

SRDHS

SACRAMENTO RIVER DELTA
HISTORICAL SOCIETYP.O. Box 293
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Volume I, Issue 1

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LOCAL SOCIETY HONORED

TWO AWARDS RECEIVED

The Sacramento River Delta Historical Society has recently been honored by receiving two separate awards for their outstanding historic restoration project. The refurbishing and revitalization of the Dal Loy Hall in Locke has been singled-out as the most ambitious and successful undertaking of the year by the Awards committees of both the Sacramento County Historical Society and the state historical society.

The Award of Merit for Historic Preservation from the SCHS was presented to the local society at a reception at the old governor's mansion in Sacramento on December 15, 1978. The citation notes the efforts in restoring the Dal Loy Gambling Hall Museum, and the award was given in "well deserved recognition of the time, talent, and effort of over 50 volunteers in clearing, repairing, sorting, researching, and organizing displays and the interest of those who loaned photographs for reproductions and artifacts for display."

The Conference of California Historical Societies will present their 1979 award for Historic Preservation to the SRDHS at their annual meeting in Sonoma on June 22. On the basis of material compiled and submitted by Bob James and Kathie Graham, the CHS has chosen the Locke project as the year's most significant contribution to preserving California's history in the statewide competition.

MEETING NOTES

The SRDHS meets every other month from September through May, with meeting locations rotating from Rio Vista to Walnut Grove to Clarksburg. All members, guests, and friends are welcome to enjoy a wide variety of interesting speakers and programs aimed at sharing views, memories, and information about the people, events, and history that made early Delta life unique.

JANUARY

Over 200 people attended the third annual meeting of the SRDHS on January 23 at St. Anthony's Hall in Walnut Grove. An elegant pot luck dinner was accompanied by entertainment provided by the New Holland Combine, an enthusiastic vocal and instrumental ensemble of Clarksburg residents.

A slide show of pictures of "Early Delta Scenes" featured reproductions of photos from private sources loaned to the society. A competition to identify several "mystery shots" garnered prizes for those with "super" memories.

Following the installation of officers, awards were made to the many who had given extraordinary service to the organization and the museum.

MARCH

Mrs. Josephine Korth of Iselton was the principal speaker at the March 19th meeting in Clarksburg. She shared memories recorded in her recently published book, "Wind Chimes In My Apple Tree" and related stories from her childhood and of the exciting years as she and her husband developed one of the first and most successful marinas on the Delta, the Pirate's Lair.

Also on the program was Don Derbyshire who told of the Great Riverboat Race to be re-enacted on April 22 by boats leaving from Sacramento and Stockton and commemorating the days of fierce competition of paddlewheel steamers on the important run between The Delta and the Bay.

MAY

The effort and preparation necessary to produce a factual and readable book was reviewed by June Kay, Clarksburg, at the May 21 meeting in Walnut Grove.

With her co-author June is now researching, outlining, writing, rewriting, interviewing, and negotiating with publishers to fulfill her dream of doing a book about the Delta -- historic, yet humanistic -- and containing stories of all ethnic and chronological groups who settled near the river.

A display of Indian artifacts, collected by Les Lyman complemented the discussion of Indians of the area, primarily the Miwok tribe, which was sparked by the speaker's comments on presettlement.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It doesn't seem possible that our SRDHS has been in existence only since 1976. On March 20 of that year a workshop was held in Isleton with the purpose of forming a historical society. Our first regular meeting was held on Monday, May 17, at Walnut Grove, and Jean Harvie, who had been responsible for the initial workshop, was elected our first president.

From then on, the society has moved ahead rapidly. We have close to 300 members; we meet regularly 5 times a year; our museum has already won 2 awards; and we are busy with other projects as well.

Jean Harvie and Bob James make a hard act to follow in the role of president, but I'll do my best. Suggestions are always welcome—just contact me or any member of the board.

See you in September.

Judy Merwin

CHS ON CRUISE

The California Historical Society has announced a "Delta History Cruise" on Sunday, June 10. Participants will leave Stockton aboard the 62 foot Channel Star and tour for four hours through the Stockton Channel, north through Potato Slough, scenic backwater canals, and on to Venice Island. A tour commentary will provide historical perspective and current thinking on many of the problems facing what many consider the major agricultural and recreational resource.

Cost for this tour is \$25 for members and \$27 for guests, with an extra fee on a shuttle bus. Further information and reservation forms may be obtained through SRDHS president, Judy Merwin or by writing to the California Historical Society, 2090 Jackson St., San Francisco, 94109.

AWARDS TRIP TO SONOMA JUNE 22

An opportunity to attend the 25th annual meeting of the Conference of California Historical Societies in Sonoma on Friday, June 22, is open to SRDHS members. The Society will be honored at the awards luncheon in the main dining room of the Sonoma Mission Inn by the presentation of the statewide Historic Preservation award on that date.

Registrations for a limited number are now being taken for a bus trip to the conference. Marlene Peterson will list those wishing to participate and have final arrangements on June 8. Cost for the lunch will be \$5 plus a special \$2 registration fee; transportation is extra.

The entire conference will run for three days from June 21-23 with a full program of tours, speakers, slide shows, dedications, presentations, and business meetings. Individual registration and lodging information is also available from Judy Merwin, 775-1520.

PROJECTS —

MUSEUM: The organization is justly proud of the museum which has begun its third season of March to November weekend openings. Attendance to date has been 22,141 with 2,778 this year alone. Maintenance work was done this spring with new picture captions being added, plastic overlays affixed to photographs, and additional display items catalogued. Total income of \$2,578.20 from donations has thus far paid for all museum expenses. With the current 1979 total at \$436.20 it is hoped that, even with the substantial increase in rent, the museum will remain self-sufficient. Many thanks go to the over 90 persons who have given their time to staff the Dai Loy.

ORAL HISTORIES: In an on-going program the society is collecting and working to make transcripts of interviews with senior members of pioneer delta families. Volunteers are need to type copies of tapes made by SRDHS speakers and oral histories of those who have shared their recollections and knowledge of the early delta in private sessions. Interviewers are also needed to assist in collecting additional reports.

NEWSLETTER: In an effort to inform members of plans, projects, and personalities, the society will publish and distribute a newsletter. From the current modest beginning, it is hoped that later issues can be professionally printed with illustrations, historical footnotes, and profiles in addition to updating recent activities. Suggestions would be welcomed by Yvonne Pylman, Clarksburg.

MEMBERSHIP FACTS

Three hundred, fifty-six names are currently on the roster of the SRDHS. Of these, 283 are in good standing with 6 life members, 2 patrons, and 10 sustaining members. 279 people are listed as Charter Members.

The society is open to all residents and former residents of Delta towns and neighboring islands and any interested in gathering and preserving the history of the Sacramento River Delta. Membership renewals are due on February 1 of each year, and new enrollments are welcome at all times.

Membership categories are as follows
Regular.....\$ 6 Family.....\$ 12
Senior Citizen...3 Student.....3
Sustaining.....20 Patron.....50
Life.....\$150

The coupon below may be used both for renewals and new memberships.

Make Checks Payable to:	
Sacramento River Delta	
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