed a couple boxes & threwed pots & pans & food in, then I pulled two suitcases out & threwed stuff in. Bill grabbed his machinist tool box & typewriter. Rose throwed a couple pants, socks in her small case & I then grabbed all our bedclothes & we all jumped into the cars & drove over to Barbara's.

When we got there the other two families had their cars packed & ready to leave & Barbara was almost Hysterical because she hadn't heard from Ray. She wanted to stay, but we made her leave with us. So we pulled out at 1:30 & was up on the highway when Charlie's car radio said that a wall of flood water 50 feet high was tearing thru Yuba City & tearing houses & trees up & trapping hundreds of citizens in their cars. Many fled to the orchards & house tops.

We missed being caught by minutes & when we were on the hiway we were driving bumper to bumper & you could see tail lights in a steady stream for miles, hundreds of cars were coming in from the other side roads & squeezing in between the traffic. There were about 15000 people heading west. There were 3 towns all ready & waiting for us so we were going west & had driven about 20 miles & had the Sacramento River to cross. The Civil Defense & hiway patrol cars drove by us calling to us to drive faster as the Sacramento River was already over its banks & was about a foot over the hiway. We just made it thru & it was hard going thru all that muddy churning flood water.

When we got thru there, tho, I

relaxed a little. We still had 25 miles yet to go so at 4:30 AM Saturday when we got to the town of Maxwell, we were told to go to the Hi school there as every thing was there. We were treated so kindly & then we all (13 of us) were told to go to the Fire station & give them our names. Then about [a] half dozen firemen took us over to the hi school & the ladies there & the teachers made us comfortable. There were about 200 people put up there. There were plenty of cots & blankets, food & hot coffee.

Barbara was crying so & I was just sick to see her like that, & she sat by the radio all that Saturday & Sunday & we tried to make her go to sleep. The ladies there tried to get thru to locate Ray but no luck. Every communication was down in Yuba City & all was dead. Well then Sunday came (Christmas day) and we dressed up in what clothes we fled in (I had white sandals on, no hose, old coat & scarf. Rose had a long coat, jeans & old shoes & scarf on). The church we went to, were all people from flooded Yuba City.

Well we had a swell breakfast at the school cafeteria & about 2 PM Charlie called Billy & Dot & they said that they were never so glad to hear that we were safe. Dorothy tried all day Saturday & Sunday to locate us but didn't have no luck. So they told us to come & stay with them as long as we liked. So at 2 PM Charlie & Bill drove down to Billys & we got there about 6 PM. By that time I was just about all in. Bill's mother was holding up better than me & she acted bull headed because she was sorry she came up to see us. Said she wished she would of stayed home.

We then were settled up to Billys & then on Monday night the newspaper

friend called. He went on back to Yuba City Sunday as he was needed at the office, & said he got in touch at Camp Beale & Ray was located. Barbara sure felt better, but Ray could of called Barbara from Camp Beale to let her know he was O.K. He wasn't even worth worrying about is what I think.

Well then on Tuesday Dec 27, Charlie & the old lady went back to Los Angeles. We stayed at Billys, Barbara, Rose, I & Bill, until Jan 1st then the radio said all citizens were allowed to go back to Yuba City to clean up their homes. The house that Barb & Ray were living in didn't get any water in it, but the new home they bought about a mile from us was a total loss. It was a beautiful home & they were ready to move in the first of the year. They will get their down payment back & will probably build next summer. Poor kid. I feel sorry for her. She felt so bad over us losing so much. Well Rose & Barbara stayed at Billys & next day Monday Jan 2, Bill & I left early & drove to Yuba City & got there at noon. We stoped and had coffee & doughnuts at a restaurant & we got to talking & we said we hadn't seen the damage at our place yet. They told us to be brave & be prepared.

So as we drove on thru the down town section, it made me so sad. The stores were all open & cleaning out & piling the stuff in the street. The shoe stores, the floors were full of water soaked shoes. The Christmas decorations were all torn & hanging every which way. We then drove thru town & down to our section. I said, "Oh no, it can't be that bad." The street[s] were muddy & watery. Every one had furniture, mattresses & clothing piled out on the street for the trucks & bulldozers to pick up. They

came thru our section 2 times a day to shovel in furniture & household goods.

Well we finally arrived at our little house & I seen one nice home off the foundation, another broke into [in two?], trees uprooted, some houses over in peach orchards & other people's ground. We went into the house & it almost drove me out what I seen. Our mud caked rugs had been taken up by volunteer workers & they were hanging from the garage roofs drying out. My three big braided rugs, I took out on the porch & washed off with the hose. The land lord lived a block from us & him & his wife came over & we talked & cried. We both lost, but he lost 6 houses he was renting out. All the Christmas baking & the food I had in the refrigerator was spoiled. Also all my sugar, flour, potatoes, lots of food spoiled.

Our lovely bedroom chest of drawers & dressing table was all apart & water soaked. Also was Rosies. Just our iron beds were left. But the funny thing was our new box spring & mattress floated on top [of] the water in the house so it didn't get but 2 inches of water in it. Our nice desk, my trunk full of stuff (keep sakes), 6 dining room chairs, 2 big easy chairs, curtains, drapes, 4 sheets, 2 pillows, spreads, all our shoes & everything in the drawers was a total loss. Lots of pictures & all my good cook book & recipes were lost. You see it was 10 days before we had a chance to get in & try & salvage what we could so there was so much black mud stains & mildew.

My sewing machine was water soaked to the first drawer. We have our gas range, refrigerator, washer, a rocker, 5 chairs & kitchen table. Our

lovely T.V. floor model T.V. set is in a T.V. shop in Yuba City as water got up into the picture screen. Our radio & record player is O.K., but the wood is warped. We have the stuff down here in storage, and we went down the other day to get my washer & sewing machine, also my iron. We like this little apt, but we have only one bedroom & Rose has it. There is a pull down full bed that makes up into a nice bed at night. The living room is about your size & the kitchen is not too small. I also have a service porch. There are 16 apartments here on ground floor & its very quiet. Only couples live here, no children or pets. Later we will try & find a house with 2 bedrooms or more.

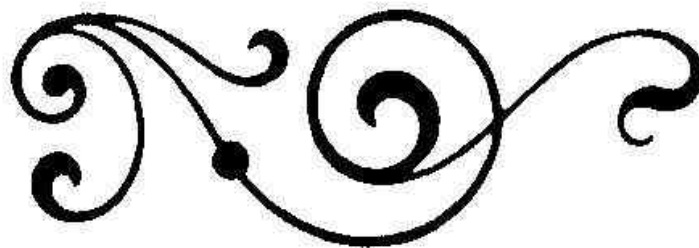
My in-laws all by herself in that big 6 room house & she has all the rest of the house closed off & sits in the big 18 x 24 front room with one little gas burner on & a thick sweater. She hogs all the income of the place & won't leave us rent out the big house. She rented her own apt for \$30.00 [a] month with 3 rooms. Charlie has the big front bedroom, but he has his meals out & has his laundry done. Well I may not have much room, but at least I am alone with my family. I'll make out some how. Barb, I never did expect much from life & its good that I have strong shoulders & a strong constitution to bear up under all my heartaches. I regret very deeply that we couldn't stay on up north as thats my kind of country.

Glad to hear you had a nice Christmas & New Years. I will close now & hope to hear from you soon again. Bye now, Love Sister Mary
Hi to the rest of the family.

Aftermath

The Walkers stayed in Los Angeles for a number of years. Rose graduated from high school in 1958 and married Eric Ernstam. They moved back to Yuba City in 1967; Barbara and Ray were still here. Mary Walker moved to Marysville in 1968 to be near her daughters.

Rose and Eric had two sons, Eric and David; Rose [now Lanzel] and her boys still reside in Yuba City. Barbara and Ray had four children: Cathy Evans, Ray (Butch), Patty Cardoza, and Teresa Durfee. Mary Walker died in Yuba City in 1982. Barbara Ahmann died in 2008 in Sutter.



How Bunce Road Got Its Name

by
Carol Withington

Bunce Road in Yuba City was named after Philetus LeGrande Bunce, a native of Long Island, N.Y., where he lived until 22 years of age. He came to California in 1853, settling in Sutter County, where he was engaged in the dairy business as well as farming and orcharding.

At one time, he owned 250 acres of garden land one mile southwest of Yuba City.

His home was located on a knoll, so that during the flood of 1853 many farmers below Yuba City took refuge near his residence. Many remained two to three days until the water receded. During that winter of 1852-53, the country was reportedly more or less under water the whole season.

All the low and bottom lands were completely submerged. Communication from the towns with

the outside world and between the farmers had to be maintained by boats. This mode of transportation was also used in obtaining supplies.

In 1877, Bunce was elected Levee Director of District No. One, where he served for several terms. He also was a Sutter County Supervisor for many years.

According to an account in the local newspaper, in 1887 Bunce experimented with a compound of his own that after frequent application was able to free his trees from scale and insects. The compound also cured or at least prevented mildew and curb leaf on his peach trees.

He continued his process for a year before publishing his discovery.

Bunce died at his home in 1907 following an extended illness.

2012 Crowhurst Memorial Scholarship Winner Faith Christian High School

by
Courtney Taylor

*The Crowhurst Memorial Scholarship Award was established in 1979 in memory of Estelle Peirano Crowhurst, who was known for her column *The Diary of a Housewife*, which was published weekly in the *Independent Herald*, a Yuba City newspaper. The award is also a memorial to Estelle's son, Thomas J. Crowhurst, who excelled in journalistic writing, especially about sports. He wrote *The Sutter Notes*, a column for the *Appeal Democrat*, and contributed information for the sports pages. He was also President of the Sutter County Historical Society.*

The scholarship is awarded to a talented high school student. Written in journalistic style, winning entries are based on fact and manage to include a bit of humor. The award continues now in conjunction with the Community Memorial Museum as a means of involving more people in the appreciation of Sutter County history. Students interested in a career in journalism who feel they have creative literary talent are encouraged to participate in this scholarship opportunity.

We are proud to present the winning entry for 2012.

A walk down Faith Christian High School's single hallway gives away much about the students and faculty residing in the school. Students are laughing and talking loudly, lockers are being decorated with wrapping paper for students' birthdays, and, most likely, one or two students are singing songs from the drama department's latest musical.

This is Faith Christian High School: the school of one hundred students. From freshman to senior classes, there are the shy kids, the outgoing personalities, and the ambitious and athletic students, but everyone shares a common thread. They are one hundred students bonded by their love of school, faith and community.

In comparison to other high schools, FCHS is relatively small. Each grade level averages approximately 30 students, but perhaps this is what

makes the high school so special. Everyone knows everyone's name, and most know each other on a deeper basis. Because FCHS is small, each person's actions are more visible. This may be the driving force that holds people, kids and teachers alike to the highest standard.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education." The founders of Faith Christian School had this in mind when they first began their mission "to provide a quality education that reinforces that Christian training of the home and church." The school's mission was to mold students of integrity, and, in 1975, Faith Christian School opened its doors to 34 students in grades K-4.

Parents from the First United Methodist Church of Yuba City had wanted to create a Christian school for students in both Sutter and Yuba

Counties. Clarence Summy, who had recently retired as Superintendent of the Yuba City United School District, was solicited for help. He was the first chairman of the Faith Christian School board. The First Christian Church of Marysville had graciously offered to house the school for the first few years of its existence. Following its opening, the school added one grade level each year, growing more confident in its pursuit to train students in both education and faith.

In 1978, the addition of the junior high school was furnished by Calvary Temple, and the church soon began to build four classrooms for the development of Faith Christian High School.

As the school continued to grow, additional space was needed to house the students. The First United Methodist Church had bought 20 acres of land west of Yuba City and offered FCS to lease the land for \$1 per year for 99 years. The foundation for the new high school facility was poured in 1981. Through the generous support of six individuals and a capital campaign, the facility was completed in 1983.

In 1994, parents, teachers, and administrators met to evaluate programs and devise a three-to five-year plan for the school. The success of Faith Christian High School had only just begun. In 1996, the high school was accredited by WASC and ACSI, and later, in 2001, the second accreditation process was completed.

Today, the students of Faith Christian enjoy the tight-knit

community that embodies the high school. Teachers at Faith Christian High School care about each student's success because they are truly passionate about the subjects they teach. They want to see students grasp each concept fully. Many times, students have witnessed AP English teacher Paula Finlay raise a hand to her heart as she discusses the depths of a great writer or watched as American history teacher Scott Bicknell gets into an intense lecture over the issues surrounding the Civil War. Their passion and enthusiasm is what inspires the students in their classrooms.

"Enthusiasm is one of the most powerful engines of success," Ralph Waldo Emerson once said. "When you do a thing, do it with all your might. Put your whole soul into it. Stamp it with your own personality. Be active, be energetic and faithful, and you will accomplish your object. Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

Enthusiasm may be the backbone behind FCHS's solid education, but tight-knit relationships are the heart of the school's strong sense of community. Since Faith Christian School warmly welcomed its students in 1975, and as it has continued to grow, FCHS has always been a welcome environment and a testimony to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s words. Both intelligence and character are taught and learned within this Sutter County school, a place I am proud to refer to as my "home away from home."



Chronicle of the Kuster Family 1811-2010

by
Jackeline Ojeda

This is part 2 of a research paper printed in our July issue. The paper was produced 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.

Descendants of the Kuster Family

The pioneering spirit and entrepreneurial resolve that brought the Kuster's Swiss forbearers from the River Aare Valley of Switzerland to farmlands of the Sacramento Valley did not end with them, or their descendants in the early ranching community Erle. The descendants of these Erle ranchers continued the family tradition of agriculture well into the twentieth century and beyond.

However, in order to understand the Kuster family's journey through California history throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century, it is necessary to understand the changes that took place in agriculture during this time period. At the end of the nineteenth century agriculture in California would forever shift from extensive dry-land agriculture, such the cultivation of wheat and the raising of sheep, to intensive-irrigated agriculture and the cultivation of fruit trees.

The shift from extensive grain growing and livestock grazing occurred at a relatively rapid pace. In fact, the

share of intensive crops in the value of total output climbed from less than four percent in 1879 to over twenty percent in 1889.¹ It was estimated that in 1880 there were a total of four million plum, peach, apricot, apple, and pear trees in California. However, by 1900 the total had risen to more than 27 million.² This monumental increase can be attributed to several crucial factors.

The first of these was the increase in the supply of quality labor at a low cost from countries such as Mexico, India, Japan and the Philippines. Irrigation development also played a significant role in the rapid increase in the cultivation of fruit trees. The development of small ditch irrigation schemes and newly formed irrigation districts, under the Wright Act of 1847, increased the amount of irrigated acreage necessary for the cultivation of fruit trees from about one million irrigated acres in 1890 to almost five million irrigated acres by 1930.³

In addition to the increased supply of quality labor and irrigated acreage, improved transportation services, developed at the turn of the

century, such as refrigerated rail shipping, trucking and the expansion of rural roads also contributed to the boom in the fruit industry. These improved the handling, storage and transportation of fruit, making the cultivation of fruit and fruit trees a more lucrative enterprise. Mechanization and advances in technology, such as the development of the first commercial combine harvester, track-laying tractor, orchard sprayers and mechanized fruit and nut harvesters also contributed to the increased profitability of fruit cultivation.

Finally, the development of farmers' cooperatives brought about the development and implementation of innovative forms of grower action, such as the exploration of new markets outside of California, allowing agriculture in California to not only shift from the extensive grain cultivation and livestock grazing which had previously dominated the agricultural landscape but also transforming it into a thriving international industry.

Billie Everett Kuster, the son Samuel Kuster, Jr. and Ethel Winifred Harrison Kuster, was among the first agriculturists to explore the newly developed fruit industry. He was born on June 28, 1913.⁴ He completed his primary education in Wheatland and resided in Yuba County until early adulthood. He married Gertrude Jauch, native of Sheridan, on August 14, 1934 and in 1940 purchased ten acres of farmland, just north of Nicolaus and south of Yuba City.⁵

However, in March 1940, a massive flood roared throughout the Central Valley.⁶ Vast tracts of

agricultural land were inundated, as were many farmsteads and small towns. Highways, bridges, and railroads also suffered tremendous damage. As a result, Billie Everett Kuster was unable to cultivate the land he had purchased until nearly four years later. Kuster and the family left Wheatland in December of 1941 and relocated to Robbins, California, where they remained until 1944.⁷ From 1942 to 1944, Billie Everett Kuster, along with his brothers Robert, Donald and Fredrick Kuster engaged in the cultivation of grain, particularly growing rice and wheat in the Sutter basin.⁸ Family accounts recount that the Kuster brothers greatly enjoyed the undertaking of agriculture, as well as each other's company, visiting one another on a daily basis.⁹

Billie Everett Kuster relocated from Robbins to Yuba City in 1944, where he engaged in the cultivation of Faye Alberta Freestone Peaches.¹⁰ In this variety of peach, the pit is not closely attached to the flesh of the fruit and is easily removed. As a result, this variety of peach becomes easily bruised and must be utilized within a short time of being harvested. Consequently, freestone varieties of peaches are often popular in the fresh fruit market or for freezing for later usage in the food industry. Kuster continued to cultivate Faye Alberta Freestones until December 1955 when another massive flood devastated the Central Valley.¹¹

Two years after the flood, in 1957, Kuster was able to once again take up agriculture and soon replanted the orchards which had been previously destroyed by the

flood.¹² However, this time he opted for the heartier clingstone variety of peaches. In clingstone peaches, the flesh is harder to separate from the pit, as they "cling" to one another. This variety of peach is most popular with growers, as well as the fruit canning industry, as it does not possess the fragile characteristics of the freestone variety of peaches and can withstand harvesting, packaging, and transportation without being significantly damaged. In addition to peaches, Kuster also experimented with growing other fruits. Although not grown on a commercial scale, he interplanted his orchard with a few other fruit trees, such as apricots and nectarines.

In 1961, Kuster purchased 20 more acres of farmland, where in 1962 he branched out from cultivating peaches to also include Hartley walnuts. Walnuts, however, are not new to California. The walnut was first cultivated in California by the Franciscan fathers in the first quarter of the nineteenth century.¹³ The earliest walnuts to enter California were known as "mission" walnuts and were very different from the walnut varieties of today. These first walnuts were small with hard shells. California's Mediterranean climate allowed these trees to flourish and by the beginning of the 1870s, modern walnut cultivation had begun to take hold with extensive orchard plantings in Southern California.¹⁴ However, within the next 70 years, walnut production would shift to the Central Valley of California and the Coastal Valleys.

The walnut varieties grown in Central Valley differ greatly from the varieties previously cultivated in

Southern California and date back to the varieties imported by Felix Gillet. Gillet arrived in California in 1858 and settled in Nevada City in 1859, where he developed his Barren Hill Nursery.¹⁵ He imported several French walnut varieties. Among his imports were the Franquette, Mayette, Chaberte, Meyland, Parisienne, Proeparturiens, Cluster and Vourey varieties. The Hartley walnut variety grown by Kuster is a derivative of these early French varieties which was developed by John Hartley of Napa in 1915 and has been extensively grown in California since about 1935.¹⁶

Kuster continued to engage in agriculture throughout his life. He passed away in 1994.¹⁷ He was preceded by his wife, Gertrude Jauch Kuster, who died in 1989.¹⁸ Upon his death, Kuster's ranch was attended to by his children, who continued the family tradition of agriculture. William and Gertrude Kuster had four children, Billie Gerald, James, John and Verna Kuster.¹⁹

The oldest child of the Kusters, Verna Kuster, was born in Wheatland on February 18, 1936.²⁰ She attended several elementary schools, including Wheatland Elementary School, Robbins Elementary School and Central Gaither Elementary School before attending Wilson Elementary School. She attended and graduated from Yuba City High School. After graduating high school, she moved to Berkeley, California in 1953, where she worked as a secretary and personnel assistant at the Colgate-Palmolive Company from 1953 to 1959.²¹ She returned to Yuba City in 1960 and worked as a school

secretary for the Linda School District until 1964.²²

Kuster married Howard Gerber in September 1, 1973.²³ They were married until his death in 1994.²⁴ After leaving the Linda School District, she went to work as a certificated personnel assistant and secretary at Yuba Community College, where she worked from 1965 until her retirement in 1985. In 1996, Verna Gerber married James Garner.²⁵ They continue to reside in Yuba City. She has one son, Daniel Lester Johnson. In spite of her retirement, Kuster has continued to engage in agriculture and continues to cultivate Chandler walnuts on the original Kuster ranch, along with her brothers, Bill and John Kuster.

Billie Gerald Kuster was born in Wheatland on June 9, 1938.²⁶ He first attended City College of San Francisco and subsequently transferred to McPherson College in Kansas, where he majored in business administration and graduated in 1962.²⁷ He married Patricia Gilbert on April 10, 1965.²⁸ He entered the army in 1962 and served in Germany until late 1963.²⁹ After being discharged from the army, he returned to Sutter County. He worked as a stockbroker throughout his life, retiring in 2008.³⁰ Kuster and his wife continue to live in Yuba City and still continue the Kuster family legacy of agriculture, growing Chandler walnuts on the original Kuster ranch along with his siblings.

James "Jim" Kuster was born on October 18, 1940 in the town of Wheatland. He attended Wilson Elementary School and Yuba City High School. He briefly attended Yuba

Community College but soon discovered that he possessed a greater interest in agriculture than in academia. He then went to work for the Ostrom Lumber Company, all the while continuing to cultivate peaches and walnuts on the original Kuster ranch, which he sold at his produce stand along Highway 99, which he ironically titled "Kuster's Last Stand." He married Eileen Sturmer on February 18, 1966.³¹ They had two daughters, Elizabeth and Jamie Kuster, born on August 31, 1967 and March 22, 1970, respectively.³² Eileen Kuster passed away in 1990.³³ James "Jim" Kuster died 13 years later, in 2003, at the age of 63.³⁴

Elizabeth Kuster married Daniel Charles Carroll and relocated to Spokane, Oregon where they lived briefly before moving to Portland, where she worked as a customer service representative for AT&T. They have two children, Michael Andrew Carroll and MaryBeth Carroll. Elizabeth Kuster Carroll sold her portion of the Kuster ranch and is not involved in the field of agriculture. Jamie Kuster married Marcus Shen and relocated to San Francisco. They lived there briefly and 3 years later, moved to Burlingame, where she went on to become a partner in a valuation firm. They have two children, Abigail and Eleanor Shen. Despite her relocation to the bay area, Jamie Kuster Shen kept her portion of the Kuster ranch and continues to cultivate Chandler walnuts, along with her aunt and uncles. In addition to walnuts, she also cultivates seven acres of a variety of white and yellow freestone peaches and nectarines, occasionally experimenting with the cultivation of other varieties of fruit trees, such as

apricot and cherry trees.

John Kuster, the youngest of the Kuster siblings, was born on August 27, 1948 in Yuba City. He attended Gray Avenue Elementary School and graduated from Yuba City High School. He also attended Yuba Community College before going on to attend San Jose State University. He then went to work as an industrial engineer for Tyco Electronics. He married Rosemarie de Pauk in June of 1973.³⁵ They have one child, Zachary Kuster, and currently reside in San Jose. In addition to his job as an engineer, John Kuster also engages in missionary work and often travels to Cuba through the Church of the Chimes in San Jose. Like his siblings, John Kuster continues to raise Chandler walnuts on the Kuster family ranch.

As the discussion of Kuster's descendants comes to a close, so does this narrative. With a family history spanning nearly two centuries, the Kusters were among the pioneers of California. The Kuster family, direct descendants of Stephen and Susie Maria Kuster, who left the Swiss valley of the Aare River for the rich farm lands of the Sacramento Valley, were among the pioneers of Yuba County and had a tremendous impact on the history the area. They experienced the frenzied enthusiasm of the

California Gold Rush in Nevada City, as well as the tumultuous beginnings of California statehood. They staked government claims to the land, which they, through entrepreneurial endeavor and perseverance, turned into thriving farms and ranches in the new ranching community of Yuba, at the time known as Erle District.

These early ranchers and pioneers of Yuba County transported their grain, wool and meat through the bustling river settlements, such as Marysville and Nicolaus, to the gold camps, emerging river towns and the San Francisco Bay Area. Their pioneering spirit and agricultural heritage was carried on by their descendents, who continued to engage in agriculture throughout their lives. From the early ranchers of Erle District, who engaged in the cultivation of grain and raising of livestock, to the fruit growers of Sutter County, who witnessed the transition in agriculture in California from extensive grain cultivation and the raising of livestock to the raising of fruit and nut trees, the Kusters had a tremendous impact on the history of the Central Valley. They were one of the great farming families of Yuba and Sutter counties. Descendants of the Kusters continue to live in Yuba City and carry on their family's legacy of agriculture.



Kuster Family Outline – Children and Grandchildren

Stephen Kuster (1811-1856) & Susie Maria Weiss (1813-1895)

1. Samuel Kuster (1840-1919) & Mary Elizabeth Reynolds
 - a. John D. Kuster (?-1917) & Nellie O'Brien
 - b. Susie Kuster (1871-1897) & William Kilroy
 - c. Maria Kuster (1874-1913) & Amos Wellman
 - d. Rosalie Kuster (1876-1911) & Ed Fraser
 - e. Martin Kuster (1879-1930) & Ada Woodroffe
 - f. Samuel Kuster, Jr. (1883-1919) & Ethel Winifred
 - g. Mary Kuster (1886-1935) & Arthur Nutt
 - h. Emory Ellsworth Kuster (1889-?) & Grace Louise Derrickson
2. Hannah Kuster (1835-1932)
3. John Kuster (1839-1918) & Susie Hacker
4. Frederick (Fred) Kuster (1838-1911) & Mary D. Conley
5. Mary Kuster (1850-1897)
6. Alexander Kuster (1846-1856)
7. Caroline Kuster (1852-1859)
8. Susie Maria Kuster (1850-1899) & Perkins Lafayette Hutchinson
9. Louisa Kuster (1847-1934) & Orlo Whiteside

Known Descendants

Samuel Kuster (1840-1919) & Mary Elizabeth Reynolds

1. John D. Kuster (?-1917) & Nellie O'Brien
2. Susie Kuster (1871-1897) & William Kilroy
3. Maria Kuster (1874-1913) & Amos Wellman
 - a. Infant (died 1913)
4. Rosalie Kuster (1876-1911) & Ed Fraser
 - b. Marie Fraser (1909-?) & John Halverson
 - c. Elva Fraser (1906-1948) & Larry Halverson
 - d. Edwin Fraser (1905-?) & Merle Hacker
5. Martin Kuster (1879-1930) & Ada Woodroffe
 - a. Reynolds Loomer Kuster (1905-1923)
 - b. Muriel Kuster (1908-?) & Jim Messick
 - c. Veda Kuster (1912-?) & Leroy George Parker
6. Samuel Kuster, Jr. (1883-1919) & Ethel Winifred
 - a. Robert Kuster (1908-1965)
 - b. Donald Kuster (1909-?) & "Peach"
 - c. Fred Kuster (1911-?) & Mildred
 - d. Billie Everett Kuster (1913-1994) & Gertrude Jauch
 1. Billie Gerald Kuster (1938-Present) & Patricia Gilbert
 2. James "Jim" Kuster (1940-2003) & Eileen Sturmer
 - a. Elizabeth Kuster (1967-Present) & Daniel Charles Carroll
 - i. Michael Andrew Carroll
 - ii. MaryBeth Carroll
 - b. Jamie Kuster (1970-Present) & Marcus Shen
 - i. Abigail Shen
 - ii. Eleanor Shen
 3. John Kuster (1948-Present) & Rosemarie De Pauk a. Zachary Kuster
 4. Verna Kuster (1936-Present) & James Garner
 - a. Daniel Lester Johnson
 - e. Winnie Kuster (1916-?) & Fred Beck
7. Mary Kuster (1886-1935) & Arthur Nutt
 - a. Marie Nutt
 - b. Myrtle Nutt

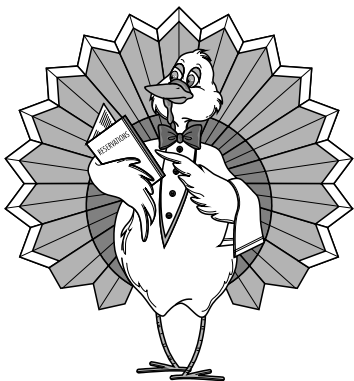
- c. Nadine Nutt
- d. Frances Nutt
- 8. Emory Ellsworth Kuster (1889-?) & Grace Louise Derrickson
 - a. Emory Kuster, Jr.
 - b. Ruth Kuster
 - c. Mary Elizabeth Kuster

Works Cited - See July 2012 Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin

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 - ²² Ibid.
 - ²³ Ibid.
 - ²⁴ Ibid.
 - ²⁵ Ibid.
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 - ³¹ Ibid.
 - ³² Ibid.
 - ³³ Ibid.
 - ³⁴ Ibid.
 - ³⁵ Verna Kuster, interviewed by author, August 21, 2010, Yuba City, California.

Puzzling

K H U S B I A E Y R F Y A R Y N
M E M N V L L E W X A M W J E L
R M E O S T U N L A W K X P L K
E E D L N V Z K U S T E R U L T
C Y K H R G G U H W U D P T A N
Q D W L F C H I N E S E T Y V E
E X B T A G U C H E Q A B H S M
N T U N J W O Y J E T U O X N A
R D A X P U F A V S N N B R W N
R W E G R B C I D C O N E B O R
D T R T L K L N E R N B X H R O
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B N A G F A A O H C W N U Y Z T
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Ahmann	Brandstatt
BrownsValley	Bunce
Chinese	Colgate
Courtney	Crowhurst
Flood	Hmong
Honorary	Jackeline
Kuster	Maxwell
October	Ornament
Palmolive	RayFrye
Walker	Walnuts



General Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 13 at 11:30 a.m.

at Ruthy's

229 Clark Avenue, Yuba City

\$16 per person

Reservations required

See insert in bulletin

Program: Browns Valley

Roberta D'Arcy