



Fourth of July, 1901, D Street  
Marysville

A GENERAL MEETING OF SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS, SUTTER COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 19, 1955, 8 P.M. AN INTERESTING PROGRAM IS BEING ARRANGED.

Note: If anybody is the possessor of some pictures of old time Fourth of July celebrations in Marysville or Sutter county we would appreciate having them to make copies. Your secretary has searched the county for some pictures for this issue.

#### FOURTH OF JULY, 1901

Research Done  
by Irmina Rudge

From the photograph of the parade, one would gather that the Fourth of July celebration of 1901 was a gala affair. However, the papers of those days didn't show the same enthusiasm. It was on page seven of the "Sutter County Farmer" after quite a search that the story of the proposed celebration was printed. The meeting of the Bachelors' Association with eleven members all listed had space on the first page.

In a very inconspicuous space on page seven, crowded between ads of S. Ewell & Co., C. C. Rubel, J. O. Cunningham (leading tailor), Hoffman's Music and Stationery House, G. W. Hall (Fireworks for the Fourth, flags muslin on sticks) and Gilman's (also new bunting for Fourth of July celebrations.) In very small print

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but readable appeared the headlines and article as follows: "HO! FOR THE FOURTH. There will be a complete program of interesting and amusing events. (Subheading) The Fourth of July celebration in Marysville this year will excel all previous occasions by far, as the committee has arranged for many new and novel events of more than usual moment.

Beginning on next Wednesday evening the third, there will be the grand carnival on the Feather River along the Yuba City water front which will include the beautiful parade of decorated water craft and a big display of diving and swimming exhibitions.

During the forenoon of the Fourth the street parade will take place in which there will be two fine bands, the military Co., etc. and a bicycle and carriage parade, including a Chinese division. Shortly afternoon the literary exercises at the theatre will be held at which Hon. Samuel M. Shortridge will deliver an address. Following this the baseball game between Marysville and Oroville Nines, a band concert, bronco busting, horribles parade and balloon ascension. In the evening Roncoveri's celebrated band of twenty-five pieces will give an illustrated concert and later there will be two big dances. See ad elsewhere in this issue and be on hand to enjoy the big event.

THE AD ELSEWHERE. . . WAS JUST OPPOSITE THE WRITE UP . . . ON PAGE 6 .  
FOR AN AD IT WAS JUST AS INCONSPICUOUS AS THE WRITE UP.

Anxiously we turned to the July 5, 1901 paper to see how the celebration fared and to see what the paper had to say about it, absolutely nothing! The whole affair was ignored as though it had never occurred.

The "Sutter Independent" of June 28, 1901 was more liberal or celebration minded, they gave first page coverage to the celebration and they did not carry a paid advertisement as did the "Farmer". "The Independent" of July 5th also commented upon the affair and claimed thousands had attended.

In 1903 Marysville had another July Fourth celebration starting with the second production of the spectacular water carnival "A Night in Venice" on the Feather River on the evening of July 3rd. July 4th at 10 A.M. - Grand Street parade, including decorated vehicles, fraternal societies, floats, hose and fire companies, three bands, etc. The committee was directed by J. A. Bilhartz. (July 10th paper commented upon the celebration "50 decorated barges and boats paraded the beautifully illumined river, water front of Yuba City.")

July 4, 1906, Meridian celebration was under the direction of the Ladies Aid Society. A picnic and dinner was held on the school grounds and entertainment followed.

In 1907 the celebration in Marysville lasted three days July 2, 3, 4:  
"There were many excursion trains bringing hundreds of people to Marysville.

There were many more celebrations during the years the last was in Marysville in 1940. It lasted for two days, July 3rd and 4th. The parade had over 30 floats, bands, drum corps, national guard companies, massed flags and numerous other entries.

There was a bathing beauty contest, a special card of wrestling matches, two performances of grade A vaudeville, patriotic entertainment and oration, open air street dance, motor boat races, outdoor band concerts and baseball games.

THE GREAT INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION OF 1876

by  
Noel C. Stevenson

The centennial celebration of the Fourth of July in 1876 was eagerly anticipated by the citizens of Sutter County. First of all it was just one hundred years since the original Independence day. Secondly, with the exception of Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Years there were no holidays to celebrate. It was a long dry stretch between New Years and the Fourth. No doubt about it, July 4th, 1876 was going to be the day of days until 1976. From the newspapers of the area we are able to reconstruct Sutter county's greatest Fourth. In the Weekly Appeal for July 7th, 1876 appears a detailed account of the festivities.

"Probably one of the most pleasant and sociable celebrations ever held in Sutter county was that one held at Hock Farm (on July 4th) . . . All those present seemed determined to make the occasion one that will long be most pleasantly remembered. At about 9 o'clock A.M., the steamer D. E. Knight left the landing in front of the Farmers' Warehouse in Yuba City, having on board something over one hundred excursionists enroute for Hock Farm. After a pleasant trip of forty minutes, the party arrived at the Farm, where they were met at the landing by the Marysville band who escorted them to the grounds. Here was gathered a large number of people, who had come in teams from all over the surrounding country. The Committee of Arrangements had selected the most pleasant portion of the handsome grounds for their celebration and had fitted it up very comfortably and tastefully. Immediately to the left of the grand stand was erected a smaller stand in pyramidal shape, upon which was seated twenty-seven young ladies dressed in white with a red and blue sash representing the different states. Occupying a seat at the top was the Goddess of Liberty, who was represented by Miss Emma Wilcoxon.

Directly opposite the grand stand and at the rear of the seats was the music stand occupied by the band. The program was as follows:

1. Music by the band.
2. Song: "Fourth of July."
3. Prayer by the Chaplain  
Rev. E. Kellog.
4. Anthem by Choir, "I have  
set Watchman upon thy  
Walls
5. Reading of Historical  
Sketch of Sutter  
county.
6. "America" by choir.
7. Reading of the Declaration of  
Independence, by W. F. Peck, Esq.
8. "Star Spangled Banner", by choir.
9. "Hail Columbia" by the band.
10. Oration by Richard Bayne, Esq.
11. "Red, White and Blue", by choir.
12. Music by the band
13. Picnic dinner.

The historical sketch of Sutter county, prepared and delivered by the Hon. P. W. Keyser, was replete with facts and items of interest and was highly appreciated by the audience. After music and the reading of the Declaration of Independence, the orator of the day, Richard Bayne, Esq., of Yuba City, was introduced, who delivered an eloquent and very interesting oration, which was frequently interrupted by bursts of applause.

After an ample picnic dinner the lovers of the "light fantastic" had ample opportunity to enjoy themselves, the Marysville string band furnishing the music.

Special mention was made in the press of the quartet of young ladies, composed of Miss May Guthrie, Della Harter, Addie McKinnon and Mary Butler, who sang the Star Spangled Banner, the choir and audience joining in the chorus.

At about 6 o'clock P.M. the steamer sounded its whistle and the excursionists from Yuba City started homeward, leaving the rest dancing and enjoying themselves generally. Much credit was given the Committee of Arrangements. Everything passed off pleasantly and the order was excellent thanks to Chief Marshal W. P. Harkey.

In the evening there was a ball in the Farmers' Warehouse in Yuba City, which had been cleared out and beautifully decorated for the occasion. An orchestra of eight instruments under the leadership of J. A. Apperson, furnished the music. The ball was largely attended, and dancing continued until the "we sma' hours."

The celebration at Nicolaus was reported in detail also, and makes one long to attend an old fashioned fourth.

"The citizens of Nicolaus being prevented by the state of the roads from going to any other place to celebrate, determined to hold a celebration at home. Liberal contributions were made and every effort put forth by the committee and as a necessary result the occasion passed off with eclat. The program was as follows: President; Hon. James O. Harris; Vice-Presidents: W. G. Brown and Phil E. Drescher; Chaplain; Rev. L. D. Hinman; Reader; A. L. Chandler; Orator; L. D. Hinman. The proceedings commenced with a torchlight procession at midnight of the 3rd, which was badly interfered with by the moon. At daylight on the auspicious day, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired.

At ten o'clock the President announced the order of business, which commenced by the singing of "America". Eight school districts were represented and the singing was excellent. The Chaplain opened with prayer, followed by the Eagle school with a grand "Jubilate," rendered in excellent style. Mr. Chandler read the Declaration of Independence impressively, and was succeeded by the Marcum school who sang the "Star Spangled Banner." Next came the oration. Mr. Hinman delivered a powerful speech, reviewing the condition of the nation from its first inception one hundred years ago, to the present time. The Nicolaus school followed with "God Bless Thee, Our Country," which was sung in magnificent style. Then came the addresses of Hon. J. H. Keyes, Hon. J. O. Harris and others, interspersed with singing by the Marcum school.

A half of mile of tables held the dinner, and the President requested everybody to walk up and help themselves. Ice cream was furnished in quantity-everything being free. After dinner the platform was crowded with eager representatives of the Terpsichorean art. At 7 o'clock in the evening the crowd adjourned to Mrs. Wagner's hotel where they tripped the "light fantastic" till morn.

Thus ended the grand and glorious fourth of 1876, and our predecessors were able to accomplish all of this without the benefit of gasoline, electricity or electronics!