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Bessie, Orlin, Clarke and Daryl Van Dyke, approximately 1920 in front of their home (Senator Chandler House, Pleasant Grove)

Photo courtesy of Community Memorial Museum



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*The year the director joined the Board.

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The 2016 dues are payable as of January 1, 2016. Mail your check to the Community Memorial Museum at 1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City, 95993-2301 530-822-7141

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President's Message

I wish you all a Happy, Healthy, Heartfelt, and Historical 2016. Yes, I did once belong to 4-H. It is a good club for youth to belong to because it teaches to make the best, better. It encourages them to become good citizens. I encourage those of you who are members of Sutter County Historical Society to encourage or help someone else to become a member. Our Community Memorial Museum is a "Gem" for our county. The more members who support it the healthier it can be. The art exhibit of the 1955 flood at the museum was one of the big highlights for me. To see the talent we have in our own community was awe inspiring.

I have been having moments of "AWE" so far in 2016. I hope to have many more to celebrate the history of our fine community.

Our January meeting is on Saturday, January 23rd and we will hear about more century farms. We hope David Tarke can join us and share what he remembers about the history of the farm. I heard he has a wonderful slide presentation. We will also learn about the Francis Van Dyke Farm in the Pleasant Grove area (see article on page 5); the Francis T. Reische Farm in Meridian; and the Elizabeth Hauss Farm on Garden Highway in Yuba City. I really have enjoyed learning about the original farmers in our county. Many wonderful people dedicated their lives to making Sutter County what it is now.

We can still use some more directors. The directors will meet this year four times on Wednesdays, March 16, June 15, September 21, and December 7. We meet at 2:00 p.m. and are usually done in an hour. We would love to have your input and experience on our board. Please feel free to come and join us at the museum. We meet at the museum so we can see the exhibit and find out what Jessica would like help with.

I hope to see you on Saturday, Jan. 23rd at 2:00 pm at the Museum. We will be serving cookies, punch, tea and coffee.

Sarah Pryor
President

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Director's Report

I've had a great first couple of months at the Museum, and we have a lot coming up, so I'm going to launch right in! But first, I want to say a big THANK YOU to all of you, for helping me feel welcome here at the Museum. And in case you are curious, I'm loving it here. So thank you.

Our 34th year of Trees & Traditions was on December 5. We had a great turnout, and, while I don't have the final numbers yet, it looks like we made a good amount of money. We made some changes to the event this year, utilizing Ettl Hall more than we have in the past. We moved the carving station and the desserts out there, which made getting into the party so much easier, and also allowed us to keep the gift shop open during the event. The food was fantastic – shrimp, meatballs, egg rolls, cheese and vegetable platters, exotic fruits, and at the carving station we had turkey, ham and beef. There really was something for everyone! If you haven't attended in the past, I hope you will consider it in 2016.

Our Childrens Program & Open House was on December 13. It was well attended, and everyone enjoyed it. Aondreaa the Storytailor performed the Magic Fir, and John Carter played many songs for the kids.

The Museum hosted a donation box for Toys for Tots in December, which had to be emptied in the middle of the month because it was so full! Thank you to everyone who donated!

First up in the new year, you'll be seeing some changes to our gift shop, including a new Point of Sale system, and some new merchandise! We'll have a mini-reopening in February, keep an eye out for the date.

For temporary exhibits, we'll be starting the year with *The Art of Survival: Enduring the Turmoil of Tule Lake*. Following that we'll be hosting the artwork of students from River Valley High School, then Yuba City High School. We'll then be exhibiting *Sacrament: Homage to a River*. This is the work of photographer Geoff Fricker, and it explores the geology, history and ecology of the Sacramento River. It is beautiful work, and we're thrilled to be showing it. The year is rounded out by our fourth annual art exhibit. We're still working on the details of the theme, so you'll hear more on this later!

For permanent exhibits, we are finally finishing the Mexican-American exhibit. The opening date isn't set yet, but we expect it to be in late January/early February. This is the last exhibit to be completed in the Multi-Cultural wing, and we're thrilled to be wrapping it up.

Finally, another big thank you to everyone who renewed their membership. We'll see you at the Museum!

Jessica Hougen
Director/Curator

Memorials

In memory of Mary Barr
Alice Chesini Family

In memory of Dillian Blankenship
Stan & Jeanette Christopherson

In memory of Donald & Mary Butler
Ma'Carry Cairo

In memory of Jerry Garcia
Jim Staas

In memory of Lil Inman
Robert Inman
Rose Marie Wood

In memory of Pat Lamon
Katherine Schmidl Family

In memory of Debra Luis
Jim Staas

In memory of Mary Moroni
Helen & Michael Andrews

In memory of Henry Scrogin
Russ & Rita Schmidl

In memory of Allen Sutfin
Howard & Ruth Anthony

In memory of Elaine Tarke
David & Gina Tarke

Outright gift
Carmen Frye
Julian & Nancy Rolufs
Allen & Kathleen Herr
Audrey & Robert Vogel

Thank you from Julie Stark

Dear Sutter County Historical Society Friends,

I am truly overwhelmed by your incredibly generous gift to me upon my retirement as Community Memorial Museum Director/Curator. Words cannot really express my astonishment and delight to receive such an unexpected expression of your esteem for my years of work at the Museum. It was work that brought me joy every day, and I was always incredulous that I could be paid to do work that I loved so much. I have ever described it as the “best job in the world”, and I meant that.

During my last week of work at the Museum, I was reminded again why the work I was privileged to do is so important. On two different occasions, I was able to hear family history and stories from two elderly ladies as they donated precious family heirlooms to the Museum. One had grown up in Sutter County during the Great Depression and had carefully saved the few toys of her childhood into her 94th year and was now sharing them and her memories with the Museum. The other told stories of her great-grandfather and his two brothers who came from the east coast by sailing ship, walked across the Isthmus of Panama, boarded another ship to San Francisco and settled in our area during the Gold Rush. She donated family items saved through four generations. That our museum is the repository of such stories and artifacts and holds the trust of those who share them is important work indeed.

Thank you for your support of the work of the Museum and Historical Society. I appreciate all that you done through the years, because it takes a great team to make our museum such an outstanding institution in our community. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the marvelous gift, and I promise to continue supporting our Museum and Historical Society in every way I can. I know that Jessica and Sharyl will carry on and do a terrific job, with support from all of us.

Julie Stark

The Van Dyke Century Farm

Harlan Van Dyke submitted a history of his family's farm for inclusion in the Sutter County Century Farm Register sponsored by the Historical Society. It contains an overview of their farming operations in southern Sutter County and the valuable contributions the family made to Sutter County's prosperity over the years. Focusing on Francis Van Dyke, Clarke Van Dyke and Harlan Van Dyke, the accomplishments of the entire family are worth noting. The following is gleaned from his submission to the Sutter County Historical Society.

Francis Van Dyke – 1847-1944

Francis Van Dyke was born August 19, 1847 to David and Margaret Van Dyke in Knoxville, Iowa. He married Nancy Sherwood on September 5, 1879 and they had four children: Effie Honor Van Dyke English, Ralph Sherwood Van Dyke, Francis Marion (Frank) Van Dyke and David Clarke (Clarke) Van Dyke. The family lived in Knoxville, Iowa for three years after their marriage. In 1873, the Bureau of Indian Affairs hired Francis to teach Indians to farm and raise cattle and sheep. Francis was assigned to the Visalia Rancheria (Tule River Reservation) and the family believes that he and his family made the journey by train.

In 1875, the Bureau of Indian Affairs reassigned Francis to the Round Valley Reservation near Covelo, California. He and his family lived near the reservation for the next 21 years.

Farming was so foreign to California Indians' experience that the men were locked in compounds at night to make sure that they would still be present the next day to perform their chores. During times of salmon runs, the Indians were escorted to the Eel River to fish and cure (salt and dry smoke) fish to last through the winter. Francis noted that when following their traditional lifestyle that they'd lived for thousands of years, there was no

need to restrain the men at night. Francis oversaw the Round Valley Indians when they herded sheep from Covelo to Point Reyes where the livestock was loaded on boats and barges for market. The trip took at least 15 to 20 days down and probably a little less back and must have been a welcome change from their day-to-day life.

On one of these drives to Point Reyes, nine-year-old Clarke Van Dyke was injured in a fall, breaking his foot. While the foot was set, the results were less than optimal and the break bothered Clarke for the rest of his long life.

In 1896, the oldest son, Ralph, was injured in a farming accident involving a team of horses and farm equipment resulting in a very serious head injury. His aunt, Debora Jane, was married to a doctor in Livermore, California and the family gave up their life in Covelo and moved to Livermore so Ralph could receive better medical care. The wagon route they took followed the current route of Highway 101. Francis leased a ranch and farmed for two years. Ralph slowly improved and little more is known of the family's stay in Livermore.

In December 1898, Francis moved the family to Pleasant Grove in the southern part of Sutter County where he brought a small ranch known

as the Parker Place. They arrived in the middle of winter and food was in a very short supply. Clarke later remembered, "I ate enough cottage cheese that first winter to last me a life time" and as far as it is known, Clarke never ate cottage cheese again. In the spring of 1899, with Ralph's health improved and Clarke old enough to be a real help, Francis and the two boys planted the entire ranch to crops.

Frank did not move to the Parker Place with his family, but went to work in Sacramento for a large butcher shop delivering meat to customers. He boarded with his aunts, Francis' sisters, who had moved from Knoxville, Iowa to Sacramento. He married and he and his wife Lotta had two children, a boy and a girl. Frank eventually rented the Archie Glenn ranch across from the Parker Place, which is now known as the Home Place.

The years following the move to Pleasant Grove were prosperous. Crop yields were good and prices held at a healthy level. When the ranch adjoining the Parker Place to the east became available, the Van Dyke purchased it and put it under cultivation. During these years, horses and mules pulled the grain harvester.

Francis, Ralph and Clarke continued to increase the farm acreage through leases and purchases until they were farming several thousand acres. The mule and horse-powered harvester was upgraded to three Holt 75 horsepower tractors and they were eventually replaced with larger diesel tracklayers and wheel type tractors — the kind in use today.

Francis built a home on a high knoll south of the Parker Ranch house. The knoll was leveled and the basement dug using Fresno scrapers

pulled by horses. The lumber for the house and tank house was freighted via horses and wagons from Georgetown. Francis hauled baled hay up to Georgetown and lumber on the return trip.

Nancy Van Dyke, Francis' wife of nearly 51 years, passed away at their home on July 1, 1920. She was buried in the family plot in the old Lincoln Cemetery in Lincoln. Ralph finally succumbed to his earlier head injury on June 8, 1922 and was buried in the family plot as well.

Francis lived for the next eight years in the house he had shared with Nancy. Clarke and his wife, Bessie, moved into the home ranch to be closer to ranch operations. Francis was semi-retired at this time, but still involved in ranch operations. He concentrated on stock and chores at the home ranch. In the spring, he would have Clarke plow a large garden plot about a half-mile from the ranch house and then work it by his own manual labor for the rest of the growing season. He was known and envied for his high-producing vegetable gardens and supplied the ranch cookhouse as well as his sisters in Sacramento with vegetables and melons.

Francis Marion Van Dyke passed away on May 15, 1944 at the age of 96. His ashes were interred in the family plot. He was buried as a Free and Accepted Mason with Masonic Rites — he had been a member of the Masonic order for over 50 years.

After his death, Frank and Lotta moved into the Chandler place with Clarke and Bessie moving to the home place. Frank and Clarke leased the Sartain Ranch from the Natomas Company. This consisted of several thousand acres. They farmed the

Natomas property for many years. Wheat was the main crop grown on the ranch prior to rice becoming a popular commodity. Rice quickly replaced wheat as the main product produced on the ranch.

Both Frank and his wife, Lotta, died in Lincoln. Frank passed in 1954 and Lotta in 1968. Both are buried in the family plot.

David Clarke Van Dyke – 1885-1982

David Clarke Van Dyke was born in Covelo in Round Valley, California on March 11, 1885 to Francis and Nancy Van Dyke. He was known as Clarke throughout his life. He started school at the Covelo Grammar School in September, 1893. He attended school there until the family moved to Livermore, California when he was in the fourth grade. He continued his education there through the sixth grade. Once the family moved to Pleasant Grove, he returned to school and graduated from the Cottonwood School in the Lincoln School District after completing the tenth grade. He met Bessie Anita Hotchkiss at a dance at the Mount Pleasant Hall. Bessie lived with her parents and two sisters and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1909.

Clarke would drive from the ranch to visit Bessie, a trip of about 14 miles each way. During his visit they would attend a dance or some other entertainment in the community. On the way home, once he got to the outskirts of town, he would tie the reins to the buggy dash, curl up in the seat and go to sleep. While he slept the horse would arrive at the barn door, Clarke would wake up, unharness and feed the horse and then go to bed.

Clarke and Bessie were married in Sacramento on June 10, 1911. They honeymooned in Sacramento for several days and then returned to Pleasant Grove. They made their home at the Thomas Place, which was three miles north of Clarke's parents' home. Two sons were born at the Thomas Place, Daryl in 1916 and Orlin in 1918. Sometime between 1918 and 1922, Clarke and Bessie moved to the Chandler Place on Pleasant Grove Road and in October 1922 Harlan was born. Dean arrived on Daryl's tenth birthday in 1926. Bessie always baked two cakes so each boy would have their special birthday cake.

The day started at 4:00 a.m., before breakfast, with feeding and harnessing teams. Breakfast was served at 6:00 and the teams were watered and prepared for the day's work. At noon, the men ate their dinner and rested for a few minutes and then went back to work. At dusk, the teams were returned to their barn, unharnessed, and turned out in the corrals to roll and drink. The men would eat their supper and put the animals in their respective stalls for the night. During the busy seasons, this was a seven-day-a-week schedule with only an occasional break on Sunday to attend church or visit.

Prior to 1916, the Van Dykes did their farming with horses and mules to plow, disc, harrow, seed and harvest. Plowing was the most time-consuming since a two-bottom plow pulled by eight mules did not cover much ground. During harvest season, as many as 40 head of mules and horses would be required to pull a harvester.

Clarke had a pair of small buckskin mules that he trained as single line (jerk line) leaders. The pair would

answer to the flip of the single line and to the vocal commands of “GEE” (right) and “HAW” (left) and “WHOA” (stop). The single line was the only control line used. These jerk line leaders led the rest of the teams in the hitch, while the teams behind the leaders did all the pulling. Clarke was very proud of this pair of buckskin leaders and would adorn their harnesses with bells and brightly polished metal conches.

About 1928, Clarke decided to build a slaughterhouse to slaughter his own hogs and cattle. Over time, this increased in size and volume of business. He would buy cattle in northern California, Nevada and Idaho. He purchased sheep and hogs in California. With his own trucks he would transport the purchased stock and deliver them to the slaughterhouse. He sold and delivered the butchered meat in Marysville, Yuba City, Sacramento and San Francisco. The slaughterhouse operation continued until about 1939 at which time the buildings and refrigeration equipment became obsolete.

About 1930, Clarke built four grain storage tanks. These were eventually converted to a rice dryer and storage plan. Van Dyke’s rice dryer, now a commercial enterprise, has grown both in size and capacity to one of the largest in the area. At the end of World War II, as his sons returned home, Clarke began to turn operations of the ranch over to Orlin, Harlan and Dean. Daryl established a machine shop in North Sacramento.

Clarke and Bessie were very active in community affairs. Clarke was a 33rd degree Mason, belonging to the Lincoln Lodge, for over 50 years. They were members of the Pleasant Grove Rebecca Lodge #269. Bessie was

past Nobel Grand and District Deputy. They were the guests of Del and Connie Hays, sailing on the Hays’ yacht to Alaska. They also traveled to Mexico and Hawaii.

Clark died in January, 1982 at age 96. Bessie, his wife of 72 years, passed away in 1983. Both are buried in the family plot in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery. They left behind four sons and their wives, 13 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

Harlan Maring Van Dyke, Sr. — 1922-

Harlan Van Dyke was born in October 1922 in Sacramento to Clarke and Bessie Van Dyke. He attended Pleasant Grove Elementary School. After graduation, he attended East Nicolaus High School and graduated in 1940, receiving the Bank of America Award as well as some awards from the Future Farmers of America.

Harlan attended Sacramento City College, studying Aeronautical Engineering. He then worked as an aeronautical mechanic at McClellan Air Force Base for two years. In 1944, he joined the Merchant Marines, serving in World War II in the South Pacific on a Victory ship.

Harlan married his high school sweetheart, Dorothy Genevieve Sills, on March 15, 1942. Dorothy was born in Sacramento and attended Leland Stanford Elementary School until the sixth grade when she moved to Pleasant Grove with her family. She attended Marcum-Illinois Elementary School and graduated from East Nicolaus High School. She had the lead role in the Senior High School drama and played the saxophone in the ENHS band and the dance orchestra.

After the war, Harlan returned home to farm with his father and

brothers. He soon went into farming on his own, raising rice. He took over Van Dyke's Rice Dryer in 1952. Over the years, Harlan added a feed mill, began selling fertilizers and chemicals, and added a fleet of trucks to the dryer plant.

Harlan loved to fly his airplane, but gave it up when his hearing began to go bad. He served on the Pleasant Grove Volunteer Fire Department for five years and was the Fire Chief for an additional four years. He also served on the Chamber of Commerce in Yuba City for three years, as well as serving on the Financial Committee at St. John's Lutheran Church for three years. Harlan was a Trustee for two terms on the Pleasant Grove Elementary School Board. Dorothy served her community as President of the Pleasant Grove School Mother's Club and helped with the South Sutter Little League for several years. She served as a Noble Grand with the Pleasant Grove Rebecca Lodge #126.

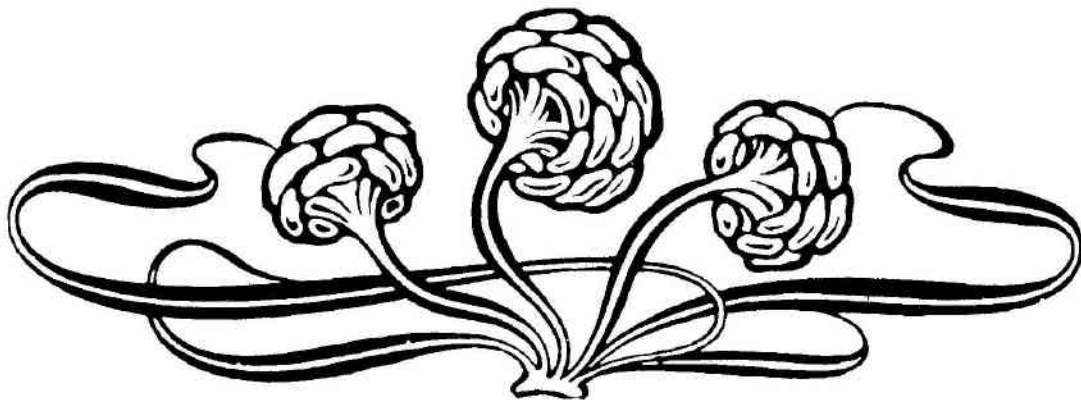
Harlan's blessings have been his family. He was always close to his parents and three brothers, Daryl, Orlin and Dean. Harlan and Dorothy have three sons and a daughter: Harlan Maring Van Dyke, Jr., James Clarke Van

Dyke, Susan Irene Van Dyke, and Steven Michael Van Dyke. All four children are married, adding three wonderful daughters-in-law and a son-in-law to the family. At present they have 10 grandchildren and, at last count, seven great-grandchildren with one on the way.

Harlan and Dorothy have been members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento for 45 years. Their four children were baptized and confirmed at St. John's and three of them were married there as well. They continue to attend and serve at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Both Harlan and Dorothy love to square dance and travel in their fifth-wheel trailer when they can. They have been to all 50 states, China, Europe, Canada, the Caribbean and Mexico. They love home and family, all of whom live within 10 miles, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in March 1992.

The Van Dykes have been active in ranching for over 100 years and now the sixth generation is stepping up to continue this tradition. They certainly deserve recognition as Century Farmers in Sutter County.



Humbug Summer: Isabella Dean's Journal, 1885

edited by
Sharyl Simmons

Betty Meyer of the Meyer family brought in a collection of journals for the Museum staff to review. They were uncertain who wrote them, but they appeared to be written in the same hand. Most were of short duration, written in blank pages in small books given out by local businesses. The family generously allowed me to transcribe the journals. On examination, it became apparent that they were written by someone from the Noyes family and while working through them and family trees, it became obvious that the author was Sophia Isabella (Dean) Noyes, the eldest child of Captain Thomas and Hannah Dean and wife of Edward A. Noyes.

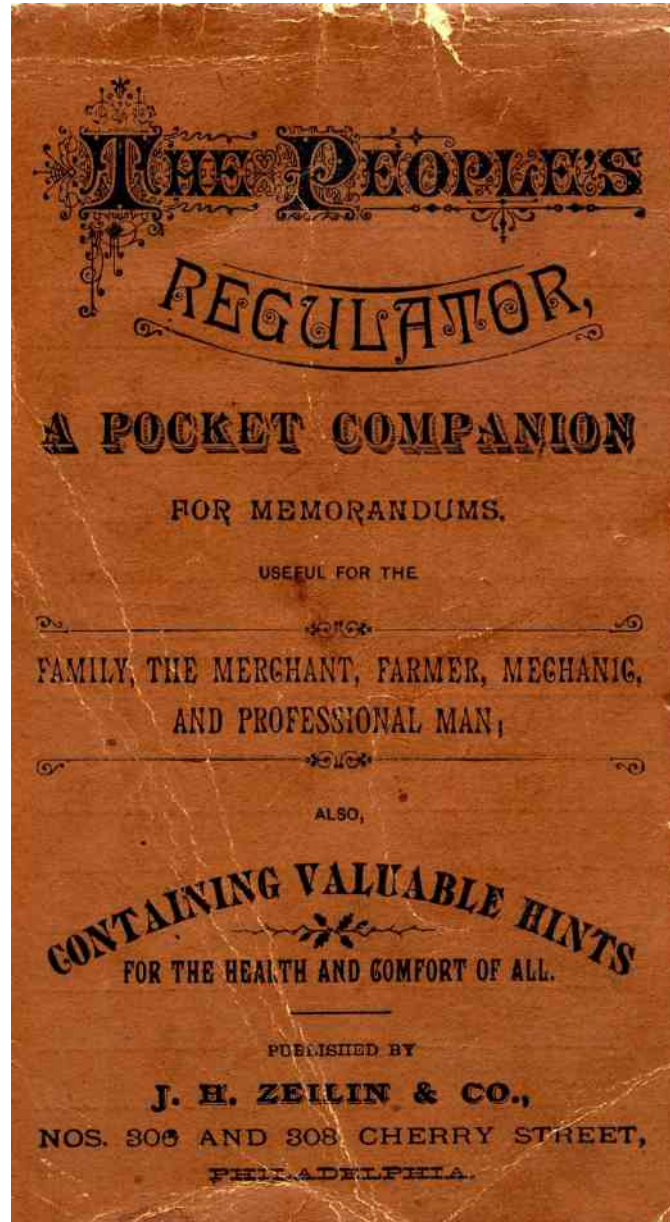
The Noyes family is forever tied to the establishment of Noyesburg and the Cemetery in the Buttes which carries the family's name. Allen S. Noyes, a native of New Hampshire, moved to Massachusetts at age 21 where he lived for just over two years. Drawn to California in 1849, he arrived via Cape Horn, the journey taking 145 days. He mined for a year at Foster Bar and then engaged in the butcher business there for five years. During that time, he returned to Massachusetts and married Philena Cilley. The couple came to California via the Panama route and he purchased a large ranch in Sutter County, five miles north of West Butte.

As the size of his ranch grew (2,000 acres prior to his death) and his prosperity increased, he centered a number of buildings around the home place, including a blacksmith shop, barns and storage sheds — giving it the appearance of a village, hence the name Noyesburg. He deeded two acres of his properties to the Trustees of the Noyesburg School District to be used as a cemetery which bears his name. Another acre of land housed Noyesburg School.

Allen and Philena Noyes had two children. One child did not survive infancy, but the other, Edward A. Noyes, was born on the ranch in 1856 and grew up there. Allen and Philena also took in two orphaned girls and raised them as their own: Amanda Amelia Westervelt and Anna Elizabeth Gilpatric. The elder Mr. Noyes died in the family home in 1904. Services were held at the house with the Reverend Dobbins of Colusa officiating. Mr. Noyes was interred in the Noyesburg Cemetery next to his wife who had died the previous year.

Sophia Isabella Dean, who was called Isabella, was born in Ohio on March 23, 1853. By 1856, the family was in California when Thomas Dean returned with his family. Isabella, along with her siblings, attended Washington School at the corner of Acacia and Franklin Roads.

In 1876, she married Edward Noyes and they lived in the original Noyes home, a rambling house situated on the west side of West Butte Road approximately one-quarter mile north of the Noyesburg Cemetery. Maud Noyes, Isabella's daughter-in-law, remembered the house as a two-story ranch house with verandas all around upstairs and downstairs. She recalled that the upstairs veranda was covered by a roof and that the beautiful doors in the home had been freighted around the Horn. E. A. and Isabella raised five children: Bernice (Mrs. O. W. Hill); Abbie (Mrs. Antone Vagedes); Myrtle (Mrs. James L. Haynes); Charles A. (married to Harriett Maud Miller); and Edna (Mrs. Elroy Meyer).



*The People's Regulator — A Pocket Companion For Memorandums Useful for the
Family, The Merchant, Farmer, Mechanic, And Professional Man
Also, Containing Valuable Hints For the Health and Comfort of All
Published by J. H. Zelin, & Co., Nos. 305 and 08 Cherry Street, Philadelphia*

For her journal, Isabella used the blank pages of the booklet noted above. Printed material that one might find useful such as a centennial calendar, advertisements for remedies, etc. appeared on every other page. On the blank pages, the diarist made her entries in pencil. Her love of writing would not be forestalled by a lack of paper.

This journal covers a trip to the mountains during the summer of 1885 — a camping trip at a time when most of us think that living in a farmhouse in the Sutter Buttes sans electricity, running water and modern conveniences would constitute roughing it. However, when you consider that the only difference in your daily tasks are going to be getting your water from a stream or a lake rather than a pump, cooking over a fire or portable oven rather than your cast iron wood stove in your kitchen and doing your laundry by hand in a common wash room rather than your own laundry room — the chores don't look nearly as imposing. When you consider that there is no parlor to dust, garden to weed or livestock to tend, the days start to look a little better. Adding in the fact that the high temperature is going to be in the 70s or 80s rather than 110, roughing it may be the wrong description.

In 1885, Isabella was 31 years old, caring for a young family, and obviously game for an adventure. This particular journal covers only a couple of weeks. Very few names are used in her journals — she tends to refer to most people, including her husband, by their initials. It wasn't until transcribing a later journal that I figured out who the author was. Once that was ascertained, initials could sometimes be turned into names and relationships identified. When I felt an explanation was needed, I included it for clarification.

Monday Aug 3rd 1885

Left home for Humbug. We started at half past four this morning. After a delightful ride of three hours we reached Gridley Station where G. C. another of our party met us. After waiting three-quarters of hour we were once more on the way. Our next stopping place was Oroville. We had a good wash and dinner. Here the thermometer was 108. We laid out until it cooled. Here we met a gay grass widow [a woman whose husband is away, either temporarily or she has been abandoned] and a foolish fellow named Clemens with whom we had quite a conversation on the subject of babies. About four o'clock we started for Pentz. Lost a nut which detained us half an hour. We were late in reaching camp — had supper and packed in the wagon closer than sardines to sleep, but no sleep for we were serenaded by dogs until after midnight.

August 4th

Rose at half past 6, ate breakfast, packed and resumed our journey. After a hot dusty ride 4 to 5 hours reached Magalia commonly called Dogtown. The only marks there being the waterfall where the water runs down the hill into Cherokee Ditch and the decay of the famous V-flume. At Magalia we stopped at the Hotel, had a good wash, a blessed privilege to travelers by the way, had splendid dinner to which we brought good appetites sharpened by our ride over the mountains. At three we were again on the way. The afternoon ride was more pleasant than the morning's. We came to the great little town of Powels [Powellton], quite a pretty place nestled on the hillside and among the pines and cedars. Here we camped for the night, cooked our supper under the trees and laid our beds on the hillside and slept so sweetly with our brows cooled by the mountain breeze. Wished our friends at the Buttes could

have as cool and delight a place to repose.

August 5th

Our little party decided that it would be better to lay over a day here. One of our party had a fever. We spent the day quietly and at night laid down on the hillside with our brows fanned by the mountain breeze while we were lulled to sleep by the dash of waters down the hillside here. While we were at supper we were disturbed by a low growling noise which some in our party took for a bear but which turned out to be a bull.

August 6th

Rose and got breakfast. The boys packed and we were soon bounding along on our way. Passed through Inskip and Chaparral. Killed a large rattlesnake on the ridge above Chaparral. We reached Butte Creek house at 1 o'clock where the genial landlady soon prepared a splendid dinner to which we did ample justice. All these mountain hotels set fine tables. After we were soon on our route again and reached Humbug about half past four — our camping spot for a time. Here we took supper with mine host P. R. Welsh [P. R. Walsh, Superintendent of Cascade Mining Company]. We found the Valley full of campers, but none with whom we were acquainted.

August 7th

Went up and called on Mrs. Miller (with whom we camped two years ago). Took a cabin at Welches — took us all morning to clean it up and get ready for living.

August 8th

After breakfast the boys went up to Antone [Antono?] Meadows fishing. We remained at camp and cooked all morning. After dinner we laid down and took a long refreshing nap. The boys returned at five with 64 trout. We soon had enough fish for supper. Mrs. L. George has a cabin next [to] us while right back of us in a tent were the Van Finssens [probably Van Fossen] of Gridley.

August 9th — Sunday

Although there were two ministers among the campers we [had] no services. We spent the day lying around camp until after dinner then we took our coach and four and rode up to Soda Springs from down to the Wallacks Store and home again. Supper up at the office but no letters.

August 10th — Monday

May Clyma arrived here today and went to the dance with us. Laid around camp until four p.m. when we had supper and started to dance at Prattville. It [was] so dark that could not see the road and we began to think we would have to camp on the road, but the boys got out and lead the leaders until we saw a light which proved to be Prattville. We had a real nice time at the [dance] although we were strangers and at 2 o'clock slipped across the street to the Hotel and retired. At this dance the writer met Mr. Fortna of Sutter noted for his bowing.

August 11th — Tuesday

Took breakfast at Pratt's Hotel. After breakfast took a boat ride down to the camping ground of Big Meadows [Chester]. Walked all around among

the campers but found no one we knew. When we returned to the boats [with] our boys, one of the ladies attempted to get into the [boat] but fell in the dug out. After quite an exertion on the part of the boys, we ran aground and had to charter another boat to carry us out. We returned to the Hotel until after dinner. When we started back for Humbug, the road between these places being very rough. We reached Humbug in time to get supper.

August 12th – Wednesday

Laid around camp about all day resting for the dance at Welches Hotel which took place that evening. At dance we met several of the campers from Prattville. Our music for both parties was furnished by the Chico Band, at [that] time camped at Prattville. It was at this dance that we met the famous stepper who carried a person round on his hip instead of swinging them. My husband and self left at twelve o'clock and left the rest of the party to come after. Trod four or five times [illegible] the door knob so as [to] be sure as to the hours they kept.

August 13th – Thursday

Rose and prepared breakfast gathering up the dishes and left them on the table. Then we went down to the washhouse. There we labored hard to remove the red dirt from our clothes. We found it a good deal like Aunt Jemima's plaster. [This is a reference to a popular song and a compound of bee's wax and sheepskin used as a sticking plaster – their version of a modern Band-Aid.] After we rubbed our clothes through the first water if we could have turned that

water into the valley, the folks would have thought they would be buried in slickens. We finished about one o'clock and wended our way to the cabin thinking we had dinner to get – but the boys had a splendid dinner smoking hot when we reached the cabin. After dinner we washed up the dishes and laid down and rested until suppertime when we got supper and went to bed.

August 14th – Friday

This day we ironed until three o'clock. Mr. Luther and Mr. Borman of Live Oak arrived with their families in the camp right beside our cabin.

August 15th – Saturday

Well we had genuine home Saturday. Washing, scrubbing and baking until dinnertime. After dinner we visited around among the campers that surround us. Fist fights among the small fry are too numerous to mention.

August 16th – Sunday

The writer had a terrible headache and could see what was transpiring. The Browns and Sandy Dick left camp for home. One of our party was so excited over the dears that he left the horses standing out to eat hay all night.

August 17th – Monday

The writer's head still continued to ache until 10 o'clock. A part of our crew went walking out to Soda Spring and did not get back until we were through dinner. After dinner we called at the hotel and after waiting half hour for her to put in an appearance we went back to camp.

[This journal ends here.]

Grace DeForest Niemczek's Memories of Growing Up in Live Oak

(as told to Julie Stark by telephone)

July 2015

Grace recently donated a Maidu grinding stone and two worked stones from the Live Oak area to the Museum. In the 1920s, her father purchased them from two boys who found them in the vicinity of Live Oak. Grace took the stones with her when she moved to the Bay Area, but wanted them returned to the area and donated them to our Museum to become part of the story of Sutter County.

Shortly after this donation, Grace offered her childhood toys to the museum. Grace, who is 96, called to describe the toys and her youth in Live Oak and to arrange a trip to deliver them to the museum. The following story comes from that telephone conversation.

Grace DeForest's father came to California from New York in 1906, just after the San Francisco earthquake. He worked for the Sacramento Northern Railroad as an electrical engineer, and Encinal Station was next to their property in Live Oak. Her mother was a city girl from the Bronx. Grace was born in Chico at the hospital there. She had a brother, and a baby sister who died at 11 months. At the time, the family had no money for a headstone marker, but a friend planted a tree on the spot in the Live Oak Cemetery. She visited there recently, but she could not tell which tree it might have been.

Grace went to Sutter High School, Yuba College and San Jose State. Her brother joined the National Guard. Those were hard economic

times, and many boys joined the service. As children, Grace and her brother had received toys as gifts from relatives in the East. Grace took very good care of her toys, because she and her brother did not have many. The closest Christmas shopping they did was in Sacramento. Her father got them train tickets. She remembers that her brother really wanted a dump truck toy from Hale Brothers department store, where they visited the store Santa. Their mother asked him several times what kind of dump truck did he want. He said that Santa knew what kind, so she didn't have to worry about it. She laughed about that.

The Clark ranch was next to theirs. A little house was built for the children to play in. Her brother also kept his toys, but later on a fire on his ranch destroyed his toys.

Grace married right after World War II and her parents went back home (to New York). Their ranch was at the end of Broadway in Live Oak, and two palm trees still mark the property. Her mother planted them on a Palm Sunday after she moved out there from New York. Her father went back to meet his wife-to-be and brought her out. Her dad built the huge barn, bigger and better than their house. It was finally taken down last year.

Her parents lost the ranch at Broadway and Clark in the Depression, when the Bank of Italy foreclosed on them. When her dad had bought the place, it was covered with oak trees. He took them down and planted

prunes. He also invested in a peach orchard next to Encinal Station. Her mother wanted their house to be there next to the station so she could take the train easily.

Because her father worked for the Sacramento Northern Railroad, some of his photographs were given to the Sacramento Railroad Museum.

During World War II, her folks came to the Bay Area, where she lived, and her father maintained the elevators in the Montgomery Ward catalog store in Oakland. When they had lived in Live Oak, they had ordered a lot of clothing and other things from the Montgomery Ward catalog.

Trees & Traditions

by
Phyllis Smith

I think you must have all been there this year – we had such a crowd! But if you were among the few who didn't make it, be aware that you missed a great party.

Trees and Traditions is the Community Memorial Museum's annual Christmas Gala fundraiser. It's an evening of feasting, fun and festivities. Don't be fooled by the advertised "hors d'oeuvres" – the carving station, the fruit and cheese trays, the meatballs, the eggrolls, the many delicious desserts – and don't forget the shrimp! – make this a meal-and-a-half. There's a superb selection of delectable wines and champagne, and as well as punch and coffee for the teetotalers.

Plenty of attendees walked out with lavish raffle prizes graciously donated by members of the community and Museum volunteers and Commissioners. The silent auction offered one-of-a-kind treasures for the discerning bidder.

Let's not forget the tremendous decorations, a hallmark of the Museum party! The centerpiece was a 16-foot Christmas tree dated by the Marysville Lion's Club. It was adorned with hand-crafted ornaments made by many devoted volunteers over the years. Huge wreaths composed of fresh greens hung over the gallery, along with new garlands.

So if you missed the event this year, you can see you don't want to do so again! It's not too early to mark your calendar for Saturday, December 3, 2016!



Florence Welthy DeWitt

Biography reprinted from *History of Yuba and Sutter Counties, California With Biographical Sketches of the Leading Men and Women of the Counties Who Have Been Identified With Their Growth and Development from the Early Days to the Present* by Peter J. Delay, 1924.

Genealogical information provided by Deanna DeWitt

A well known pioneer woman of Sutter County, who is also a native daughter of the Golden State. Born in Jackson, Amadore County, August 26, 1857, daughter of Thomas Jefferson and Alvina Ann (Stiles) Armstrong, natives of Kentucky and Ohio. T. J. Armstrong was a veteran of the Mexican War and in 1851 crossed the plains to California with an emigrant train and settled in Lone, where he conducted a butcher shop and was interested in some gold mines. Miss Alvina Ann Stiles also crossed the plains, coming with her parents in an ox team train, when ten years old, and the family settled in Amador County, where she met and married T. J. Armstrong. Her father, Richard D. Stiles, was born in Genesee County, New York and afterward resided in Ohio. He crossed the plain in 1850 and followed mining for a short time. He decided to make his future home in California. So he soon returned East and in 1851 brought his wife and daughter, Alvina, out in an emigrant train, of which he was the Captain.

On his arrival he located in Coloma and followed teaming, a part of the time hauling logs to Sacramento. Later he lived in Jackson where he was Justice of the Peace and rancher. Next he was in San Francisco and served as a peace officer for 12 years. After which he located in Sutter County, purchasing government land in South Butte Pass where he made his home until his death. Back East, in young manhood, he married Welthy Martin, a native of

Virginia, who came of an old and prominent Southern family. After her husband's death, she returned East and a year later she died. Four children were born to Thomas J. Armstrong and his wife: James deceased, Florence W. of this review, and Minnie and Elizabeth both deceased.

In 1862 the family removed to Sutter County where T. J. Armstrong took up 160 acres of government land and later he bought a squatter's right to 80 acres adjoining, where the family lived for 10 years. The home place was then sold and the father leased a ranch in South Butte Pass where he farmed for two years. He then removed to Marysville and there he passed on. The mother passed away in Gridley, California aged 48 years.

Florence W. Armstrong received her education principally in the schools of San Francisco where she went to live with her grandparents. Her marriage occurred in this vicinity on July 14, 1875 and united her with William Golder DeWitt, a native of New York, born at Oakfield, Genesee County, January 15, 1851, a son of Clinton Jacob and Mary Golder (Conklin) DeWitt, both natives of New York.

He was one of three children, the oldest, Miss Josephine DeWitt, was born at Oakfield, New York and came with her parents to California in 1872. She makes her home with Mrs. DeWitt. The second child, Alphonso, died in New York State at the age of 18 years. The youngest was William Golder. William Golder DeWitt completed his

education in Batavia Seminary in New York. He came to California in 1872 and settled in the South Butte Pass, where he took up 160 acres of government land. Later he bought 40 acres adjoining and still later 180 acres and from time to time added more acreage until he had a very large ranch of fine land. Four sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt.

Marcus Golder married Miss Jessie Blanche Foss, and they are the parents of two sons, Elmer Marcus and Carl Lewis. Marcus resides with his mother on the home ranch.

Richard Clarence resides at Tudor. He married Miss Alleen Jones and they have three children, Idabell Bernice, Frank Golder and Florence Marie.

Clinton Jacob married Miss Bertha Lee Fowler and resides at South Butte Pass. They have four children, Herbert Fowler, Clarence Henry, Leonard Golder who died at the age of 8 months, and Lee Joseph.

Frank W. resides at Sutter City. He married Minnie Helen Wood and they have two children, Clinton William and Grace Dorothy.

William G. DeWitt became a very extensive and successful grain and stock raiser and acquired a large ranch on which he set out two almond orchards, comprising about 50 acres. He was chosen a Commissioner for the Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, but his health began to fail rapidly about this time and he passed away before the exposition opened. His death occurred at his home on June 16, 1914. He was a member of Enterprise Lodge No. 70 F & A.M. of Yuba City, Washington Chapter No. 13 R. A. M. of Marysville and Marysville Commandery No. 7 K. T. He

was a Democrat in national politics. Though not a member, he was a great worker in the Mt. Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church at Sutter City and a member of the Board of Stewards.

Since her husband's death Mrs. DeWitt continues to reside on the old home place surrounded by her children. She and her sons own the DeWitt ranch, which her sons are operating. The sons have set out more of the land to orchards. During the life of Mrs. DeWitt, a gravel quarry, with a stone crusher, was started on the place and since his demise the business has been continued and enlarged. They are erecting a new and larger stone crusher. The crushed rock is furniture for building and improving the county roads. The DeWitt ranch is one of the historic landmarks of California.

When General Fremont marched his troops from Klamath Lake to Sonoma, he camped on what is now the DeWitt ranch, in the South Butte Pass, from May 30 to June 8, 1846.

In 1923, the Bi-Counties Federation of Women Clubs erected a monument with suitable inscription, recording the historic occurrence in bronze. Mrs. DeWitt donated the site and her sons donated the stone which was taken from their quarries.

Mrs. DeWitt is a cultured and refined woman, of pleasing personality and generous and kindly impulses and as far as she is able she lends her aid in movements that tend to improve civic conditions and increase the comfort and happiness of the people in her community.

She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Yuba City and contributes liberally to its benevolences.

Mary Golder Conklin
Born Nov. 8, 1825 in New York
Died May 7, 1909

Clinton Jacob DeWitt
Born Sept. 18, 1824 in New York
Died June 23, 1895

William Golder DeWitt
Born Jan. 15, 1851 in New York
Died June 16, 1914

Richard D. Stiles
Born Oct. 8, 1817 in New York
Died Dec. 14, 1892

Clinton William DeWitt born Oct. 9, 1905
Elmer Marcus DeWitt born Oct. 27, 1909
Carl Lewis DeWitt born Nov. 14, 1911
Ida Belle Bernice DeWitt born Sept, 19, 1913
Frank Golder DeWitt born Aug. 14, 1919
Grace Dorothy DeWitt born June 20, 1915
Florence Marie DeWitt born June 19, 1922

Velma Jean Fowler born June 26, 1921
Herbert Niel (?) Fowler born May 25, 1924

Clinton Jacob DeWitt married Bertha Lee Fowler August 22, 1906

Herbert Fowler DeWitt born Sept. 2, 1907
Clarence Henry DeWitt born April 19, 1910
Leonard Golder DeWitt born August 4, 1912, died Mar. 4, 1913
Lee Joseph DeWitt born Jan. 15, 1920
Douglas Eugene DeWitt born September 21, 1930

William Harrison Fowler Jan. 23, 1887
Joseph Herbert Fowler Sept. 20, 1890

Puzzling

D J F R X F E C Z S W V V G F N Y O O W
 A E K F O D E W I T T H B D H W F E A F
 R Q P G L N Q M N A B Q G M B Z C L Y M
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ARMSTRONG	MEYERS
CENTURY	NATOMAS
CHANDLER	NOYESBURG
CLARKE	PLEASANT
DEPRESSION	POCKET
DEWITT	SIMMONS
ENCINAL	STARK
HUMBUG	TRADITIONS
LIVEOAK	VANDYKE
MAGALIA	WELTHY



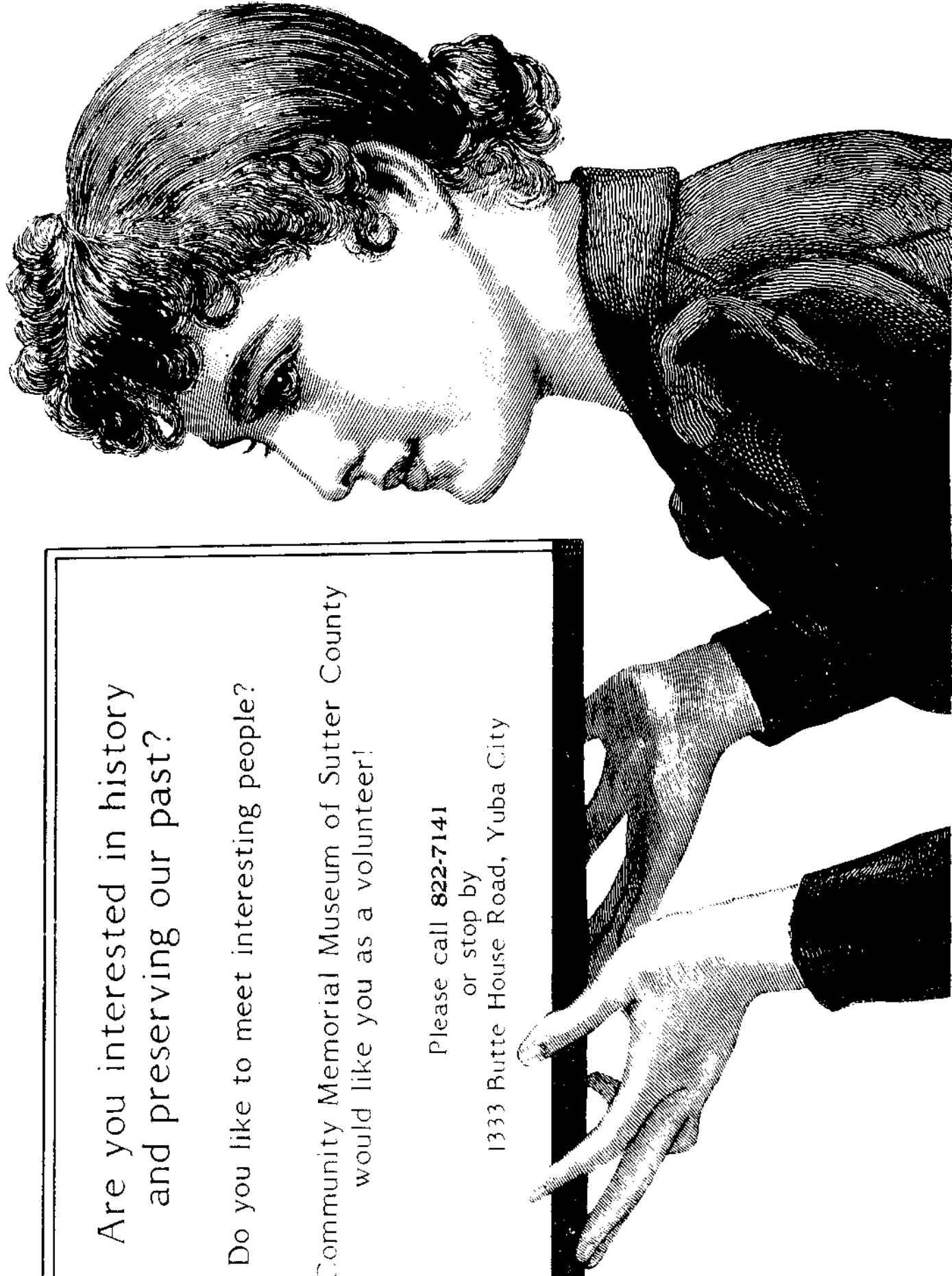
Are you interested in history
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Do you like to meet interesting people?

The Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County
would like you as a volunteer!

Please call 822-7141
or stop by

1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City



Calendar of Events

January

8 *Art of Survival* exhibit opens at the Museum

23 Historical Society Membership Meeting at the Museum
2:00 p.m. Program: Century Farms
Dessert and drinks follow the meeting

TBD Opening reception of the Mexican-American exhibit

February

TBD Grand reopening party for the Gift Shop

20 Last day to see *Art of Survival*

March

4 Opening reception for the River Valley High School art exhibit

5 First day the River Valley High School art exhibit is open

April

2 Last day to see the River Valley High School art exhibit

8 Opening reception for the Yuba City High School art exhibit

9 First day the Yuba City High School art exhibit is open

30 Last day to see the Yuba City High School art exhibit

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