



Vol. LV No. 2

Yuba City, California

April 2013



USS Sutter County
courtesy of Community Memorial Museum



OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Sarah Pryor, President

Vicki Rorke, Vice President

Phyllis Smith, Secretary/Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Joe Bouchard - 2009*

Steve Perry - 1994

Constance Cary - 1987

Sarah Pryor - 2008

Bob Mackensen - 2002

Ruth Mikkelsen - 2009

Vicki Rorke - 2009

Leona Pennington - 2006

Margit Sands - 2007

Phyllis Smith - 2000

*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 2013 dues are payable as of January 1, 2013. 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

We just sprung forward one hour. I have been trying to think outside the box to get Sutter County Historical Society to be the organization that everyone in Sutter County wants join. That people would spring into doing the fun things we have at the museum. What exciting things about the history of Sutter County would interest people? What can our organization do that can help the museum to grow and be an even more important part of Sutter County?

In February I visited all the public schools in Sutter County and the private ones I was aware existed. I took a Valentine bag to each school for the 3rd and 4th grade teachers that had information for the Judith Barr Fairbanks writing contest. This year we opened the contest to 3rd and 4th graders in Sutter County because it is these grades that study local history and California History. I also gave each school a *Sutter County Coloring Book*. Did you know that the museum has these coloring books? They are a wonderful gift for grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

At our April meeting (Saturday, April 13) besides awarding the prizes to the children who won 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the writing contest, I will be showing the slides that Dorothy Ettl, my sister, took of the California Missions. Dorothy and I took our mom to visit each mission after our father had passed away. It took us almost three years to visit all the missions.

The big event for me this April is the picnic in the Buttes at the Dean Ranch (Saturday, April 27). Last year about 40 of us enjoyed a wonderful spring day in the Buttes. We picnicked, hiked, took photos, visited with each other and had a wonderful time. Several people who came had canes and walkers. They enjoyed being able to be in the Buttes to enjoy the environment. This picnic is open to everyone young and old. I hope to see you at our April meeting and again a two weeks later for our picnic.

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.

In this issue:

Director's Report	2	Memorials	3
Leonard Berry			4
USS Sutter County			6
Diary of an Average Housewife			14
Streets Where We Live	19	Calendar of Events	20

Director's Report

At this writing, we are preparing, with the Sutter Buttes Garden Club, to have a grand opening and ribbon cutting for the new Schnabel and Dean Patio, on a fine spring day. Today the finishing touches are being put on the benches, fountain, and gates. The beautiful landscaping plants are beginning to show new growth around the curves of the attractive stamped concrete patio. Vines twine up the sides of the large arch, echoed by a delicate metal vine twining through the front gate. This lovely patio and fence were a most generous gift from the Schnabel family to honor their parents Randy and Shirley Dean Schnabel, longtime Museum supporters and Historical Society members. They worked long years with the Historical Society toward the creation of this museum and maintained hands-on support over the years. Their children, Randy, John, and Margit, are continuing their tradition of support of and involvement in the Museum.

The patio, which is adjacent to Ettl Hall, has been a labor of love and much hard work by the Sutter Buttes Garden Club. Generous donations from the Club and their members made possible the landscaping and features. Many members and businesses donated their talent, time and efforts to produce the beautiful result. I am so pleased that this lovely new addition to the Museum will honor Randy and Shirley and the Schnabel and Dean families, both early Sutter County pioneer farming families. Many of you also fondly remember them and Randy's sister, Caroline Schnabel Ringler, who volunteered over twenty years at the Museum.

The patio will add an attractive dimension to the Ettl Hall facility, which will be used by the Museum and Historical Society for our programs and events. It is now possible to rent the hall, which includes the use of the spacious patio and, if desired, also the William Conkey Memorial Rose Garden in Howard Harter Park. For information about renting the hall for an event, please call Sutter County Public Works at 822-7410.

We are looking forward to our upcoming exhibit, called *Other Views: the Physical and Cultural Diversity of the Sutter Buttes Interpreted through Art*. It is an extraordinary art show about the many aspects of the Buttes. Thirteen noted artists from throughout Northern California are providing their interpretations of our favorite little mountain range. The show opens with a reception on Friday, May 10th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and will remain through August 3rd. Various media are included from painting to glass art to photography. We believe it is an exciting and extraordinary exhibit, and we ask that you help to spread the word about it. I am confident that visitors will have a remarkable experience.

Thank you for your continuing support, as the Museum experiences another budget year with reduced open and staff hours. Thank you for your patience, too, as reduced hours limit how much our small staff can accomplish. We are optimistic about future improvement, but, for the time being, our hours won't be restored.

Julie Stark, Director

Memorials

In memory of **Maurine Adams**
Howard & Ruth Anthony
Phyllis Smith

In memory of **Sharon Anthony**
Joni Adams
Sharyl Simmons
Julie Stark

In memory of **Marilyn Bevacqua**
Jerry & Patricia Whitten

In memory of **Greg Bihlman**
Tom & Debby Heenan

In memory of **Peggy Burns**
Bob & Katie Bryant

In memory of **Ken Calhoun**
Bob & Katie Bryant
Ann Karperos
Sharyl Simmons
Julie Stark
Cynthia Struckmeyer

In memory of **Ardith Christy**
Jim Staas

In memory of **Roberta Huffmaster**
Barbara Moberly

In memory of **Thelma Hughes**
Helen Heenan

In memory of **Howard Lansdon**
Julie Stark

In memory of **Irene L. Oliva**
John & Connie Bustos

In memory of **Clyde "Brud" Perry**
Tom & Suellen Teesdale

In memory of **Dorothy Ross**
AAUW Garden Section

In memory of **Tosh Sano**
Ann Karperos

In memory of **Orlin Elmer Schuler, Jr.**
Sandra & Robert Fremd

Outright Gift to the Museum
Dr. R. Earl & Billie Burky
Bob & Lillie Inman

Wanted:

Did you attend **West Butte School** or know anyone who did? I'm doing research on the school and would like to talk with former students. I would appreciate any help I can get locating people who have knowledge of the school or who attended.

Thank you.

Kate Mackensen
530-671-7490

Leonard Clinton Berry, Sr.

by

Leonard Berry was born September 22, 1924, the youngest of six children, to Clinton Guy and Leona Berry. His place of birth was on the Antelope Ranch located just east of Live Oak where he was raised with his five siblings. The ranch had been in their mother's family since 1852. Leonard's mother was also born on the ranch. Leonard's brother, Ralph, was called Bud, and his sisters were Lucille, Lois (called Tiny), Arlene and Jane.

Leonard grew up on the ranch picking prunes and the family maintained a small dairy. He attended school in Live Oak, and no, he didn't have to tread through snow, but he did have to walk the two miles most of the time. While in grade school, Leonard had a girlfriend, Anna Mae Nesmith. Years later, in December of 1942 following their graduation from high school, they married. They were married 64 years prior to Anna Mae's death in July, 2007.

Leonard and Anna Mae had four children: Leonard, Jr., Craig, Judy and Scott; five grandchildren: Joe, Melissa, Michael, Tommie and David; and three great-grandchildren: Hunter, Declan and Schyler.

Toward the end of World War II, Leonard joined the US Army and became a paratrooper in the 13th Airborne. He served in North Africa and Europe and was fortunate to have arrived in New York just in time to march in the Victory Parade in Times Square.

Following his return from the service, Leonard went to work for his

brother, Bud, as a plumber and electrician. Several years later he went on his own as an electrical contractor with his own business, "Leonard's Electric." He took on a friend, Warner Reheman, and later was jointed by his second son, Craig.

Leonard and Anna Mae purchased their first home in Live Oak on Ivy Street about the time of Craig's birth and in the ensuing years they began their lifelong involvement in the Live Oak community. Leonard, along with others, started up the Live Oak Little League and helped build the first park right behind their house in an open field that is today known as Melton Circle. Leonard was a Little League coach for all three of his sons and helped Anna Mae coach girls' softball. One year Anna Mae and another friend took on the job as coaches of a Little League farm team because no one else could be found. Their team went on to win the local championship that year.

Over the years, in addition to Little League and girls' softball, Leonard and Anna Mae were involved with both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America and with the 4-H Club program.

During the summer of 1959, Leonard moved his family to the Antelope Ranch and his parents moved into the house on Ivy Street. He became a farmer but continued with his electrical business.

In the mid 1950s, Leonard joined the Live Oak Lions Club, an organization that was just starting up in Live Oak. As an active member, Leonard

was involved with all of their community projects, including the Easter Egg Hunt. He watched it grow in numbers of kids participating and having to move the hunt three times: from the Live Oak Part, to the elementary school, and today at the local high school. He also helped with the community Fall Festival every year. One year Leonard and Anna Mae were honored as the Grand Marshals in the Fall Festival Parade, recognizing their years of service to Live Oak.

Leonard also served a time as a member on the High School Board. Some folks may have thought it was necessary, or a least good timing, since Craig was in high school at the time.

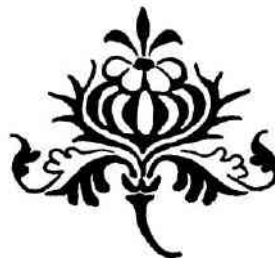
Leonard's involvement in the community did not go unnoticed. He was selected as Citizen of the Year by the Live Oak Chamber of Commerce, and received a proclamation from the California Legislature recognizing his dedication to serve the community of Live Oak. The Live Oak High School selected him as "The Best of the Best" alumni on year where he gave a talk to the seniors as they prepared for graduation. His recognition didn't stop there, the friendships he formed over his lifetime and the crowd that supported his family at his funeral was a huge tribute to who Leonard was.

Leonard and Anna Mae loved the Live Oak community but their family was always their priority. As their

children grew and grandchildren came along, he and Anna Mae could always be found in the crowd at the ballpark, in the gymnasium, or at the football games, scouting events and even dance recitals to cheer on their grandchildren or grand nieces and nephews.

Family reunions were a tradition in Leonard and Anna Mae's lives and have been held annually to over 55 plus years. Most of those years the reunions were held at the ranch during the month of May. They were first held in the river bottoms under the huge oak tree by the river and some of us would start the year out swimming in the river. We always had a huge softball game played on a very rough cow pasture. Everyone would play - young and old - great times. After Oroville Dam was built, changing the river dramatically, for safety reasons the reunions were moved to the back yard. However, the fellowship and good times continued.

Leonard was born, lived almost all of his life and died on the Antelope Ranch on October 29, 2012. The ranch was a place that was truly his home. He had a full life; a wife and family, many relatives, friends, a community he loved, and was able to know his grandchildren and some of their children. He was happy, and his passing was peaceful. He will be missed.



USS Sutter County (LST-1150) History

from
NavSource Online

We obtained permission to reprint this article from NavSource Online. The anonymous author of the article obviously served on the USS Sutter County during the Vietnam era as he switches viewpoint within the article, sometimes writing as an outsider and other times recounting military assignments from a personal perspective. We also left the Navy acronyms as the author used them. (A web site for deciphering these acronyms is in the Sources section.)

Landing Ship, Tank (LST) is the military designation for naval vessels created during World War II to support amphibious operations by carrying significant quantities of vehicles, cargo and landing troops directly onto an unimproved shore. The LST could carry nearly 2,000 tons of tanks and other vehicles. The bow had a door and ramp which opened onto the shore, allowing the vehicles to drive off.

Originally the ships were designated with numbers, but in 1955 most that remained in service were named after United States counties. Other California counties honored with ships named for them include Alameda, Calaveras, Fresno, Madera, Plumas, San Bernardino, Solano and San Joaquin counties.

The USS Sutter County was 328 feet long with a complement of seven officers and 104 enlisted men. It was propelled by two 900 horsepower diesel engines and was armed with 40 mm and 20 mm guns.

PHASE I: 1945-1946

One of the last LST 542 Class landing ship tanks to be constructed before the end of World War II, the USS LST 1150 (later the USS Sutter County) participated in the occupation of Japan

and in September 1946 was placed in the Pacific Reserve Fleet.

Her keel was laid on 1 March 1945 at the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company's Shipyard at Seneca, Illinois, and on May 30th she slipped into the Illinois River. Mrs. Maria Sheehan Budd was the sponsor at the launching.

With a Mississippi River pilot in charge, the LST moved down the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers from 12-19 June 1945 and then docked at New Orleans, Louisiana. Lieutenant J. F. Carpenter, USCGR took command of the vessel on 20 June 1945 when she was placed in commission. Outfitting only took seven days and after two days at sea she began shakedown training at the Amphibious Training Base, Galveston, Texas. By 11 July 1945 LST 1150 was pronounced ready for combat operations and she moved to New Orleans for shakedown repairs.

Sailing to Gulfport, Mississippi on July 20th, the LST spent two days in port loading on board 382 long tons of pontoons. Moving to Mobile, Alabama on the 23rd of July, the LST picked up 718 long tons of smoke pots which proved valuable during the invasion of Okinawa. Departing from Mobile on 24 July, LST 1150 arrived off Como Solo, C.Z., on August 4th and following

provisioning and refueling she transited the Panama Canal on August 6th and headed for Kanoeh Bay, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. However, when midway to her destination her port of call was changed to San Francisco where she arrived on 27 August 1945 and two days later unloaded her cargo at the Naval Ammunition Depot, Mare Island, California.

A cargo of provisions for the occupation forces was swung aboard the ship several days later and she unmoored and sailed to Pearl Harbor arriving there on 9 October. Eight days later she was again at sea and after stopping at Okinawa, arrived at Wakayama, Japan on 7 November 1945 to begin duty with the Fifth Fleet in the occupation of Japan.

Departing from Osaka, Japan on 3 December 1945 the landing ship tank stopped at Saipan, Pearl Harbor, and San Francisco before docking at San Diego, California on 5 January 1946. On 8 February 1946 the Coast Guard officers and enlisted men were replaced on board the LST 1150 by U. S. Navy crew and the naval vessel operated in and about San Diego until March 1946 when she received orders to place her out of commission. On 7 August 1946 the USS LST 1150 was decommissioned and berthed in the Columbia River Group of the U. S. Pacific Reserve Fleet.

While on active duty the USS LST 1150 earned the following medals:

- The American Area Campaign Medal
- World War II Victory Medal
- Occupation Service Medal - Asia -20 November - 3 December 1945

In accordance with the Secretary of the Navy Notice of 12 May 1955, the USS LST 1150 was named the USS Sutter County (LST 1150) to honor a county in California to be effective 1 July 1955.

PHASE II: 1966 - PRESENT

Following extensive overhaul and a reactivation period of four months at the Willamette Iron and Steel Company, Portland, Oregon the USS Sutter County was recommissioned 16 April 1966 while moored starboard side to the Willamette River Quay Wall in Portland. Guest speaker for the ceremonies was Captain J. H. Elson, USN, Administrative Officer of the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington. Also attending were Captain Radlinski, USN, Commanding Officer of the U.S. Naval and Marine Corps Training Center, Swan Island, Portland, Oregon; Captain Williams, USN, Commanding Officer of the USS Chara (AB-31); the Honorable Robert Duncon, U. S. Representative of the 4th Congressional District, Medford, Oregon; Mr. Francis Ivancie, representing the Mayor of Portland, as well as four representatives from the ship's namesake, Sutter County, California. They were Mr. Eber Bielby, Chairman, Sutter County Board of Supervisors; Mr. Andrew E. Neubauer, President, Yuba City Sutter-County Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Leon West, President, Yuba City Street Products Company; and Mr. T. W. Spoeri, Executive Manager, Yuba City-Sutter County Chamber of Commerce.

Following commissioning ceremonies, the Sutter County remained at the Quay Wall in Portland until 29 April at which time she departed for San Diego, California,

under the command of Lt. L. L. Massa.

Once in San Diego the ship, officers, and crew commenced two months of extensive training. Together they learned the methods of amphibious warfare and successfully completed a thorough administrative inspection. On 16 July 1966, with inspections and underway training behind her, Sutter County headed for Del Mar Boat Basin where she loaded a detachment from Marine Air Group Fifteen bound for Iwakuni, Japan. A month later, after stops in Pearl Harbor and Guam, her new homeport, Sutter County meandered her way through the Island Sea to Iwakuni. Next stop was Sasebo, Japan, on the Island of Kyushu, then Inchon, Korea, Naha, Okinawa, and back to Sasebo for a twelve day upkeep period.

Following another brief Inchon-Okinawa run, LST 1150 finally arrived in Vietnamese waters off Danang. She participated in the Danang-Chu Lai run, transporting cargo and personnel between these sister ports, before heading home. Her stay in Guam was relatively brief before the anchor was lifted 18 November and a course for Vietnam was set. But while in transit with the Pitkin County (LST 1082), she was ordered Northwest to Kaoshiug, Formosa to take on over 1,000 tons of cement for delivery in Phan Rang, Vietnam. The now-accustomed Danang-Chu Lai run followed five days in Phan Rang Harbor and then it was home to Guam, this time for the Christmas holidays.

On 3 January 1967, she was once again bound for Vietnam and the Danang area. As on her past trip, she was again diverted from her destination - this time southward to participate in

Market Time Support operations off the Mekong Delta. With four Navy Swift Boats and two Coast Guard Cutters under her command, the Sutter County refueled and replenished her boats, keeping these fast-moving craft in operational condition for their strenuous 24 hour patrols. The ship spent over five weeks engaged in Market Time Operations and finally, on 28 February 1967, made her way to Hong Kong for five days well-deserved Rest and Relaxation. On 9 March 1967 Sutter County got underway from Hong Kong and headed for Naha, Okinawa to offload a tank deck full of retrograde (used-up Army and Marine Corps vehicles) which she had carried from Chu Lai. After unloading in Okinawa the LST headed for Guam and arrived on 21 March 1967.

The upkeep period in Guam was extended through 16 April so that the ship's first anniversary of recommissioning fell on the day Sutter County got underway for still another deployment to Vietnam. Twenty-four thousand miles had passed beneath her keel and 15 port visits were recorded in the first year after commissioning of Sutter County.

En route to Vietnam, Sutter County stopped in Subic Bay, Philippines for type training. In company with another Squadron Three LST, USS Park County (LST 1077), she conducted several exercises in competition for squadron honors. Sutter County left Subic Bay on 1 May and arrived for duty in Vietnam on 5 May 1967.

From Danang the ship began shuttling war material north of the DMZ outpost of Cua Viet and mouth to the base at Chu Lai. This logistics support

went on for eight weeks and became a grueling routine for the officers and men. During this time the ship and crew prepared for their Fiscal Year 1967 Operational Readiness Inspection. It was held in Danang on 3 and 4 June and Sutter County finished with an overall grade of Excellent. The ship carried over 15 million pounds of cargo during this deployment and made 26 beachings.

On 1 July Sutter County was relieved by USS Bullock County (LST 509) and began the return trip to Guam. Again the ship stopped in Subic Bay for two days of type training. On 7 July the ship got underway and on 15 July stood into Apra Harbor, Guam. The upkeep period in Guam lasted three short weeks as the ship prepared for its return to duty in Vietnam. Before leaving, however, the prospective Commanding Officer, Lt. Robert N. Giuffreda reported aboard.

Change of command on Sutter County soon followed her getting underway from Guam. The ceremony was held on 15 August 1967 as Sutter County transited the San Bernardino Straits of the Philippines. The next day the previous Commanding Officer, Lt. Cdr. L. L. Massa departed as the ship beached at Manila, Philippines. Here Sutter County was to begin loading schoolhouses for two weeks participation with the Government of the Philippines in Operations Schoolhouse. Forty-five pre-fabricated schoolhouses were brought aboard the ship from 16-19 August. Then the ship departed Manila bound for Tagbilaran, Bohol Island, and Dumaguete, Negros Island, Philippines for delivery. The lifts were completed without a hitch. Both towns responded to their

American visitors with open arms, making it an enjoyable adventure for Sutter County. On 28 August the ship completed its task in the Philippines and began the trip to Danang for further logistic support duty.

Sutter County arrived in Danang, RVN on 1 September. On 6 September after offloading in Chu Lai, we were assigned the job of splashing 9 LVTs loaded with 238 Korean Marines of the Tiger Division and U. S. advisors on the beach at An Ky some 50 miles south of Chu Lai. This operation was completed without a hitch on 7 September, and the next two weeks went by without incident. On 16 September Sutter County made way for Kaoshiung, Taiwan and five days of upkeep and R & R. On 25 September we were underway for Guam. Everyone worked long hours on the return trip, the decks and bulkheads received fresh paint and paper work was brought up to date. We arrived in Guam 2 October.

Sutter County didn't stay long in Guam, getting underway 20 October for duty in Operation Market Time. The ship arrived on station off the Mekong Delta on 5 November 1967 and relieved USS Bulloch County (LST 509). For 30 days Sutter County was CTU 115.3.9 in charge of four PCFs and two WPBs conducting patrol, search and rescue, and vertical replenishment operations. On 4 December USS Hampshire County (LST 819) relieved us on station.

The crew had one night's liberty that cruise, during a brief stop in Subic on the way back to Guam on 19 December 1967. We arrived in Guam to begin an extended availability period of ten weeks, including a week in dry dock. As many as could be spared received leave time to go home for the

holidays. Those left aboard decorated the ship with blue lights and Christmas trees to brighten their spirits.

The beginning of 1968 found us still in Guam. With our repairs completed, Sutter County got underway on 26 February 1968 for Yokosuka, Japan to undergo Refresher Training. Upon arrival on 4 March, Refresher Training Group WESTPAC came aboard to give us our drills. Three weeks later we had been through all the required exercises, and had successfully completed refresher training, the first of our squadron to do so. Gunnery received "outstanding," there were several "excellents" given and in all respects Sutter County was ready for duty. With this behind us we didn't waste any time getting to Danang, arriving on 5 April.

The next two months were spent on the shuttle run between Danang and Cua Viet. Finally on 4 June we were scheduled for three days training with Marines from Marble Mountain near Danang and their LVTs. On 7 June Sutter County left RVN for Hong Kong and five days of R & R, the first scheduled R & R since March of 1967.

Subic Bay was the next stop for Sutter County. Upkeep time in Subic lasted 23 days with two days of ISE tacked on. On those two days we had a shore bombardment exercise and a sleeve shoot to keep our gun crews in practice. The ship left Subic 12 July 1968 for yet another R & R port, Bangkok. After five days there we received a three-week extension in Vietnam.

This operation proved to be something new for Sutter County. Our first stop was Danang to pick up a load of ammunition for delivery at Can Tho,

forty miles up the Bassac River in the heart of the Mekong Delta. We followed this with two more lifts, from Vung Tau to Can Tho. One of these included a hazardous night transit of the river with the ship darkened, carrying 168 men of the Army's 656th Transportation Company.

We finally left for Guam on 19 August. During our transit we received word that Sutter County had been awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for its service as a part of Landing Ship Squadron Three from July 1966 through March 1968, while engaged in support of United States efforts in the Republic of Viet Nam.

On 30 August we arrived in Guam with our new decoration, after having been away for better than six months. A month long upkeep period was all that was needed to return the ship to top condition, and we left once more on 3 October 1968.

It was back to Danang again for a short tour on the familiar Cua Viet shuttle run. Heavy seas had caused a sand bar to form across the channel at Cua Viet, so we were forced to wait until a dredge could deepen it. During this time we were called on to assist the salvage ship, USS Safeguard (ARS-25) which had run aground near Tan My. We never got the opportunity to try our stern salvage for the USS Hugh Purvis (DD-709) was able to retract the Safeguard shortly before we arrived.

We were able to make only one trip into Cua Viet before leaving for Subic Bay. Our five-day upkeep period there had to be extended one week when serious problems cropped up with the ship's evaporators. On 31 October, three Ensigns in the Vietnamese Navy came aboard to begin a six week

Training Program with us. During their stay they learned as much about our people and customs as they did about the operation of an LST.

It was 16 November when we finally arrived in Vung Tau, RVN to relieve the USS Pitkin County (LST 1082) as a resupport LST for Mobile Riverine Base "A" of TF 117. Once again we were in the Mekong Delta, this time in the Tien Giang and Ham Luong Rivers where the joint Army-Navy force of MRB "A" operated. Sutter County made four trips up these rivers, each of about a week's duration. After a month of this hard routine with its seemingly endless sea details, we were more than ready to turn our job over to the USS Tom Green County (LST 1159).

From there it was off to Danang to join the USS Sedgwick County (LST 1123) and the USS Pitkin County in a group sail to Hong Kong for six days R & R over Christmas Week. We left there on 30 December 1968, and rang in the New Year on our way back to Guam.

Sutter County remained in Guam from 8 January until 7 March 1969. Most of that time was in a restricted availability period with the Naval Ship Repair Facility. The week of 17-21 February was devoted to local Type Training. Each of these five days was spent at sea engaged in various drills and exercises.

The ship got underway for Subic Bay, P.I. on 7 March and arrived on 15 March. Additional Type Training was in store for the following weeks. We exercised our 40 mm guns in the shore bombardment drill one day practiced firing at airborne targets on another. From 19-23 March, Sutter County made a port visit in the small town of San

Fernando, La Union, 120 miles north of Subic Bay on Lingayen Gulf. A short upkeep period back in Subic lasted until 10 April, followed by five more days of Type Training.

On 15 April the ship set out for Manila for six days R & R. A schedule change sent us straight to Vietnam from there. We arrived on 25 April to begin a month-long tour with Naval Support Activity, Danang. During this time, Sutter County made ten round trips carrying supplies from the deep water port at Danang to the small Navy outpost of Cua Viet.

When we left Vietnam on 28 May, it was with a load of worn and damaged vehicles to be delivered to Taiwan. Two days, 3-4 June, were spent off-loading this cargo in the port of Kaohsiung. From there, it was another day's trip to Koelung, where we spent one day taking on a load of U. S. Army vehicles. Steaming to company with the USS Clarke County (LST 601), we carried these to Okinawa. After two days stay, 9-10 June, we got underway once again, heading northwards to Japan.

From 13 to 18 June, the ship was in Sasebo. Most of this time was set aside as R & R for the crew. We left on 19 June bound for our homeport.

The ship's three-and-one-half month deployment ended on 25 June 1969 when Sutter County docked in Apra Harbor Guam, to begin its three month overhaul. We remained pierside for the first month as the workers from the Naval Ship Repair Facility began their many jobs throughout the ship. From 27 July until 18 August, we were in the dry dock USS Richland (AFDM-8) to allow our hull to be sandblasted and painted.

On 4 September 1969, with the ship alongside the pier once again, Lt. Robert H. Riley relieved Lt. Robert N. Giuffreda to become the third Commanding Officer of the Sutter County since her reactivation in 1966. Under her new skipper, Sutter County's overhaul period was brought to a successful conclusion on 1 October 1969.

Sutter County departed Guam on 22 October with the Landing Ship Flotilla One Mobile Training Team aboard whose goal it was to whip the ship into shape after a long stay in port. After ten days of vigorous training at sea, the ship arrived in Subic Bay to bid farewell to the instructors, deliver some special cargo and mark the first leg of a new deployment.

Once more the ship was off to Viet Nam, this time arriving in Tan My, RVN on 5 November and departing on the 7th with a load of 67 Marines and three officers from the Third Marine Division with their equipment. The trip to Naha Okinawa proved to be a memorable one for many reasons, the foremost being the bad weather which cracked the hull, thus requiring a diversion to Subic Bay while on the return trip. The ship was drydocked on 23 November for repairs and on 26 November, she was once again off to Viet Nam, this time to Danang for an ammunition run down the coast. Stops were made at Chu Lai, Qui Nhon, and Cam Ranh Bay from 1-13 December. Unfortunately, it ended on an unhappy note produced by a night beaching which left the ship with a punctured bottom.

After temporary repairs, the ship was once more headed for Subic Bay

and drydock, this time to be accompanied by a restricted availability which lasted from 16-27 December. Upon completion of repairs, Sutter County again set out for Danang, RVN and another cargo lift destined for Okinawa. She arrived on 30 December ready for her assignment and ready to usher in a new year as well as a new decade. The close of 1969 found Sutter County moored to a pier in Danang awaiting engine repairs which had delayed her journey - perhaps a fitting place to ring out the old and ring in the new.

Following engine repairs, Sutter County departed Danang on 3 January enroute to Okinawa. After a brief stop over on the 11th and 12th she was underway to Yokosuka, Japan where she was to undergo Refresher Training. Upon arrival on 16 January, an upkeep period began accompanied by the preparations for our Training Readiness Evaluation scheduled for the 26th. Refresher Training lasted until the 13 February. On 14 February, Sutter County departed for Danang once again to continue the familiar Danang-Okinawa runs. She arrived on the 25th, and departed the next day with a load of runway matting. Following arrival in Okinawa, her cargo was offloaded at the Naha LST Ramp and the next morning on 9 March she once again headed for Guam. On 15 March she arrived at Apra Harbor to begin an RAV which was to last only one month. During this period much work was accomplished and several inspections conducted, one of which was of the ship's Planned Maintenance System.

Following a schedule change, Sutter County was extended in port and later directed to sail to the Caroline

Islands with a Project Handclasp Cargo for the Palau missions. This trip took place between 30 April and 9 May. Following the return to Guam an Inserv-inspection was scheduled for 14 May and another trip to Yokosuka for Amphibious Refresher Training in June. Sutter County departed Guam on 21 May and arrived in Yokosuka eight days later. Amphibious Refresher Training which was conducted by Landing Ship Flotilla One began 1 June and lasted for a two-week period. Following the training period, Sutter County remained in Yokosuka, Japan in an upkeep status until July 6th at which time she departed Yokosuka with a load of runway matting bound for Iwakuni, Japan. On the 9th and 10th of July Sutter County unloaded her cargo in Iwakuni before getting underway on the 11th for a brief stop in Okinawa while enroute to Vung Tau, RVN. There she was to begin a two-month River Commitment. On 23 July, she arrived in Vung Tau and began preparations for her assigned duties. Between 26 July and 4 August Sutter County transited the Song Bo De River, Bassoc and Rovers while supplying U.S. Military

Activities with fuel, water and ammunition. From 5 August to 11, she was in Vung Tau, RVN awaiting the arrival of USS Park County (LST 1077), which was assigned as the Sutter's relief. Sutter County had received a schedule change directing her to report to Danang for a load of cargo bound for San Diego, California. She arrived in Danang, RVN on 15 July and following loadout she departed for Guam once again in company with the USS Outgamie County (LST 1073). On 27 August, the Sutter County made her final return to Apra Harbor, Guam. The news of her inactivation had been announced on 8 August, directing her to report to the U.S. Naval Inactivation Facility, Orange, Texas on 21 November. She was decommissioned 12 March 1971 at Orange, Texas, and laid up in the Atlantic Reserve Fleet at Orange. On 15 September 1974 she was struck from the Naval Register and sold for commercial service 1 November 1975. She was renamed the MV Marland II and in 1980 was renamed MV Amal. Her final disposition is unknown.

Sources

NavSource Online: Amphibious Photo Archive

<http://www.navsource.org/archives/10/16/161150.htm>, accessed 3-5-13.

Photobucket, USS Sutter County

<http://s425.beta.photobucket.com/user/Sopgravy/library/USS%20Sutter%20County?start=all>, accessed 3-5-13.

USS Park County LST 1077 <http://www.ussparkcounty.com/index.html>, accessed 3-5-13.

Wikipedia, Landing Ship, Tank

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LST-542_class_tank_landing_ship, accessed 3-5-13.

Wikipedia, List of United States Navy LSTs

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_Navy_LSTs#USS_LST-

1100_.E2.80.93_USS_LST-1198, accessed 3-5-13.

Wikipedia, List of U.S. Navy Acronyms

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._Navy_acronyms, accessed 3-17-13.

The Diary of an Average Housewife

by
Estelle Crowhurst

Estelle Crowhurst wrote a weekly column about her life for the Independent Herald from 1948 until 1969. Recently the Crowhurst family donated a bound copy of these columns to the Museum. The following are excerpts from some early columns.

March 9, 1948

There must be enough housewives in this community to be interested in the diary of one. We must have lots of things in common and it is usually fun to find in print the same silly little problems you've been struggling with yourself. Are you a perfect housewife? Are you one whose home is always clean and in perfect order, whose children are always well-behaved and immaculate, and who is always the very pink of neatness herself? I know at least two such people. And then, there are homes that look much worse than yours does, and you have seen many children who are not so well-tended as yours, and you have seen sad, bedraggled washings that you would never hang out. So, while we are not as good as the perfect housewives, we are not really bad ones, and that must make us average ones. And there should be many things of interest for us in this column. I hope so.

January 27, 1949

Today while making the beds in the twins' bedroom, I heard our President take the oath of office and make his inaugural address. And I thought how fortunate I am to be living in this age and this country.

When my mother was my age, the President's inauguration was simply a newspaper headline which to the

average housewife was pretty dull. Now, thanks to radio, I can, while doing my housework, hear the most inspiring world events taking place.

Of course, I had a hard time keeping my mind on the text of the address because the announcer remarked as the President stood to take the oath, that he removed his hat and overcoat. Remembering our cold weather of last week, I kept worrying about his taking a cold, and how he could keep his teeth from chattering.

I kept hoping that the announcer just had not had a chance to tell us that Mr. Truman had put his coat back on, before starting his speech, but no, when the address was concluded, the radio announcer said then the President was putting on his overcoat. I could only hope that our President had worn his longies to the inauguration.

February 17, 1949

One of the bad features of the job of washing woodwork (and there are many) is that a lot of marks that I thought were dirt turned out to be scratches, and before I'm through I decided that what is really needed is a new coat of enamel. But at least it's clean, for a little while, and I know it is, if no one else does.

And along the same line of thought, have you ever washed your kitchen curtains and while ironing them decided that there is no greater

satisfaction that seeing clean, crisp curtains, ready to be put up again at the windows. And when you do hang them you find they have shrunk about two inches and look just terrible. It's one of life's minor heartbreaks.

March 17, 1949

Don't ever handle a little boy's jeans with the pockets down. I did today and there was a clatter that sounded like some of the sound-effects in a radio mystery story, and it took me ten minutes to pick up and sort the junk. And some of it took courage to touch.

...The filibustering in Congress over the Civil Rights bill and John Lewis' latest strike seem to me to pointedly emphasize the fact that too many of our lawmakers, and labor leaders, are not sufficiently adult to administer the power they have obtained. They sound an awful lot like the youngsters playing in our back yard. If they can't have their own selfish little way, they won't play.

March 31, 1949

Children are a constant source of wonder and amusement to me... They are so honest and naïve in their remarks. My sister's little boy, who is nine years old, brought home a book from the school library. While his mother was looking at it with him, she accidentally dropped it. She found to her consternation, when she picked it up, that the fall had broken the binding. She was greatly concerned over it, since she has always taught the children to take good care of things. The fact that it was a school book only made matters worse. Her little son kept trying to reassure her, telling her not to worry, it was really a very old

book and therefore he knew his teacher would not mind.

Finally he said, "Don't feel badly, Mother. It's really awfully old. Why it must be as old as you are."

"And," my sister sadly concluded, "he didn't even mean to be funny."

This same little boy came home one afternoon recently, while his mother was away from home for a half hour or so. It had been raining and of course there was plenty of mud around. He had important business to attend to, and did not want to wait for his mother's return, so left the following note for her so she would not worry about him:

"I have gone kite flying with galaches."

April 14, 1949

The professional homemakers in the magazines and on the radio keep assuring me that I can save fabulous amounts of money and fabrics if I can sew, knit and crochet. What they skip over lightly is how I can save time enough to be able to sew, knit or crochet.

April 21, 1949

Children are wonderful. Easter Saturday morning one of the twins hurt his hand seriously enough to have to pay a visit to the doctor. He came home bandaged and pale, even limping a little. We were all very sympathetic and he had just settled down to an enjoyable invalidism when his brothers began making preparations to attend the school children's Easter egg hunt. In less than a minute the invalid was up from his downy couch and off to the egg hunt, completely cured. I kept thinking how wonderful it would be if

grown-ups could forget their aches and pains, both physical and mental, as quickly as children can.

During Easter vacation this year we experienced a new type of epidemic. We had an epidemic of Superman. Every worn-out sheet of mine has been pressed into service by our eight-year-olds. All the neighborhood youngsters from eight years of age down to three have been flourishing around in white capes on which are emblazoned in poster paint the names of the various comic strip characters (and I do mean characters). Creation of the costumes was strictly by the trial and error method which was a little extravagant on the worn sheets. And my kitchen linoleum has some rather bizarre effects in red and orange poster paint. But the boys have really had fun. I only hope that the casual passer-by, on our street, does not come to the conclusion that we are sponsoring a junior Ku Klux Klan.

April 28, 1949

What a short spring we have in some parts of Sutter County.

Three or four Sundays ago we took our lunch and rode out to the Buttes in the afternoon and enjoyed the warm sunshine. As we rode around looking for a good spot in which to eat our lunch, we were fascinated with the way the country had turned green, practically overnight.

We climbed one of the lower Buttes and had our lunch in a beautiful spot, where we could see the whole expanse of valley. The water of the by-pass was a shining ribbon that twisted through the lush greenness of everything. The rolling hills of the Buttes were like thick green velvet.

Yesterday afternoon we rode clear around the Buttes, going out through Pennington and around the west side of the Buttes past all the gun clubs and home through the Butte pass road. It is hard to believe that just a short four weeks ago everything was green, for now the hills on the west side are quite brown.

May 12, 1949

We modern homemakers have an easy time of it, though most of us lose sight of the fact. When I make a cake I have an electric mixer, recipes that are scientifically planned and a very good oven, thermostatically controlled. There really is not much excuse for baking failures though I have them occasionally.

But when my mother was cooking for her family (there were six of us for every meal) she did it the hard way. She had none of the labor saving gadgets that I take so much for granted. When she made a cake, she did all the creaming and beating by hand; the recipes were very vague - they called for a pinch of this or that, and butter the size of a walnut, for example.

And when she finally got the cake ready for the oven, she had to make and keep a wood fire of the proper temperature to bake it. She had to have the right kind of wood, and there were many heated discussions between her and Papa because he had not ordered the right kind of wood from the wood-yard.

The lighter kinds of wood that made too quick a fire could burn a cake badly, and if the wood happened to be a little green or damp, the fire would languish and so would the cake.

In fact, the more the fire smoldered, the more Mama did.

I have a friend who spent her early married life on a ranch which had neither gas or electricity. She did all her baking in a wood stove, and she says she knew just the size and shape a piece of oak wood should be to bake an angel food cake and it made a better angel food than she has ever turned out in her gleaming white, modern gas range.

June 23, 1949

Teen-age girls of today have always impressed me with their well-groomed, immaculate appearance and not having any of my own, I have often wondered how they accomplished it. Last week I watched two of them getting ready to go to a tea, and I can plainly see how it is done, though how their poor mothers survive the ordeal is a mystery to me. Such attention to detail!

Following are a few excerpts from their conversation, all delivered in the most worried tones:

“Is that a snag in those stockings? Mama, why weren’t you more careful when you put them away? It will, too, show. I’m not wearing a formal, you know. This slip could be longer too. And I knew I should have pressed this dress again. Yes, it does, too, need it. It’s wrinkled under the arms. I’ll have to press it, even if we are late.

“And this awful hat. That little band in the back just parts my hair, right down the side of my head. Cute, isn’t it? These heels. It’s good you don’t stay long at a tea. I couldn’t possibly stand in these heels more than an hour. And I certainly wish I had a

different bag. It’s awful with the shoes.”

When they were finally dressed and ready to set out, the effect was lovely, but it wasn’t easy! And of course, beneath all the fastidiousness, and attention to detail, is their youth, which enhances any outfit.

June 30, 1949

Advertising is a wonderful thing and plays a most important part in the industrial world today, as well as in all our daily lives. But quite often the claims that advertisers make for their products are just a little too fantastic. They really get carried away with themselves, particularly radio advertisers. Last week I heard a radio advertiser say that if you had your clothes cleaned at a certain cleaning establishment, you would have complete self-confidence. That is an exaggeration to put it mildly. We all realize that one of the important factors in good grooming is cleanliness and to feel well-groomed is to add one’s poise, but it takes a lot more than good grooming to win complete self-confidence.

It seems to me that a real mark of a mother’s growing old is when she realizes that children grow up too fast. To most very young mothers, it seems that the babies will never start talking and becoming independent people. But when they are suddenly school age and then drop their little mispronunciations and mixed-up phrases, you know that they have stopped being babies, and it seems just terrible. Our six year old still has a few little mistaken pronunciations which we cling to for a little while longer, hoping no one will correct him. One of them is “blazed” doughnuts.

One of the twins used to say, when I would caution him not to get dirty, "I won't try do." Now he says, "I'll try not to," and I know he is growing up. But not enough grown-up to have much success, at least in not getting dirty.

July 14, 1949

I wish I could remember what little boys did with their hands in moments of stress before the era of the T shirt. All of our three little boys, in any crisis, twist their hands up into the front lower edge of their T shirts until they are about waist high and then wring and twist around inside the shirts until they look ready for the rag-bag - the shirts, not the boys. And one evening recently at a children's program, I noticed one little boy up on the stage who apparently was suffering a little from stage fright, twisting and working incessantly with his shirt. In his nervousness, he finally had his whole stomach exposed and, for a while, drew more attention from the audience than the program itself.

T shirts are a boon to the busy mother, as far as laundering is concerned, but if one has a nervous child, the life of the T shirt is short.

July 21, 1949

Did you hear the jet-planes overhead one day in the latter part of last week? At least, that is what we decided it was that we heard. There was a most deafening noise and by the time I could get to a window, a matter of seconds, there was nothing to be seen. One of our family, who was a little quicker, saw just a flash and the children who were at the swimming pool, where there is an unobstructed view of the sky, said they saw three of

them. We were discussing it later and one of the little neighbor boys said, "Jets travel faster than sound." He is just seven years old and I thought how different a child's outlook is now than it was just a few years ago. Imagine a child of seven knowing that sound travels at any set speed. But in this age of mechanical wonders, children learn such things without even trying.

August 18, 1949

This is one of the best times of the year for meal planning and preparing, it seems to me. There are such quantities of perfect, large, red, flavorful tomatoes in our yard, and the freestone peaches are so good just sliced and chilled, that the rest of the meal sort of builds itself around them. Not to mention sweet corn, string beans and squash. I know those things are available all the year round, now, either canned or frozen, but that is not the same as picking and using them the same day.

August 25, 1949

One of the many tragic notes in last week's news was the death of Margaret Mitchell. For one who had lived through fame so quietly and modestly to meet such a violent death seems doubly sad. According to the papers, the driver of the car which struck Miss Mitchell is deeply remorseful, which is understandable. But it seems to me that authorities in Atlanta should be equally remorseful. Why should a man with 23 traffic violations against his record still be driving a car? And worse than the fact that he was driving a car, when he is admittedly so careless, is that he was earning his living by driving, and carrying passengers at that.

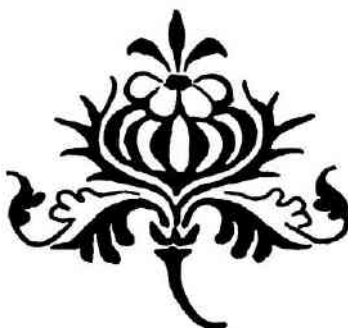
Calendar of Events

April

- 3 Children's Program, 11 a.m., Ettl Hall
- 6 Comedy Night at the Museum, 7 p.m., Ettl Hall
- 12 Yuba City High School art exhibit opens, 5 - 7 p.m. at the Museum
- 13 Historical Society Membership meeting**
2 p.m.
Ettl Hall (at the Museum)
Program: Sarah Pryor presents Dorothy Ettl's photos of California Missions
Dessert follows the program
No charge
- 27 Picnic in the Buttes**
10 a.m. - meet at the Museum to carpool
Location: Dean Ranch
Potluck, donation \$10 per person or \$20 per family covers drinks, plates, utensils, tables and chairs
Questions? Call Sarah Pryor, 530-755-0702

May

- 10 Sutter Buttes Art exhibit opens 6 - 8 p.m. at the Museum



PUZZLE PAGE

Z T I R V C A G W R I U A B D W T N
 P L B B Z N D E A N C X V E L V E T
 V D U N T C R O W H U R S T A E F I
 X E Q O F V R P G J P H F H G Q K I
 I L J T A M P O Z F Z O I E E B X A
 G P T G I P A T I O J U R C C W R W
 Y A M N R T I P P I S S I S S I M A
 U X Q I B I R B U T T E S S M C Z H
 G A U N A I U I A I G W P K P V T J
 B U R N N C I F H Y P I Q S W E U L
 F Q A E K C S K L S O F B I B I E L
 K U D P S B T S B C T E N D F Y T O
 H S A Y P M L O N G I E S B X N K I
 H N F E E E I A M P H I B I O U S L
 D A G T A G O S E S R Y S H Q C A M
 D V W Z R C L I S R H U T U X N D U
 W Y G D L L U Y T I Y K E C D B M E
 S N O I S I V O R P O B N I T T H S
 B E Y V P I C N I C R N N D V Y R U
 S V S V D O R P F V Z G S U M E K M

Amphibious
 Burn
 Buttes
 Crowhurst
 Dean
 Fairbanks
 Hawaii

Housewife
 Landing
 Longies
 Missions
 Mississippi
 Museum
 Patio

Pearl
 Pennington
 Picnic
 Provisions
 TShirt
 USNavy
 Velvet

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, April 13 at 2 p.m.

at Ettl Hall

(behind the Museum)

1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City

Free dessert!

Program: California Mission photos

by Dorothy Ettl

Presented by Sarah Pryor

Buttes Picnic

Saturday, April 27 at 10 am

\$10 per person or \$20 per family

See details on page 19