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SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

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VOL. IX, NO. 2

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95991

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EDITORIAL STAFF

James Barr

Earl Ramey

Jessica Bird

Irminna Rudge

William Dawson

Helen Schepman

Winifred Greene

Avis Strawhun

COVER PICTURE

Nicolaus, a town dating back to 1843 and the first seat of Sutter County government in 1850, was the scene January 24, 1970, of a ceremony near the original courthouse. The small building, now a residence, stands near the center of the town which the state has designated as a place of historic interest. A plaque affixed to a boulder brought from the Sutter Buttes for the purpose has been put at the site. Chairman Eber F. Beilby, on behalf of the county supervisors, received the marker from the East Nicolaus 4-H Club, sponsors of the project. Pictured are Beilby, with Martha Scheiber (left), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Scheiber of Nicolaus and principal speaker at the program, and Carolyn Perozzi, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Perozzi of Nicolaus and currently an All Star 4-H member. The "courthouse" is in the background. (Photo, courtesy Independent-Herald)

Published quarterly by the Society at Yuba City, California, 95991. Annual membership dues of \$2.00 includes receiving the NEWS BULLETIN. Life membership is \$25.00. Your remittance should be sent to Lola Case, Treasurer, P. O. Box 1266, Yuba City, 95991.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The annual dinner meeting and second quarterly 1970 membership session of Sutter County Historical Society will be held in Live Oak, at the Odd Fellows hall, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 21. The Live Oak Rebekah lodge will serve a ham dinner at \$2.50 per plate. Speaker for the program will be Mrs. Ruby N. Fallon, of Paradise, formerly of District 10 and for five years Home Advisor in Yuba County. Her topic will be "Gleanings from Sutter County's History." Members and friends of the Historical Society will be welcome to attend. Phone 673-7566 or 673-7465 for reservations. Pay for tickets at the door.



Main street in Live Oak (Broadway) in 1907 had the above buildings on the west side of the street, in the block between Fir and Gum Streets. Of those shown, only the two-story brick building still exists. It contained the Odd Fellows hall in the second story over the W. H. Stafford Store. Others pictured were (from left) the Hedger home, the post office building, and at extreme right the Schnapel home.

YUBA CITY'S BIRTHDAY

by Earl Ramey

The residents of small towns, and large ones too, like to claim as much age as possible, as growing children do. And, as do children, the older of two rival towns feels a certain superiority. Residents of Yuba City believe that their town is older than Marysville. But both towns began in 1849; so we would have to know their dates of birth to decide which is the older. On what day in 1849 was Yuba City born?

If the ages of two towns are to be compared in terms of the dates of birth, we should have to agree on what event constitutes the birth of a town. Each one of several persons might name a different event. Fortunately, there is an established definition and a well-formulated plan of procedure to arrive at the date or as near as evidence permits.

Some twenty years ago a very much respected and esteemed student of California history, Professor J. N. Bowman of the University of California, published a guide for determining the birth date of an urban community. It will be of interest, and possibly profitable, to follow as much of this guide as is applicable to Yuba City. Even if the guide does not lead us to the exact date, it will serve as a check list to remind us of what we do or do not know at present.¹

1. J. N. Bowman, Determination of the Birthdays of Urban Communities. California Historical Quarterly, Vol. 27, pp. 51-62.

The search for this date is to be conducted very much as a game is played by observing rules which handicap and equalize. The guide contains several rules which will discourage some amateur historians but which ought to be observed willingly by careful searchers. These rules are designed to cause us to arrive at accurate conclusions and to avoid error.

The most important of these rules is the one which admonishes us not to accept as evidence what we might read in local, county or state histories. It is not so stated in the guide, but the reason for this rule is that what we read in a history book is hearsay evidence which ought not be accepted as determining a fact. The historian must use hearsay evidence as the detective does--follow it as a lead to genuine evidence but refrain from basing a conviction on it. If an author tells us where he learned the fact he cites, we can investigate his source; but authors of county histories rarely give us these sources. Consequently, the standard works by Thompson and West, Peter Delay and Joseph A. McGowan which deal with Sutter County will be of little use to us. We shall have to depend upon official documents and statements by persons who tell us what they saw and did. Other rules of the guide will be noted as they become relevant.

The guide deals with communities in two groups according to the manner of origin. One group includes those which grow by settlement and the other group those which are founded. We know that Yuba City was founded rather than settled. However, there is one type of settlement for which it nearly qualifies.

The guide provides that if a new people settles on the site already occupied by a community of aborigines, even though the name might be changed, the new settlement can assume as its birth date that of the original community.

Just consider what a boast the application of this rule would allow the Chamber of Commerce to make. Yuba City could be declared to be as old as any town in California, or even older. No one could prove otherwise. Unfortunately, there is a clause in this rule which provides that the new group may assume the original birth date only if the aborigines are admitted into the new community and allowed to participate in the urban affairs. But the first settlers of Yuba City destroyed the chance for antiquity by forcibly expelling the Yubu Indians from their ancient village.² There are rules for dealing with several types of settlements not any of which concern us in this particular exercise.

It is the rule for determining the birth date of a founded town which we must now follow. The process of founding a town usually includes the following steps:

- (a) One or more persons get the idea.
- (b) They resolve to found a town after investigation.
- (c) They form a partnership, company or corporation.
- (d) They select and purchase a site.
- (e) They cause a survey and a plat to be made.

2. Marysville Herald, October 14, November 25 and 26, December 24, 1856

- (f) They file the plat with an official agency.
- (g) They sell lots.
- (h) Purchasers of lots build houses.
- (i) Houses are occupied and the town exists.

Here are nine events any one of which might be taken as the beginning or birth of the town. The necessity for agreement is quite obvious.

Professor Bowman reasons in his guide that the birth date must be on or after the day some active steps are taken to change the land from its natural state to a condition required by an urban community. Therefore, the earliest step which can be taken as the birth date is the beginning of the survey. It is further provided in the guide that if we cannot find evidence of the beginning of the survey we must take as the birth date the earliest date after the survey for which we can find evidence.

In addition to the two kinds of evidence already mentioned, official record and direct testimony, there is a third kind which we shall have to use. It is evidence in form of conclusion by inference when the inference derives from established evidence. As an example, if we find a recorded deed for land in a town which land is described in terms of lot, block and range, we can reasonably infer that a plat existed at the time the deed was made. But this practice can be abused. Every inference is subject to scrutiny. If we should infer that a survey must have been made before the plat could have been made we might be in error.

Now let us take stock and see what evidence we can cite for the nine steps listed above, noting particularly the dates or time limits which can be established.

We have two witnesses whose testimony we can cite as evidence: Edward Cheever, the youngest brother of one of the founders, Henry Cheever, came to the site of Yuba City in July, 1849, and again in September.³ George Pierson came to Yuba City with Tallman Rolfe, the first storekeeper of the new town, in September and probably in August of 1849.⁴

Edward Cheever relates that on July 8, 1849, he went from Sacramento to Hock Farm with a party of five men whose objective was to arrange with John Sutter a partnership to found the town of Yuba City. Henry Cheever was the only one of this group who later became a partner with Sutter, Sam Brannan and Pierson B. Reading as proprietors of the new town. Here is an exact date but it does not count as a birth date.

The next date of interest is July 27, 1849, which we find on a deed by which Sutter conveyed to himself and his three partners four square miles of land which was to become the site of Yuba City. But again we cannot take this date of acquiring a site as the birth date.⁵

3. Edward E. Cheever, First Settlement of Yuba City. Quarterly, Society of California Pioneers. Vol. IX, p. 228.

4. Document No. 81 of a film containing letters and statements gathered by Thompson & West in 1879, now in possession of the Huntington Library. This film is available in the Sutter County Library and the Marysville City Library.

5. Book of Deeds, Sutter County, A, p. 1. All deeds cited in this article are recorded in Sutter County.

It will be more convenient to consider the matter of the survey and plat after noting certain evidence of the later steps in the list.

This deed of July 27 from Sutter to his partners was drawn up and signed in Sacramento and certified by the First Magistrate of Sacramento District of the Territory of California. Not until February 1850, after an alcalde type of town government was established in Yuba City, were any deeds certified and recorded locally. Harvey Fairchild was elected alcalde and certified deeds, powers of attorney and contracts; and on January 30, 1850, George Pierson took the oath of Recorder of the town of Yuba City, Territory of California.⁶

The several deeds which had been drawn in Sacramento were recorded by Pierson in Yuba City and are found today in Book A of Deeds in the Recorder's office of Sutter County. These first records made by Pierson were inherited by the county after the first administration took office in April, 1850. We now consider them to be county records whereas actually they are territorial records. Pierson himself was elected recorder in the first county election of April 1, 1850, and simply continued this Book A after he was issued a certificate of election by the Board of Canvassers April 8, 1850.⁷

6. Deeds A, p. 1

7. Deeds A, pp. 20 and 23

The next deeds after the original one of July 27, 1849, are dated September 18, 1849, by which the partners convey individual ownership for a number of lots to Reading and to Brannan.⁸ Two days earlier, September 16, the proprietors had given Reading power of attorney to sell lots. There are no other deeds to lots in Yuba City dated in 1849.⁹

The first lots to be used and built on were deeded to Tallman Rolfe and David Cheever. This deed was made in Sacramento and is dated January 29, 1850.¹⁰ If we had only this date as evidence, we would be misled by six months. Edward Cheever testifies that when he arrived in September, 1849, Rolfe and Cheever had erected a pole and canvas house which they were using as a store. George Pierson describes a trip which he and Rolfe made from Sacramento to Yuba City in a whale boat loaded with supplies in September; and this was their second trip.

Rolfe and Cheever ran advertisements in a Sacramento paper on August 20 and 25 announcing the opening of their store in Yuba City.¹¹ So we can safely infer that the first house was erected and occupied during the latter part of August or the first part of September, 1849.

8. Deeds A, p. 2 (Reading) and p. 78 (Brannan).

9. Deeds A, p. 3

10. Deeds A, p. 6

11. These advertisements are quoted from the Placer Times in Thompson & West, History of Sutter County, p. 99

Now let us consider the evidence relating to the survey and plat. In Book E of Deeds, Sutter County, on pages 63 and 64 there is recorded (which means in this case a facsimile made with pen and ink) the "Map of Yuba City ... As Surveyed by Joseph S. Ruth." This plat was filed for recording on July 8, 1856, at the request of D. H. Apperson et al. But there is nothing on this recorded version to let us know or even guess when it and the survey were made.

The earliest references to this plat appear in the deeds of September 18, 1849, to Reading and Brannan. The lots being conveyed are referred to by numbers and blocks as "described upon the map or plan of said city."

There is evidence that Joseph S. Ruth was an early and active resident of Yuba City. In March of 1850 the proprietors conveyed to him by three deeds eleven lots which they valued at \$2,500.¹² Some or all of these lots might have been in payment for the survey and plat. Ruth was a partner with Pierson, Rolfe and David Cheever in a tenpin alley constructed on the first lot he acquired.¹³ At present we have no record to tell us exactly when he made the survey. We can only infer that it was made before September 18, 1849.

There is one other requirement in the guide which ought to be noted but which is an easy one for Yuba City. This rule states that the beginning of the survey can be taken as the birth date only if the urban community developed within a period

12. Deeds B, pp. 34, 35 and 41.

13. Deeds B, p. 37.

of three years. This rule exists obviously to eliminate the many paper towns of California which might have been surveyed but which were never settled. There are many deeds recorded in 1850 which prove that Yuba City had become quite urban. There exists also the best evidence which can be cited in the report of the federal census taken between May 25, 1850, and the end of the year. Yuba City "and vicinity" is credited with 336 souls.¹⁴

Our final task in this exercise is to infer how long before September 18, 1849, the survey was begun. It was not necessary that the survey be completed or even begun when Rolfe and Cheever erected their store because it was a very temporary structure. The fact that they received a deed to their permanent location as late as January 29, 1850, suggests that they might not have been able to identify certain lots when they arrived. So a conservative estimate of the period during which the survey was made would be the first half of September, 1849. However, this estimate would have to be changed with every bit of additional evidence which might be discovered.

Doctor Bowman evidently anticipated our problem and possible disappointment by failure to arrive at an exact birth date because he attempts to comfort us by assuring us that this date can be no more definite than the evidence permits. The date for some towns, he states, may be no closer than a year, a decade, a century or even before or after some known event. He declares, "A modern town is fortunate if its birthday can be determined and expressed more closely than by a year."

14. The Seventh Census of The United States 1850, p. 971.

THE FIRST MAPS OF YUBA CITY

Pictures of These Facsimile Maps and These Comments

by John Leith Lewin

Map #1 is the earliest recorded divisional map of Yuba City. The map was filed on July 5, 1856, by Joseph S. Ruth, the surveyer, and recorded November 29, 1856.

There are several interesting items worth noting. First, the meager allotment of land for public use (the public squares and the court house squares). Second, the map indicates that the rapids were the end of navigation. This was true only at the time of low water. Third, one can see the approximate position of the ferry used between Marysville and Yuba City. Fourth, the mouth of the Yuba is south of where it is shown.

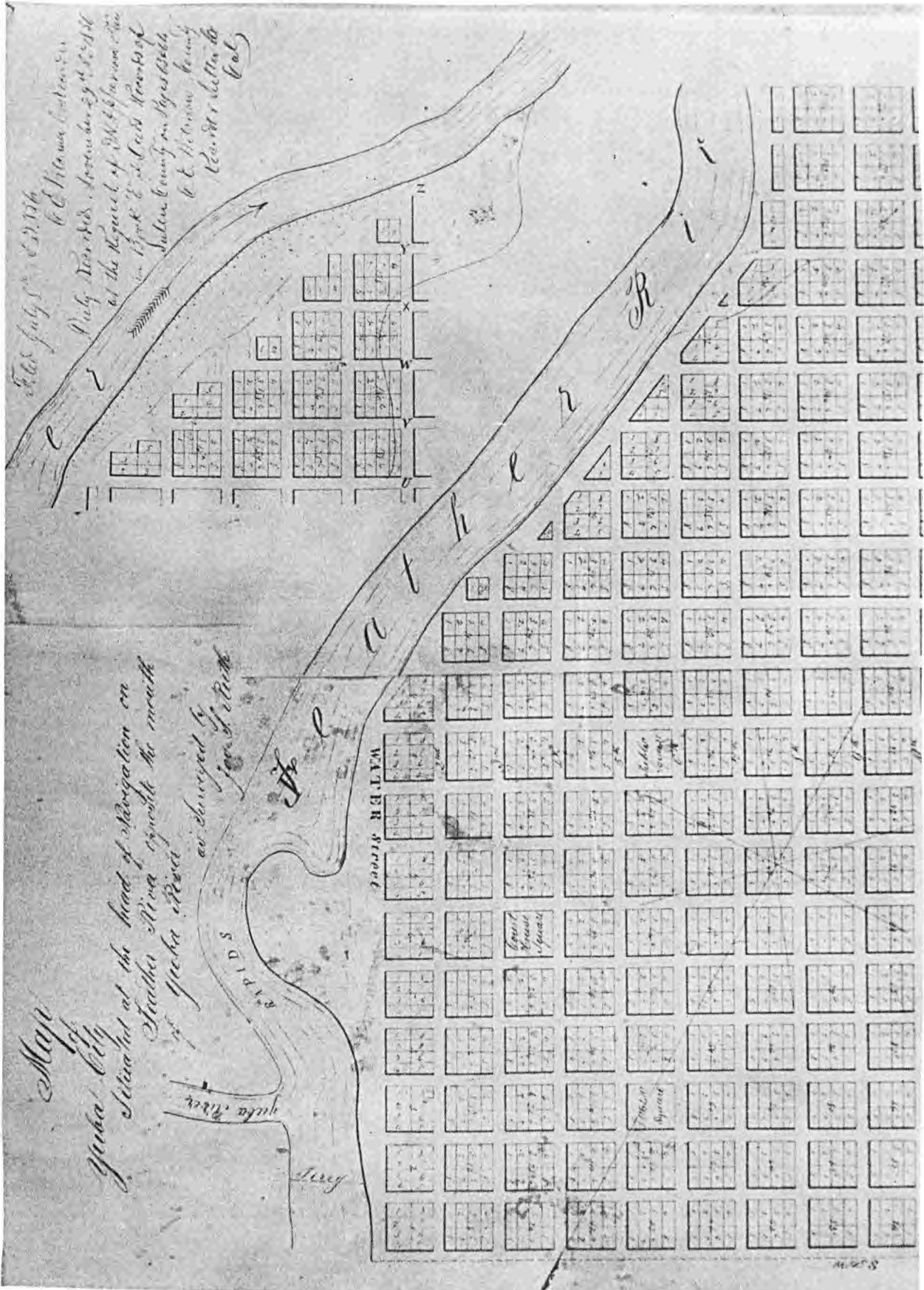
Thirteen years later (1869) map #2, the Hudson Tract, was filed and incorporated into the limits of Yuba City. The name Hudson Tract is derived from its owner, W. K. Hudson, who purchased the land from William S. Webb. The tract itself contains 152 acres. This acreage contains the six squares dissected by Sonoma, Solano, Yolo, Sutter, and Second Streets.

Map #2, when compared with map #1, shows some interesting changes. Notice that two bridges have been built across the Feather River-- one bridge for the California Pacific Railroad; the other to replace the ferry. Notice too, that the city--if we use Water Street as our point of reference--is beginning to grow in a northwesterly direction. Map #1, with its detailed lot divisions, public squares, and designation of future

streets from A (south of Bridge Street) to Z, would indicate a planned southwesterly growth pattern. This is a distance of about one mile from Bridge Street.

Map #3, filed in 1888, shows two changes from maps #1 and #2. Teegarden Street has been created and the approach of the railroad (since 1869 the Northern California) extends past the cemetery as it does today.

Original Maps by Courtesy of Edward von Geldern



Map

Yuba City

Sited at the head of navigation on Feather River opposite the mouth of Yuba River

as conveyed by Joe Smith

Yuba River

Texas

WATER Street

This July 1856

at the request of the Board of Commissioners of Yuba County in Texas

Yuba City

Yuba

City

Texas

WATER Street

Yuba River

Texas

Yuba

City

Texas

WATER Street

Yuba River

Texas

Yuba

City

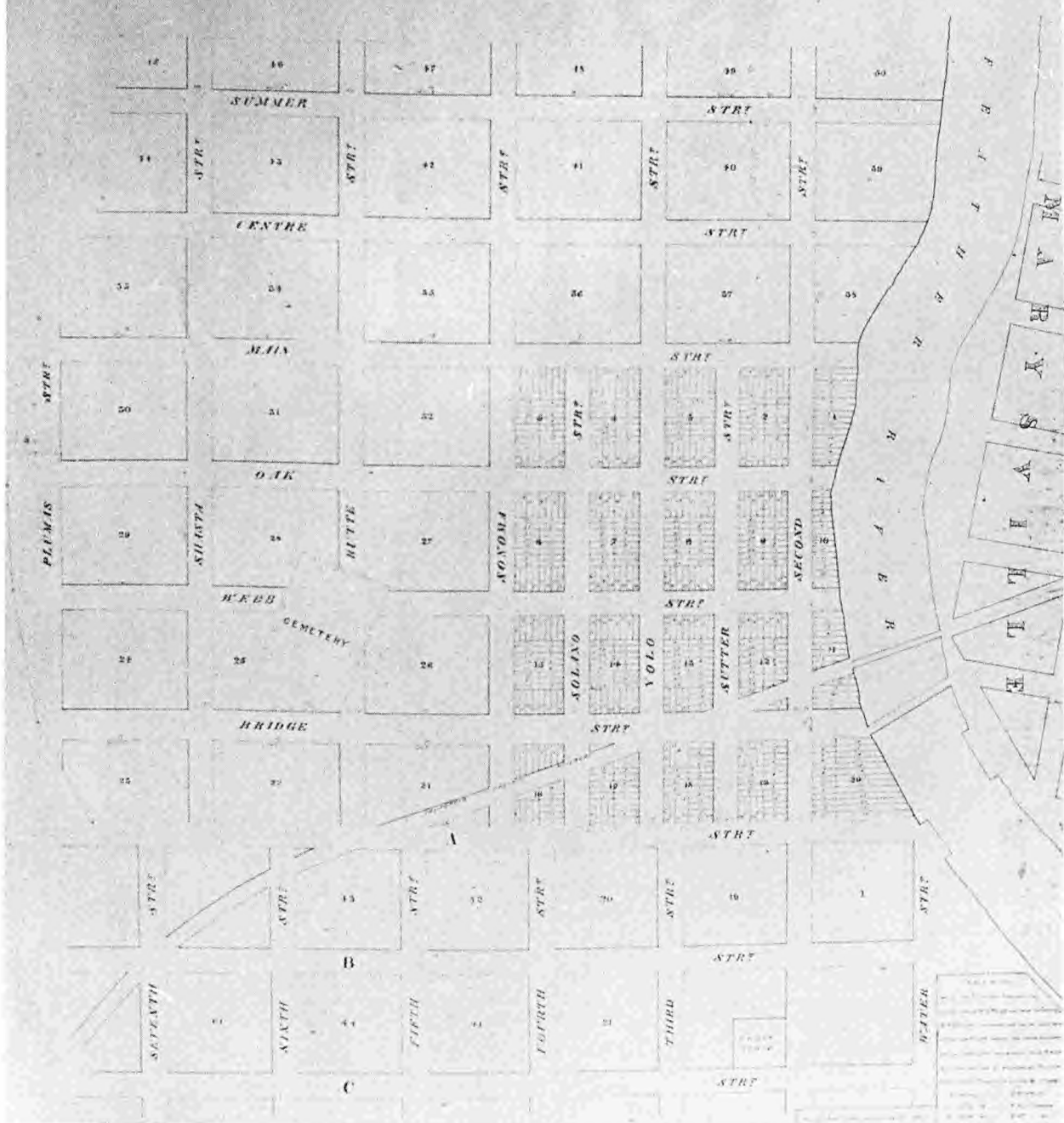
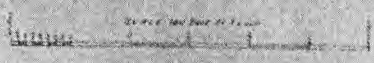
Texas

WATER Street

Yuba River

Texas

Map of the
HUDSON TRACT.
— PART OF —
YUBA CITY,
Sutter Co.



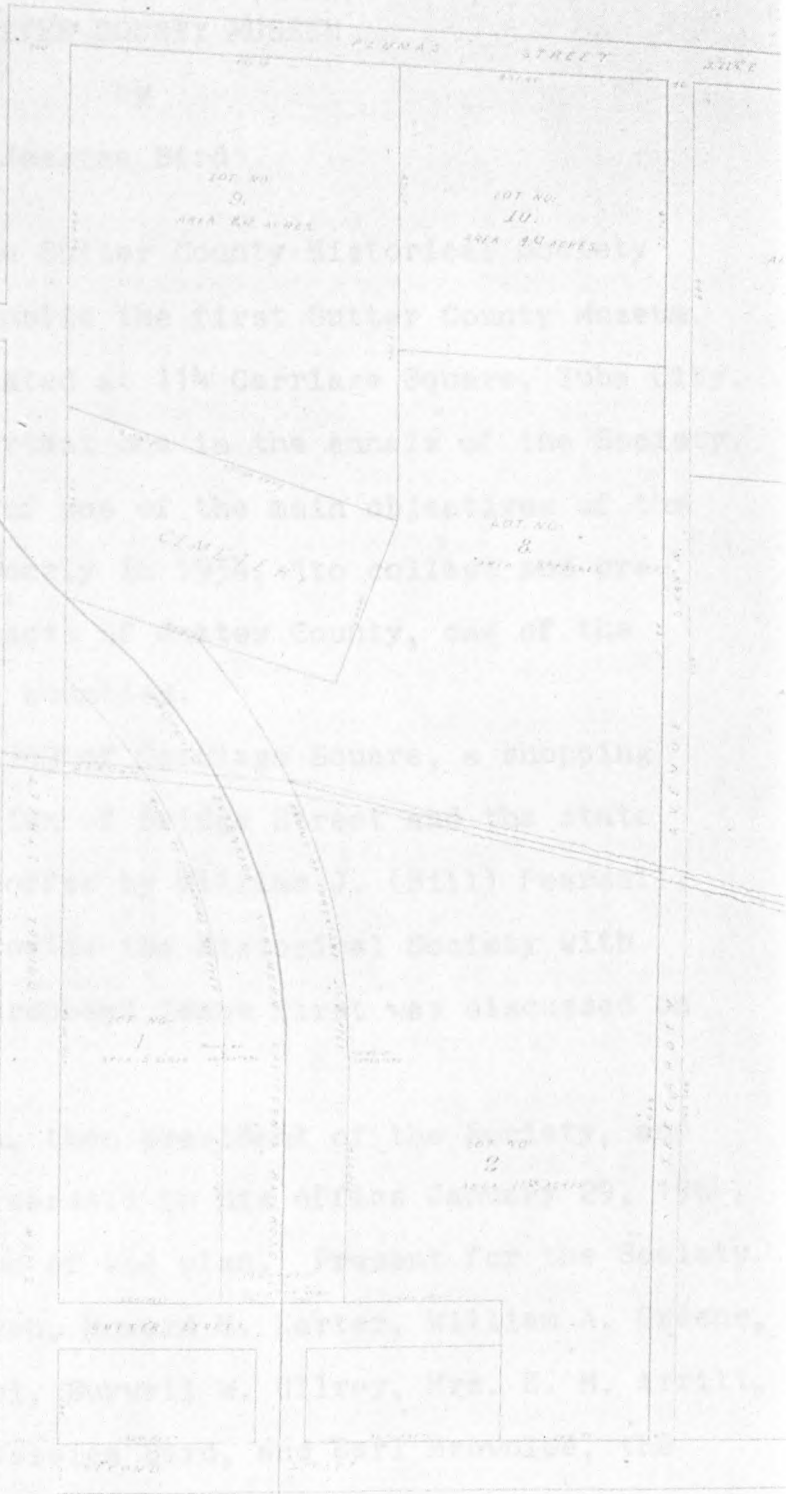
{Book 7 of Deeds page 126.}

Filed June 20th 1888.

A. McNewitt Recorder
by W.E. Parker Deputy

at 404.

I certify that this map is correctly drawn from State of Survey made May 1887-6 1888 and is 18' wide and 18' long
Maysville June 20th 1888
The drawing is in full accordance with the original
W.E. Parker 18th Dist



TEEGARDEN ADDITION
TO THE TOWN OF
YUBA CITY

THE SUTTER COUNTY MUSEUM

by

Jessica Bird

On May 17, 1964, the Sutter County Historical Society formally opened to the public the first Sutter County Museum. Then, as now, it was located at 114 Carriage Square, Yuba City.

The date is an important one in the annals of the Society. It marks the attainment of one of the main objectives of the citizens' group, formed early in 1954, "to collect and preserve" records and artifacts of Sutter County, one of the original 1850 California counties.

The completion in 1963 of Carriage Square, a shopping complex at the intersection of Bridge Street and the state highway, resulted in an offer by William J. (Bill) Pearsall, builder and owner, to provide the Historical Society with space for a museum. A proposed lease first was discussed on December 3, 1963.

Mrs. Bernice Gibson, then president of the Society, and directors met with Mr. Pearsall in his office January 29, 1964, for further consideration of the plan. Present for the Society were directors Mrs. Gibson, Howard H. Harter, William A. Greene, Jr., Randolph A. Schnabel, Burwell W. Ullrey, Mrs. E. M. Arritt, Mrs. Ida E. Doty, Miss Jessica Bird, and Earl Brownlee, the latter now deceased.

Signing of the lease, after legal approval of the contents before ratification, took place April 6, 1964. Mrs. Gibson as

president and Mrs. Arrit as secretary, signed for the Society and Mr. Pearsall and his wife, Mildred, for the owner. The museum space was leased to the Society, rent free, for a period of five years. The Society agreed to pay a share of property taxes for the museum space and fire insurance on that unit, as well as to insure museum contents. It was provided that either party to the lease could terminate it on a six-month notice. Mr. Pearsall, who also is a collector and dealer in antiques, agreed to lend for display a number of articles.

The Society began at once the big task of assembling at the museum antiques previously collected and held in storage, but it was not until May that the exhibition was ready for visitors.

A unique opening ceremony took place. As part of the program a leather strap from an old-time harness was placed across the doorway and was cut with a pair of antiquated sheepshears by Ed A. DaCosse, at that time chairman of the county board of supervisors. Sharing in the historic event were members of E Clampus Vitus, a pioneer "fun" organization. Several hundred persons assembled at the museum that day.

Ever since its inception, the museum has been open without admission charge to the public. A massive "guest book," itself an antique, has been used to record many of the names and addresses of visitors, although this is not mandatory, of course. The grand total estimated attendance from the opening in 1964 to the end of February, 1970, is placed at 35,888. In addition to individuals visiting the museum, about 50 groups annually,

including those from schools in Sutter and adjacent counties, Boy Scouts and other units, come to see the exhibition. Persons from every state in the Union and travelers from 22 foreign lands have been included among registered guests.

For several months the museum was staffed almost entirely by volunteers from Society membership and was operated solely by the organization. In October, 1964, however, the county supervisors took over the museum as a public facility. They did so under an agreement that the Historical Society would continue to manage and operate the museum for the county.

First public money placed to the credit of the museum under the pact was an advance of \$1,250 of the \$2,500 initial allocation by the county board. The money met costs of equipment and maintenance and provided paid attendants for the museum. No member of the Society museum committee, although active in the operation of the museum, has ever been on the county payroll or benefited from funds allocated.

To continue the operation of the museum under the new plan, the Society authorized its museum committee, with Mrs. Ida E. Doty as chairman, to be in charge.

Mrs. Doty first had been appointed chairman of the Society's museum committee on March 7, 1956. She has served in this capacity continuously since then. Other members of the 1956 museum committee were Mrs. Irminna Rudge, Harold W. Moore and Kermit Neyens, as well as Mrs. Kay Rose and Mrs. L. D. Baun, both now deceased.

There have been several necessary changes in the committee personnel since the opening of the museum. The current committee includes the following: Mrs. Doty, general chairman; Mr. Harter, finance; Mrs. Arritt, cataloging; Mr. Schnabel, transportation; Mr. Greene, museum advertising; Miss Bird, publicity.

For about three years the museum continued to occupy the rent-free space in Carriage Square under the Pearsall lease. In 1967, transfer of ownership of the property from Mr. Pearsall to the Tri-Counties Investors Company was announced. This resulted in a six-month notice of lease termination. A new lease was drawn up and on March 1, 1968, the new owners began receiving monthly rental for the museum space. The lease, renewed January 30, 1969, now is on a year-to-year basis.

With rental costs for the space, the annual budgeting of funds necessarily has increased for the museum. It now stands at \$6,500 by the county.

Since January, 1965, the museum has been registered with the State of California as a charitable trust, and thus has been tax exempt.

Throughout the first decade of its existence the Historical Society planned for the eventual establishment of the museum.

In the interest of historical accuracy, however, it must be noted that attempts toward a museum, either on a bi-county or single-county basis, actually started with a prior organization--the Yuba-Sutter Bi-County Federation of Women's Clubs. The Federation was formed in 1920 and continued until 1956.



Photographed recently at Sutter County Museum in front of the special display honoring Gen. John A. Sutter, California pioneer for whom the county was named in 1850, are Mrs. Ida E. Doty, chairman of the museum committee of the Sutter County Historical Society, and Randolph E. Schnabel, president of the Society. The display includes the large framed portrait of Sutter, with various maps, charts, and other portraits of him, and a painting depicting Hock Farm on the Feather River banks, established by Sutter in 1841 as the first large agricultural effort in this part of California. Mrs. Doty has been chairman of the museum committee for many years. Since the museum was opened in Yuba City in May, 1964, by the Historical Society and after the county took it over in October of that year, she has continued in the position. As a volunteer worker, she has given gratis countless hours in service to the museum. Schnabel also is a long-time volunteer active member of the historical society committee, authorized by the county supervisors to manage the institution. (Photo courtesy of John Leith Lewin)

The organization began with an afternoon meeting, March 19, 1920, at the Live Oak Highway home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schnabel, the parents of Randolph A. Schnabel, current president of the Historical Society. The first regular meeting of the Women's Federation was held at the Marysville Art Club, April 19, 1920. Officers selected were headed by Mrs. Laurence Schillig, wife of the former Sutter County District Attorney Schillig, and a member of the Art Club, as president. Mrs. E. V. Jacobs of Meridian was vice-president; Mrs. C. B. Dam of Wheatland, secretary; Miss Ada Ohleyer of Bogue district, historian.

Minutes of sessions through the 36 years of the bi-county group show numerous efforts to obtain a museum. These went on first through a History and Landmarks committee and later through a Museum committee. The minute books now are preserved at the Sutter County Museum, and a study of the pages discloses glimpses of community history.

In May, 1941, Mrs. George Harney, as museum committee chairman, suggested that a display case containing bi-county relics be placed in the Sutter County library. The library then was located in the Odd Fellows Building, corner of Second and Fairman Streets, in Yuba City. This was done, though later, due to overcrowding in library facilities, the case had to be removed.

It was at a bi-county federation meeting January 13, 1950, that Mrs. Jacob (Ida E.) Doty, as museum committee chairman, suggested sponsoring a museum on the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds in Yuba City. To bring the plan before the public, when the

Fair opened October 6, a booth had been put in place by the club women. In it was a showing of antiques that was reported as "a great success." A massive petition, asking that a permanent museum be placed on the Fairgrounds was signed by 1,600 visitors who viewed the display.

Despite this support, it appeared according to the February 6, 1953, minutes of the Federation that the plan had not met with the hoped-for success. Mrs. Doty reported that the Chamber of Commerce "might assist." At the March session, however, the club women were informed there was no place available for a museum on the Fairgrounds. Mrs. Doty again reported that the Chamber of Commerce was "taking some action to get a permanent place for the museum." But once more the club women were disappointed when sufficient official support of the project could not be roused.

(Due to the fact that the Feather River flood of 1955 swirled devastatingly through the Fairgrounds, it was perhaps a blessing in disguise that the site had not been chosen for a museum there.)

The first money that the bi-county federation could earmark for museum purposes was the sum of \$224. The Bank of America (the club minutes do not designate which branch) on April 18, 1941, informed the Federation that this amount had been deposited more than ten years previous from receipts of the "Trails of '49"--a Yuba-Sutter celebration held in Marysville Saturday and Sunday, February 7 and 8, 1930.

The celebration, though hastily organized, proved a signal success. The Appeal-Democrat got out a special booster edition and visitors, many in pioneer costumes, came from far and near. Included was Governor C. C. Young, who witnessed the opening parade. Marysville Mayor Dan Bryant was general chairman. The old Fair Store, at Fourth and D Streets, was center of the festivities. It had been given a false front to make it look like an 1849 building. It housed a goodly showing of antiques and the "El Dorado Gambling Saloon" which was operated for the occasion by the American Legion Post.

Besides bringing in a profit, the "Trails of '49" roused interest in museum possibilities.

William T. Ellis (1866-1955), a native of Marysville, who at that time was a Yuba County supervisor, wrote in his 1939 book, "Memories: My 72 Years in the Romantic County of Yuba," concerning the celebration said: "It was a revelation to me to find so much rare and valuable material was kept in various homes. Ever since then there has been agitation for a museum."

In fact, it was stated, a museum association with Frank Cheim of Marysville as president was formed, but by 1938 there appeared to have been no concrete results. The Mary Aaron Museum in Marysville was not opened until 1959, after property was left to the city along with a trust fund from the late Frank Aaron.

The \$224 in 1944 was turned over to the federated club women, and was used to buy United States War Bonds, maturing in

1955. At a meeting of the club February 11, 1956, order to cash the bonds was adopted. It was specified that the money be deposited with the Sutter County Board of Supervisors, with the proviso that it be placed in a special fund toward a museum in Yuba City. It was suggested at that time that the museum be opened in honor of Miss Ada Ohleyer.

This action was almost the last taken by the federation, which was dissolved on April 6, 1956. During the closing ceremonies, Sutter County Supervisor Harold W. Moore was presented a check for \$215.45, the cash value of the bonds, to be held in the special museum fund by the county. At that time, also, it was suggested that the Sutter County Hall of Records (dating back to 1891) be preserved for museum purposes "if and when it was ever available."

Soon after the 1954 formation of the Sutter County Historical Society, efforts had begun toward a free public county museum. Even after the '55 flood, the Society continued its work toward the goal. On suggestion by then Sutter County District Attorney, Noel C. Stevenson, the first president and one of the founders of the Society, permission was sought from the county supervisors to install display cases for antiques in the corridor of the county offices building. A committee, including Mrs. Doty, Mrs. Francis Laney, Sr. and Mrs. Baun on February 21, 1956, was named to confer with the supervisors, who gave their approval.

With the museum funds made available, the Society ordered two glass cases. In July, 1957, \$283.25 was paid to Ray Tiner, who made them in Yuba City. Of this, the county-held fund pro-

vided \$216.45 and the Society paid \$66.80.

Placed in the corridor of the county building near the front entrance on Second Street, the cases were filled with relics of pre-county and pioneer days, maps, pictures, and documents. Mrs. Irminna Rudge, county librarian, was in general charge of the display cases. Assistance was given by Mrs. James E. (Geraldine) Hall, county clerk-recorder, and other county officials in providing the displays.

Since the opening of the museum, antiques have been made available both as outright gifts to the museum and also as loans. The latter are accepted now for not less than a five-year term. Records are kept of all items at the museum. The total presently has reached approximately 1,250 entries, of which more than 500 were gifts. The exhibits cover many phases of the county's history. Under museum policy, articles are neither bought nor sold. It has been necessary, due to limitations of space for showing or storing items, to refuse acceptance of some proffered articles, a matter of regret to the museum committee.

One of the historic displays features a portrait of General John A. Sutter, pioneer for whom the county was named, and relics of the Hock Farm which he established on the bank of the Feather River in the 1840's before the discovery of gold in 1848.

Visitors to the museum frequently make cash donations, the money being placed in a petty cash fund for upkeep. The museum has been presented with gifts of money from local organizations,

and also has been recipient of funds memorializing former Sutter County residents, all of which is used for museum purposes.

The first anniversary of the opening of the institution took place May 16, 1965, with open house and a tea at the museum from 2 to 5 p.m. This was reported "very successful." The most elaborate festival, when the fifth milestone was reached, was held the afternoon of Sunday, May 18, 1969.

Cooperation by various Yuba City groups and other organizations was given. The event, including a parade, took place not only in the museum itself, but on Carriage Square grounds and in Piper's Opera House there. Music, numbers by costumed dancers, and serving of refreshments were included, and a large crowd visited the museum.

Dressed in pioneer-type costumes, Mrs. Doty, general chairman, and her assistants presented the program. Organizations taking part included the Soroptimist, Venture and Quota clubs of Yuba City; Foy's School of Dancing; Pedal & Keys Club providing organ music; a picture gallery installed by the Kromo Art Club; Camp Fire Girls; El Charro Association horsemen who entered the parade; El Charro Auxiliary, which served Mexican foods at the opera house; a Mexican Mariachi Band; the marching band from Sutter Union High School, oldest in Sutter County, dating back to 1893, which joined the parade; Indian dances by members of Order of the Arrow; a Boy Scout affiliate; a Boy Scout color guard which headed the parade; and service clubs of Yuba City, including the Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs.

The latter organization set up for display in the museum an automatically operated color film of Sutter County scenes, with accompanying music and narration, which attracted wide attention.

REFERENCES

Records of the Sutter County Museum

Minutes of the Sutter County Historical Society

Minutes of the Yuba-Sutter Bi-County Federation
of Women's Clubs

Appeal-Democrat, February 7-8, 1930

"Memories: My 72 Years in the Romantic County of Yuba"
by William T. Ellis (pub. 1939) pp. 300-301

(Collaborating in research was Ida E. Doty, whose
activities concerning the museum date back many years)

G L E A N I N G S

Collected by Winifred Greene

THE SUTTER COUNTY FARMER

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Vol. I

No. 1

April 22, 1881

Contract Awarded

A special session of the Common Council of Marysville was held on Tuesday evening to consider bids for the construction of trestle work to connect the Fifth St. Grade with Feather River bridge. The contract was let to Geo. W. Neal for \$776.

May 6, 1881

That Strike!

Editor Sutter County Farmer

In the Marysville Appeal of the 3rd inst. there appeared an article under the caption of "Struck Work," stating that 42 men struck work at the camp, Levee Dist. No. 1, Sutter Co., because I, acting in the capacity of superintendent, required them to perform 11½ hours per day. Hitherto, I have refrained from noticing the dirty, malignant attacks of certain persons who, I am satisfied, have been actuated solely by motives of

petty malice and personal envy; but when these fabrications reach the columns of an influential journal, I feel that silence is no longer a virtue. On Monday morning last, at the usual hour, I blew the whistle, utterly unconscious that anything like a strike was pending. Noticing that a great many made no show of going to work, I inquired the reason, and was told that the men were on a strike. Acting promptly, I told them that they had their choice, either to go to work or to be discharged. One J. J. Noonan, who with Chas. Sprague and Mike Daley seem to have been the leading spirits, and who now, doubtless, will feel flattered to find their names in print, told me that I was working the men 11 hours a day, not $11\frac{1}{2}$, as the "Appeal" has it, which striking discrepancy from the first statement may be ascribed to the imagination of the strikers having been distorted by too frequent imbibitions before finding the printer. Immediately after, the malcontents obtained their discharges and marched down the levee, hurling epithets and threats at the laborers who had refused to strike, and finally vented their extravagance of fury on that portion of Sheriff Harkey's fence which was so unfortunate as to obstruct their free passage on the levee. Twenty-five men took their discharge on this date. How 25 men could have become 42 would have puzzled some. And I may add, of these turbulent fellows who have bellowed so loudly for what they please to term their "rights," that since their departure, but one sentiment has pervaded camp, and that is a feeling of relief and gratitude that they are gone.

George Wallace

The Sutter County Farmer

April 22, 1881

Yuba City Brewery

Fred Klempe has reopened The Yuba City Brewery in Sutter County and is now prepared to make No. 1 Lager Beer, which will be delivered to all parts of Marysville, Yuba City and vicinity. All orders promptly filled.

Five gallon kegs \$1.00; Ten gallon kegs \$2.00

Market Prices--and all business connected with Wells Fargo & Company's Express will be promptly attended to. I enumerate in part a list of goods in my line--Groceries, Provisions, Flour, Hardware, Glassware, Tinware, Woodenware, Chinaware, boots, hats, cutlery, bacon, lard, sugar, coffee, tea, syrup, butter, cheese, eggs, oils, candles, soap, salt, candy, spices, tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, fish, ham, clothing, shoes, fancy goods, etc., etc.

Jonas Marcuse

May 13, 1881

GRAND GALA DAY!

Twentieth Annual Picnic!

of

St. Joseph Society

will be held at Hock Farm!!

Tuesday, May 17th, 1881

Free for all per Steamer to and from the Grounds!

Messrs. D. E. Knight and Ellis have kindly given the steamer.

D. E. Knight with Barge, free of charge, to and from the Picnic Grounds.

The steamer will leave the foot of Fifth Street promptly at half-past 8. Returning, will leave Hock Farm at 5 p.m.

Nagle and Trickle's Band will furnish the music.

The usual races and games will take place, for which liberal prizes will be awarded.

The best of order will be maintained, both on the steamer and on the Grounds, by efficient Committees.

A good table will be set on the Grounds.

Entrance to the Grounds----50 cents

Ladies and children Free!

P. L. Bunce, Dan Donahoe, H. McGuire--Committee of Arrangements

An index to all of the past issues of the NEWS BULLETIN may be found in the Sutter County Library and in the Marysville City Library.